

ST. PAUL'S  
*Episcopal*  
CHURCH



## 2024 Annual Parish Report



*Generous Community*

•

*Enduring Worship*

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*Gracious Welcome*

January 26, 2025

### VITAL STATISTICS:

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Baptized members	130	119	148	163	181
Baptisms	0	0	3	2	4
Confirmations/Receptions	0	0	12*	2	0
Transfers in	0	5	0	18	18
Transfers out	0	1	0	12	4
Weddings	0	0	0	0	0
Burials	1	6	4	5	3
Average Sunday Attendance	N/A	N/A	N/A	62	72

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**AGENDA FOR THE 17<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING**  
**of**  
**ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**Leavenworth, Kansas**

**January 26 , 2025**

1. Call to order and opening prayer
2. Appointment of meeting secretary
3. Commissioning of Parish Ministries
4. Approval of last year's minutes
5. Recognition of off-going vestry members
6. Election of vestry members
7. Church Foundation report and election
8. 2024 financial report and 2025 budget
9. Priest in Charge's report
10. Other business and reports
11. The naming of parish members who have died since last Annual Meeting
12. The Doxology, adjournment and closing prayer

**Saint Paul's Episcopal Church - Leavenworth KS**  
**Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2024**

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

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Account #	Account Name	YTD Balance
<i>Assets</i>		
1.10.000	Exchange Bank Operating	71,011.88
1.20.000	VANCO Holding	0.00
1.80.000	Exchange Bank & Trust Outreach Ministry	5,532.39
1.90.000	Exchange Bank & Trust Providence Fund	96,250.32
	<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>172,794.59</b>
<i>Liabilities</i>		
2.10.000	Accounts Payable/Vendors	(4,806.01)
2.20.000	941 Taxes payable	(363.21)
2.20.100	Federal Taxes Payable	0.00
2.30.000	State Taxes Payable	176.00
2.40.000	County/City Taxes Payable	0.00
2.50.000	Diocese of Kansas	
2.50.100	Apportionment	0.00
2.50.200	Diocese Offerings	0.00
	<i>Total Diocese of Kansas</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>
<i>2.60.000 Passthrough Account</i>		
2.60.100	Parish Projects	0.00
2.60.110	Church/Parish Hall Renovation/Repairs	0.00
2.60.120	Kitchen Renovation/Repairs	0.00
2.60.200	Organ Instrument Donations	0.00
2.60.300	TAME 0.00	
2.60.400	St Paul's Foundation	0.00
2.60.500	Rector's Discretionary Fund	56.00
2.60.600	St Paul's Episcopal Flower Fund	0.00
2.60.700	Social Ministry	100.00
2.60.800	Gifts/Offerings not to the Church	0.00
2.60.900 I	Insurance Payments	0.00
	<i>Total Passthrough Account</i>	<i>\$156.00</i>
<i>2.70.000 Insurance</i>		
2.70.100	Health Insurance	0.00
2.70.200	Property Insurance	0.00
	<i>Total Insurance</i>	<i>\$0.00</i>
2.80.000	<i>Prepaid Pledges</i>	

2.80.100      Prepaid Stewardship 0.00

*Total Prepaid Pledges*      \$0.00

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**Total Liabilities**      **(\$4,837.22)**

***Fund Balances***

3.10.000	Operating Account Balance	76,256.10
3.30.000	Organ Fund Balance	(405.00)
3.80.000	Outreach Ministry Balance	5,530.39
3.90.000	Providence Account Balance	90,125.45
3.90.600	Organ Renovation Balance	6,124.87

**Total Fund Balances**      **\$177,631.81**

**Total Liabilities and Fund Balances**      **\$172,794.59**

## 2025 Church Budget

On 15 December 2024, the St. Paul’s Vestry approved this budget for calendar year 2025. The following paragraphs will break the budget down by major section and provide the justification/rationale for the amounts estimated.

Projected 2025 Income. Figure 1 provides the 2025 estimated income.

Line item	Sub Line Item	Description	Approved 2024 Budget	Approved 2025 Budget	2025 Difference (Amount)	2025 Difference (%)
<b>Income</b>						
4.10.010		Pledges	\$236,790.00	\$247,910.00	\$11,120.00	4%
4.10.020		Plate	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	33%
4.10.030		Regular Plate	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ (2,000.00)	-25%
4.10.035		First Sunday Plate	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	\$ -	0%
4.10.040		Special Offerings	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 250.00	\$ (750.00)	-300%
4.10.050	Parish Facilities Usage					
	4.10.510	Church Donations	\$ -	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00	100%
	4.10.520	Parish House Donations	\$ 60.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 740.00	93%
4.10.600	Project Income					
	4.10.610	Chili Supper Income	\$ 2,225.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 275.00	11%
	4.10.620	Pancake Supper Income	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 200.00	10%
	4.10.630	Flower Sale Income	\$ 250.00	\$ 375.00	\$ 125.00	33%
	4.10.640	Tag Sale	\$ 780.00	\$ 800.00	\$ 20.00	3%
	4.10.650	Christmas Card Sale	\$ -	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	100%
4.10.700	Refunds		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
4.70.000	Carryovers, Passthroughs, & Transfers		\$ 2,000.00	\$ 11,600.00	\$ 9,600.00	83%
4.70.100	Youth Group Income		\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	100%
4.70.130	Diocesan PIC Salary Contribution Passthrough		\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ -	0%
<b>Total Income</b>			<b>\$277,505.00</b>	<b>\$299,335.00</b>	<b>\$21,830.00</b>	<b>7%</b>

## Figure 1- Estimated 2025 Income

For 2025, the estimated income began with a very successful Walk in Love Stewardship campaign which led to an increase of 4% of pledges. This increase was slightly offset by a reduced amount of estimated income from the Plate because some of those who gave via the Plate previously now give through a Pledge.

Last year the Church hosted a Wedding, and the Vestry anticipated that will occur at least once again in 2025. Similarly, the Parish House hosted outside organizations in 2024, and the Vestry assumed it would do this more in 2025.

The Vestry also projected a slight increase for the 2025 Chili Supper, Pancake Supper, Flower Sale, and Tag Sale. Based upon the success of the 2024 Christmas Card sale, the Vestry projected additional income from selling 2025 Christmas cards.

The “Carryovers, Passthroughs, & Transfers” line is new and accounts for unspent 2023 and 2024 funds being carried over into 2024 and 2025, funds donated to the Church for other organizations (e.g., the monthly outreach organization or activity), and funds transferred internally from other Church accounts into the Operating Account. This has always occurred, but this is the first time the parish budget explicitly included it as a source of income.

In 2024 the Church received a \$500 donation for the Youth group and anticipates a similar donation or revenue raised by the budding Youth group in 2025.

Finally, the “Diocesan PIC Salary Contribution Passthrough” is the amount the Diocese of Kansas contributes to Fr. Hinson, our Priest-in-Charge (PIC)’s salary. This amount is formally documented in Fr. Hinson’s Letter of Agreement (LOA) with St. Paul’s and the Diocese. As a result of this salary contribution, Fr. Hinson is obligated to spend ~20% of his time working for the Diocese which he currently does in support of St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Holton, Kansas.

As a result of a successful Walk in Love Stewardship Campaign and other projected income sources, the Church is budgeting for a 7% increase in income for 2025.

Estimated Salary and Benefit Expenses. The next set of figures explain the estimated 2025 Expenses. Figure 2 focuses on salaries and benefits.

Line item	Sub Line Item	Description	Approved 2024 Budget	Approved 2025 Budget	2025 Difference (Amount)	2025 Difference (%)
<b>Expenses</b>						
5.10.100	Priest Salary & Benefits					
	5.10.110	Priest Salary	\$ 22,000.00	\$ 22,000.00	\$ -	0%
	5.10.120	Priest Benefits	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 18,000.00	\$ -	0%
	5.10.130	Priest Housing	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$ -	0%
	5.10.140	Priest Professional Fund	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ -	0%
	5.10.150	Priest Mileage Allowance	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 1,000.00	40%
	5.10.160	Priest Cell Phone Allowance	\$ 720.00	\$ 720.00	\$ -	0%
5.10.200	Parish Admin Salary & Benefits					
	5.10.210	Parish Admin Salary	\$ 22,464.00	\$ 23,250.24	\$ 786.24	3%
	5.10.220	Parish Admin Benefits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
5.10.300	Music Director Salary & Benefits					
	5.10.310	Music Dir Salary	\$ 13,906.00	\$ 14,392.71	\$ 486.71	3%
	5.10.320	Music Dir Benefits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	5.10.330	Music Director Substitute	\$ 875.00	\$ 875.00	\$ -	0%
5.10.400	Nursery Attendant Salary & Benefits					
	5.10.410	Nursery Attendant Salary	\$ 4,160.00	\$ 4,160.00	\$ -	0%
	5.10.420	Nursery Attendant Benefits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
5.10.500	Sunday School Special Needs Attendant					
	5.10.510	Special Needs Assistant Salary	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	5.10.520	Special Needs Assistant Benefits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
5.10.700	Ministry Supplies		\$ 60.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 140.00	70%
5.10.900	Supply Priest		\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00	\$ -	
5.10.920	FICA & Medicare		\$ 4,572.00	\$ 2,700.00	\$ (1,872.00)	-69%
5.10.940	Leavenworth County Taxes		\$ 2,000.00	\$ 950.00	\$ (1,050.00)	-111%

Figure 2 – Estimated 2025 Salary and Benefit Expenses

The Parish Administrator and the Music Director both receive a 3% pay raise for 2025. The PIC’s salary did not increase for two reasons. First, the PIC’s LOA with the Church did not require one and secondly, Fr. Hinson did not want it. Instead, he requested the Church increase his travel budget because those that are in the hospital tend to be in hospitals located far away. The Vestry gladly increased his travel budget 40% in response.

The PIC is a full-time employee while the supporting staff are part-time employees. The Parish pays the employer’s part of their Social Security and Medicare taxes. The Parish Administrator does receive paid benefits (e.g., paid time off, sick leave, etc.) but St. Paul’s doesn’t provide any health insurance. If that were to change, the Benefits line for each position will increase accordingly.

The Nursery Attendant position is currently unfilled. Once it is filled, that individual will receive the same salary amount as in 2024. Likewise, there isn’t a requirement for a Sunday School Special Needs Attendant. Should the need arise for one, the Vestry will determine the salary for that individual independent of the 2025 budget.

The Ministry Supplies amount is based upon the amount expended in 2024 and are those items Fr. Hinson needs to conduct his work.

The Supply Priest assumes four supply visits at \$200 a visit to fill in when Fr. Hinson is unavailable due to vacation, diocesan requirements, or other requirements.

Even though the PIC and supporting staff are considered self-employed and responsible for filing their own taxes, the Church paid some taxes in 2024 and the Vestry estimated the same amount would be paid in 2025.

Estimated Facilities, Services, and Utilities Expenses. Figure 3 provides the estimated expenses for Facilities, Services, and Utilities.

Line item	Sub Line Item	Description	Approved 2024 Budget	Approved 2025 Budget	2025 Difference (Amount)	2025 Difference (%)
5.20.100	Facilities					
	5.20.110	Cleaning	\$ 8,400.00	\$ 9,300.00	\$ 900.00	10%
	5.20.120	Maintenance & Repairs	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ (2,000.00)	-57%
	5.20.121	Snow Removal	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ -	0%
	5.20.122	Lawn Care	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 500.00	8%
	5.20.124	HVAC Maint Contract	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 200.00	10%
	5.20.125	Fire Extinguisher Checks	\$ 500.00	\$ 300.00	\$ (200.00)	-67%
	5.20.130	Real Property Insurance	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 36,000.00	\$ 11,000.00	31%
	5.20.131	Workman's Compensation	\$ 90.00	\$ 690.00	\$ 600.00	87%
5.30.100	Services/Utilities					
	5.30.111	Electric Church	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ -	0%
	5.30.112	Electric Parish Hall	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 5,500.00	\$ -	0%
	5.30.121	Gas Church	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	0%
	5.30.122	Gas Parish Hall	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	0%
	5.30.131	Water Church	\$ 400.00	\$ 525.00	\$ 125.00	24%
	5.30.132	Water Parish Hall	\$ 400.00	\$ 525.00	\$ 125.00	24%
	5.30.130	Bank Fees	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	100%
	5.30.150	Web Hosting	\$ 50.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 100.00	67%
	5.30.151	Internet Parish Hall	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	0%
	5.30.152	Internet Church	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 100.00	8%
	5.30.153	Electronic Giving (VANCO)	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	100%
	5.30.160	Trash	\$ 240.00	\$ -	\$ (240.00)	
	5.30.170	Copier Lease	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ -	0%
	5.30.180	Post Office Box	\$ 144.00	\$ -	\$ (144.00)	
	5.30.190	Office Operations	\$ 3,185.00	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 115.00	3%
5.40.000	Supplies					
	5.40.100	Office Supplies	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ -	0%
	5.40.200	Cleaning Supplies	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ (100.00)	
	5.40.210	Technology Lifecycle Replacement	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	100%
	5.40.220	MEVO PRO Subscription	\$ -	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	100%
	5.40.300	Kitchen Supplies	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ -	0%
	5.40.400	Copier Usage	\$ 150.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 50.00	25%

Figure 3- Estimated 2025 Facilities, Services/Utilities, and Supplies Expenses



The projected 2025 facilities expenses are aligned with what was forecast in 2024 with increases based upon the actual 2024 expenses. For “Real Property Insurance,” the Vestry increased the amount based upon conversations with the Church’s insurance company about the anticipated increase to expect in 2025. For “Workman’s Compensation” the original amount was based upon Fr. Lipscomb who was a part-time priest. The Vestry increased the amount for 2025 because Fr. Hinson is a full-time priest with a corresponding larger salary.

The projected 2025 services and utilities likewise were based on actual 2024 expenses and in some instances (e.g., Water) were “rounded up” in anticipation of expected 2025 City increases. The Web Hosting and Internet expenses for the Parish Hall and Church reflect our increased commitment to broadcasting our weekly services and activities over the internet.

The “Electronic Giving (VANCO)” charge pays for the annual VANCO subscription which enables electronic giving. This is an investment the Vestry has decided to keep because younger generations do not often have checkbooks, they pay their bills electronically, and the Vestry wants to provide this venue for them and others.

The projected 2025 supplies now include the digital ministry expenses to include providing funds for lifecycle replacements of the Church’s iPad and cameras. It also pays for the annual MEVO PRO subscription which controls the cameras and enables the Church to broadcast services over Facebook and YouTube.

Other Estimated Expenses. Figure 4 identifies the estimated 2025 expenses for Christian Education, and the Fellowship, Worship, Diocesan, Project, and Program Expenses, and the Contingency the Vestry has set aside.

Line item	Sub Line Item	Description	Approved 2024 Budget	Approved 2025 Budget	2025 Difference (Amount)	2025 Difference (%)
5.40.500	Christian Education					
	5.40.501	Sunday School	\$ 300.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	70%
	5.40.502	Adult Christian Education	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
5.40.600	Fellowship Expenses					
	5.40.600	1st Wednesday Supplies	\$ 600.00	\$ 200.00	\$ (400.00)	-200%
	5.40.601	Welcome Expenses	\$ 500.00	\$ 300.00	\$ (200.00)	-67%
	5.40.602	Congregational Development	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ -	
5.40.700	Worship Expenses					
	5.40.700	Choir Supplies	\$ 275.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 225.00	45%
	5.40.701	Organ Maintenance	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00	\$ -	0%
	5.40.702	Worship Supplies and Literature	\$ 375.00	\$ 375.00	\$ -	0%
5.50.000	Diocesan Expenses					
	5.50.100	Diocesan Apportionment	\$ 37,284.00	\$ 48,024.00	\$ 10,740.00	22%
	5.50.200	Diocesan Convention	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ (200.00)	-17%
5.60.000	Project Expenses					
	5.60.100	Chili Supper Expenses	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00	\$ -	0%
	5.60.200	Pancake Supper Expenses	\$ 200.00	\$ 225.00	\$ 25.00	11%
	5.60.400	Tag, Book, and Bake Sale Expenses	\$ 200.00	\$ 100.00	\$ (100.00)	-100%
	5.60.641	PAIR Day Expenses	\$ 375.00	\$ 375.00	\$ -	
	5.60.650	Christmas Cards Expenses	\$ 350.00	\$ -	\$ (350.00)	
5.70.000	Program Expenses					
	5.70.100	Youth Program	\$ -	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00	100%
	5.70.200	Youth Camp Scholarship	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00	\$ -	0%
	5.70.300	Vestry Development/Training	\$ -	\$ 275.00	\$ 275.00	100%
	5.70.400	Parish Activities	\$ -	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00	
	5.70.710	Foundation Expenses	\$ -	\$ 100.00		
5.75.000	Contingency		\$ 920.00	\$ 1,773.05		
<b>Total Expenses</b>			<b>\$277,505.00</b>	<b>\$299,335.00</b>	<b>\$21,830.00</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>Difference (Income - Expenses)</b>			<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>		

Figure 4 – Estimated 2025 Christian Education, Other Expenses, and Contingency Expenses

These expenses are those that either the Vestry values (e.g., Christian Education) or are required to make the Church “run.” As with the other expenses, these expenses are based upon the actual expenses of 2024.

The Sunday School expense is a direct request from the Sunday School teacher to increase the Sunday School’s capacity and modify its curriculum in response to the anticipated capacity increase, parental requests, and guidance from Fr. Hinson.

The Fellowship expenses are based upon 2024 actual expenses and account for things like the First Wednesday activities not requiring much funding because they will continue to be a pot-luck dinner.

The worship expenses account for a direct request from the Choir Director to increase the Choir Supplies line due to Choir growth. It also sets aside funds for organ maintenance, which is still required while the new Organ Restoration Committee raises funds for full organ restoration.

The diocesan expenses reflect the increased apportionment. The apportionment for the previous three years was reduced due to COVID and corresponding Federal funds available to the diocese. Those funds are gone and now we, like everybody else in the diocese, will pay an increased apportionment amount. Fortunately, the projected increased income allows St. Paul's to pay the apportionment in full. Also included in the diocesan expenses is the projected annual diocesan convention costs. It is anticipated the convention will occur somewhere in Overland Park enabling St. Paul's convention participants to commute to the convention.

The project expenses are those necessary to facilitate the major projects that generated the income identified above. The Parish needs to determine if a Tag, Book, and Bake Sale will occur since in 2024 the parish sold or donated the contents of the Parish Hall so there isn't much to sell in 2025.

The program expenses reflect the Vestry's priority in developing the Church's youth through programs and camp scholarships. It includes the Vestry's annual retreat which is used to integrate new Vestry members and further develop existing members. It also includes a small amount to offset banking and paperwork charges for St. Paul's development of an endowment through the St. Paul's Foundation.

The last entry, "Contingency" is where the Vestry has parked a small budget surplus for unforeseen expenses. This isn't the only funds available to address a contingency – the Church's Providence account does that. The Vestry established the Providence Account at the beginning of the Search Process that brought Fr. Hinson to St. Paul's. The Account was funded to offset moving expenses, medical insurance premiums, and other costs a new Priest might occur. Fortunately, as a retired U.S. Navy officer, the U.S. Government paid/pays those expenses leaving St. Paul's with a de facto savings account.

Finally at the bottom of Figure 4 you can see that even though the 2025 expenses are forecast to be 7% larger than those of 2024, the income is sufficient to bring the budget into balance with no difference between anticipated income and expenses.

If you have any questions or concerns about the budget, please contact a member of the 2024 Finance Committee (Mr. Brian Hodges, Mr. Weldon Elrod, Ms. Beth Fitz-Gibbon).

## **2024 PRIEST-IN-CHARGE REPORT**

Grace and peace to you, the people of St. Paul's! What an amazing year of enduring worship, generous community and gracious welcome we have enjoyed! Indeed this is the very essence of Acts 2:42-47 which is my paradigm for ministry. The Holy Spirit is indeed working in this place and God is adding to our number. Thank you for embracing the vision and mission we hold as the Episcopal branch of the Jesus movement in this area. I am so very proud of you!

First of all the numbers, as you know my mathematical background. We have grown in average Sunday attendance by 10 from 62 to 72 over the course of the year. I used to be grumpy when we were under 50. Now I get grumpy when we are under 80. Our most attended service was Christmas Eve where we had 142 up from 95 the year before. We had 110 on a random Sunday in July which was quite surprising to me and was our high water mark for a Sunday! We usually seem to have about a dozen viewers online when we are live on Facebook on Sunday and dozens who watch later during the week. More people are being engaged through your invitations and incredible hospitality. I am 3 for 303 in inviting people to a worship service, so you all are doing much, much better--including taking advantage of "it's just pancakes" and other opportunities to invite people to events in our spaces.

This past year saw us entrusted by our Bishop with assisting in the formation of a curate, Mother Ryan. Mother Ryan has immediately had an impact on our intergenerational confirmation instruction and the development of our young people's ministries. She has been involved in the pastoral care and visiting of ill and homebound parishioners as well as honing her preaching skills in our pulpit. On 16 February she will have her first opportunity to celebrate Eucharist with us, so please plan to be there.

The single best decision of the past year was the hiring of Ms. Mary Kamm as our parish administrative assistant. She has brought order, curiosity, and a can-do spirit to our office that is absolutely refreshing. Her initiative means that she is always looking out on the horizon and keeping us (me, particularly) ready for the next thing. Please help keep her happy and appreciated!

This past year featured three areas of spiritual formation: 1) men's Bible Study, 2) seasonal adult Christian Education events, and 3) youth and young people's activities. Kudos to Jeff Leser and Doug Bell who were the co-conveners of our men's Bible Study. We explored covenants in the Hebrew scriptures and will look more at the nature of God in the coming year. I can't say enough about Jennifer Turner's leadership--her wit, grit, and determination resulted in our first vacation Bible School and Christmas Eve pageant in recent memory. Because youth and young people are so important I've invested a portion of my time directly in the faith development of our 15-30 year olds. We have a senior high youth gathering on Sunday afternoons. One Friday evening a month I gather with our 21-31 year old "Gen Z Advisory Group." We also celebrated having Tristan Simpson as a youth representative on our vestry.

Nothing happens at St. Paul's without the action and oversight of your vestry! Thanks to Brian Hodges, who I have asked to stay on another year as Senior Warden, and Joe Porter our Junior Warden. Beth FitzGibbon serves as our secretary and meticulously keeps us

on track. We will miss off-going members Kathy Meyer, the aforementioned Tristan, and Jane Bellanus who have done so much to improve our Parish Life and Outreach efforts. Weldon, Gwyneth, and Carol round out our team. We will gather the new vestry in February, build the team and look toward the future.

For this year, I see more opportunities for us to grow together. I learned so much getting through my first year with you. The Pastoral Care Committee is the heart of the parish, thank you Jan and members! So many people have volunteered to improve our facilities, made our spaces beautiful, and extended our reaching out in the community around us. We will continue everything that has worked (Grandparents@Prayer for example) and add a few more things. Expect to see Mother Ryan offering midweek adult education opportunities for small group leadership over the next few months. Expect to hear more about the next Big Thing we do to honor our heritage and build toward the future (hint, it has to do with the organ!!!). But most of all, expect to experience the Love of God in Christ Jesus which is what all of this is actually about! I'm delighted to be serving as your priest. There is much for us to do, so, let's be about it!

### **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE VESTRY**

To the Priest and Parishioners of St. Paul's Episcopal Church:

The Vestry of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, by evidence of this letter and the financial statements contained in the Annual Parish Report, does hereby certify that the temporal state of the parish is sound and good. All property and buildings held in trust for the Diocese of Kansas by the parish have been properly maintained and are in good repair. The parish is financially solvent; all our financial obligations have been met and all bills are paid. A complete financial report is available upon request and may be obtained from the church office.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Vestry,  
Brian Hodges, Senior Warden

## **SENIOR WARDEN REPORT 2024**

It has been a productive year for your Vestry. The year began with the election of these individuals onto the Vestry during the February 2024 Annual Meeting: Brian Hodges (Senior Warden), Joe Porter (Junior Warden), Jane Belanus, Weldon Elrod, Beth Fitz Gibbons, Gwyneth Hawk, Carol Hunt, Kathy Meyer, and Tristan Simpson.

Major activities that occurred over the past year were:

February 2024 The Vestry held a retreat on February 24th at the Local Hotel in Leavenworth, led by Cannon Lisa Senuta, focusing on effective teamwork. The retreat was followed by a formal commissioning during the service on February 25th.

March - September 2024 Throughout these months, the Vestry was actively involved in various projects and decisions. In March, they looked into historical preservation grants, planned for additional Automated External Defibrillator (AEDs), managed church insurance, transitioned to cloud-based bookkeeping, and considered upgrades for the Parish House. April saw the decision to purchase two Zoll AEDs, with funding from the Memorial Fund, and exploring options for new tables and chairs. By May, the purchase of Parish House furniture was deferred for funding discussions, and the Church Organist and Choir Director, Dr. Mark Stotler provided an "State of the Organ" report to the Vestry. June confirmed the purchase of furniture with a mix of funds, and the Vestry received a hefty organ repair estimate, leading to plans for a capital campaign. July was quieter with the Vestry on break, but significant progress was made on installing AEDs and ordering Parish House furniture. August focused on resuming meetings, approving financial policies, and beginning plans for an organ restoration campaign. September dealt with routine financial management, including reinvesting matured CDs and preparing for the annual stewardship campaign.

October - December 2024 The latter part of the year saw continued routine operations with some notable activities. October included a positive Mutual Ministry Review, finalizing the CD reinvestment, selections for roof and parking lot repairs, and updates on digital ministry. November focused on the completion of these repairs and ongoing budget planning, pending final pledge totals. December wrapped up the year with the finalization of the 2025 budget, which not only met all requests but also included a surplus for contingencies. The month also saw unexpected furnace repairs to ensure comfort during the holiday season.

As always if you have questions, concerns, or ideas to make things better, please reach out to myself or the other Vestry members. Thanks - Brian Hodges, brianahodges46@gmail.com, (913) 775-0125.

## **JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT 2024**

The Junior Warden by long honored tradition serves as the supervisor of buildings and grounds maintenance and repair. Last year presented several issues:

Church building; Due to storm damage, minor repairs to non leaking areas of the roof were completed.

Two furnaces were replaced due to cracked heat exchangers - that was discovered during the HVAC service. The thermostat was relocated to better balance the systems. The sinkhole reopened and was repaired by a construction company.

Parish Hall;

Warranty repairs to a bubble that developed in the new hallway flooring were completed. Warranty repairs were completed on the new kitchen stove ovens. The old boiler lines and wall mountings were removed from the basement rooms and the walls are being repaired and painted (By the FIST group)

We have installed two new AED boxes, one each in the church and parish hall.

We are maintaining two maintenance contracts: 1- lawn maintenance and snow removal and 2. HVAC services on our 10 units.

We have wonderful old historic buildings that we worship and conduct fellowship in. We try to apply our best stewardship in preserving them for us and future generations.

Clarence 'Joe' Porter  
Junior Warden

## **Pastoral Care Committee Report**

The Pastoral Care Committee (PCC) was developed in 2018 by Father Steve and is only spiritually richer by having Father Jere as our leader. We cannot imagine a better Shepherd for our Flock.

In 2024, we met once a month. We invite you to join our group that meets the first Monday of the month at 10:00. Our meetings finish about 11:30 and then have a light lunch. Our mission and passion are to help parishioners in need, to share information, help organize events and to be an extension of Father Jere's love for one another through Generosity, Grace, and the Love of God.

Activities of the PCC include, but are not limited to:

**Card Ministry** – 200 + cards were mailed in 2024, mostly handmade by Candy Dials. Laura Alexander sent out Easter and Thanksgiving cards to our homebound friends.

**Welcome Packets** – Mary Kamm assembles and developed by Candy Dials

**Funeral reception organization** – There were four funeral receptions that Nancy Martin and Pam Simpson organized.

**Advent bags** – a program developed by Beth Pracht and Mary Jane Gockley in 2023. Three bags were given in 2023 and eight in 2024

**Rides** - to church, the store, doctors' appointments, etc. Thank you to Bill Perry and Dallas Van Hoose for volunteering their services.

Many thanks to our committee for their time and compassion that is evident with everything done for the needs of our Parish and extended families. Those on the committee are Father Jere, Allen Ohlstein, Jane Belanus, Candy Dials, Gwyneth Hawk, Pam Simpson, Beth Pracht, and Nancy Martin. New members in 2024; Laura Alexander, Pam Cole, and Anthea Brosnan. A special thank you to Allen Ohlstein for his "behind-the-scenes" work visiting and sharing Communion with those not able to make it to church and also being our expert on Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities. Another thank you to Sarah McLeod, our honorable member who spreads God's love with such grace.

The PCC relies on good communication and your help to make us a successful entity that live-our-faith for the good of St. Paul's. Thank you to the rest of the parish not mentioned, who are always willing to help and give care and compassion, whenever needed.

Faithfully,

Jan Hubbard, Chairman



## **St Paul's Outreach for 2024**

St Paul's people have had an opportunity each month to support designated outreach offerings. Our generosity has helped many in Leavenworth. The outreach committee consisted of Carol Hunt, Jane Belanus, and Tristan Simpson. The committee frequently reached out to the congregation. The congregation responded with prompt, comprehensive, and generous help. We produced financial help for many local organizations. Our outreach offerings of 2024 netted a total of \$10,191.09. They supported the charities described below.

- We supported LAWS (Leavenworth Animal Welfare Society). LAWS addresses the pet overpopulation crisis in Leavenworth. They rely solely on donations for their spay-and- neuter program. LAWS also helps with pet adoptions.

- St Paul's members, along with volunteers from The Protestant Main Post Chapel, Ft Leavenworth, have provided a monthly Community Meal for anyone in the community needing nourishment and fellowship. These meals have been served in our Parish House in 2024. You supported this program with three monthly offerings.

- The Leavenworth Mission Community Store and Food Pantry organization provides for the needs of people in our neighborhood who are unable to meet the nutritional needs of their families. It also provides for basic clothing and household needs. St Paul's supported this organization through two of its monthly offerings.

- Leavenworth Interfaith Community of Hope brings resources and funding for emergency services to those who are unhoused in Leavenworth. We have donated to the shelter through two designated monthly donations.

- The Meals on Wheels program sponsored by the Leavenworth Council on Aging, delivers nutritionally-balanced, hot meals to homebound individuals throughout Leavenworth County. The program also provides an opportunity for daily contact with one of their staff members or a Meals on Wheels volunteer. Seniors who are over the age of 60, have difficulty preparing meals, or have no one available to prepare noon-day meals, and are homebound are eligible for the program. We supported this agency through two designated offerings.

- Parents as Teachers promotes optimal early development, learning and health of children by supporting and engaging their parents and caregivers. They foster an empowering environment where everyone is able to identify and develop their skills and talents. They are dedicated to advancing equity in the rich and vibrant communities they are a part of.

- Attainable Housing helps the homeless and those at risk for becoming homeless. They have a financial advocate that works with each resident to establish self-sufficiency. They work on building community by bringing residents together once a month and encouraging them to participate in various city events. Their Housing Support Specialist

helps place clients in affordable housing, then meets with them each week in the home to be sure things are going well and that the house is being maintained.

- During Lent, St Paul's people participated in fundraiser, led by Sister Vickie Perkins, SCL, for Attainable Housing in Leavenworth. Your donation was a generous \$2024.64 and is reflected in the total above.

Our outreach work also included projects such as these that were not specifically fund-related:

- We participated in PAIR (Post Activities and Registration) Day on Ft Leavenworth which gives newly arriving military families information about the various opportunities available in the Leavenworth area. Our team provided information and invitations to St Paul's.

- Michelle and Joe Garcia reached out to our community by building and installing a beautiful small library. It's in the front yard of the parish house. The people of St Paul's have kept it well stocked with reading materials for all ages.

- In September we participated in the Leavenworth Cancer Walk. Gary Hobin led our participation. We encouraged cancer survivors with cheers and applause as they walked the track, and those who walked to bring in donations for cancer research. We are thankful to those who came early to set up the St Paul's activity tent and banner.

- In October, we supported the Leavenworth City Trunk or Treat. We donated many bags of candy. Our workers had the fun of making this event happen. Our youth group was especially involved.

- We adopted 20 foster children for Christmas! The Outreach Committee met with CASA director Allison Burton who informed us of the various needs of the children in Foster care. Jennifer Turner put up our beautiful angel tree and Carol Hunt distributed the angel wish tags to all who were interested in participating in this project. The gifts were delivered to CASA December 9th by Carol and Lewis Hunt.

- Gently used hats, gloves, scarfs and coats were collected and delivered to Annie's Cottage, an organization that supports underserved veterans.

- Winter Coates, hats and gloves were collected and delivered to the Foster Closet, which provides clothing to Leavenworth children in foster care. Earlier in the year we took clothing donations to the Foster Closet.

Our generosity and enthusiasm towards helping people in our community is making a huge difference in bettering the lives of those around us. It has been an absolute joy to see what St Paul's was able to contribute through to the monthly, outreach offerings, by providing hands- on help whenever needed, and for helping us develop new ideas for reaching out in our community. We are thankful for what St. Paul's was able to do.

## **Friends in Service to St. Paul's (the FIST Group)**

St. Paul's Episcopal Church relies on volunteer efforts by Parishioners who step forward to take on things that need doing but are beyond the immediate capacity of Priest or Parish Administrator. Whether it is a small maintenance task, like replacing a toilet float valve or larger tasks like removing the now redundant baseboard heating pipes in the Parish House basement, we have an informal organization to handle these and similar tasks: the FIST Group.

"Friends in Service to St. Paul's," the FIST group, comprises all members of St. Paul's Parish, whether actively engaged in monthly activities, or available only to assist with larger efforts. We meet on the first Saturday each month, share a pot-luck breakfast, and set about the day's tasks to keep the Parish operating smoothly.

The FIST group provides the Junior Warden with a pool of workers to undertake functions such as weeding garden areas, replacing burned-out lightbulbs, cleaning up wind-blown trash from the grounds, and other similar minor repairs as well. Of special note, this year the FIST group planned and executed the Parish's second participation in Leavenworth's annual "Relay for Life" event in support of the local American Cancer Society.

While the focus of the FIST group is on the buildings and grounds of the Parish, what may be overlooked are actions of FIST in other areas. Whenever members of St. Paul's Parish take a few moments to help a neighbor by shoveling snow from a driveway or sidewalk, or helping rake a neighbor's yard, FIST is in action. Because we all are "Friends in Service to St. Paul's" in the community.

Gary Hobin  
The FIST Guy

## **Sunday School**

2024 was an exciting year for the Sunday school program and for our children's ministry as a whole! Sunday mornings we follow the Godly Play curriculum during the first part of the church service to teach our young members Bible stories through interactive play. In May, we handed out potted petunias for Mother's Day. For Father's Day we made custom St. Paul's magnets for the kids to give out to the father figures in our congregation. In July we hosted our first VBS in many years. We were able to spend 5 evenings with 11 great kids in an Under the Sea themed Bible study. Our amazing young adult youth group stepped up to help teach lessons and perform skits for the kids. This

December, the kids were super excited to perform a Christmas Pageant for the congregation during our Christmas Eve service.

Thank you to everyone that has been so supportive of expanding our children's ministry this past year. I look forward to having another amazing year finding fun ways to support our kids in their faith.

Jenn Turner

### **Grandparents@Prayer**

Grandparents at Prayer (G@P) had its one-year anniversary in November 2024. The group meets the second Monday of each month in the Parish Hall from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. We are studying “Grandparenting with a Purpose”, by Lillian Penner. Please join us in 2025 as we strive to learn more about how to practice intentional grandparenting with focused prayer that God will be ever present in the lives of our grandchildren. Our first year celebrated many answered prayers for our grandchildren. Please contact Amy Masters, (913) 240-3823 or Anthea Brosnan, (913) 680-4481 if you have any prayer requests or questions.

### **Endowment Foundation**

St. Paul’s Episcopal Church Endowment Foundation begins its eighth year in 2025. Over the past three years the Foundation’s growth continues, with the support of parishioners’ contributions and the accumulation of interest earnings on several certificates of deposit (CDs). Year end 2024 financials are shown below:

Account balance	\$9,188.93
CDs (4) at Country Club Bank	\$35,548.27
CDs (2) at Exchange Bank	\$31,682.64
<b>Total cash assets</b>	<b>\$76,419.84</b>
Mt Muncie grave sites (4, est value \$900 each)	\$3,600.00
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$80,019.84</b>

Several parishioners have included bequests to the Foundation in their estate plans for some \$150,000. Should you have any questions on how to begin regular contributions or

to include the Foundation in your estate planning, please contact Tom Dials or Steve Meyer.

In 2024 the Foundation established the capability to receive donations of appreciated stock on behalf of the parish. This feature allows parishioners who have not yet attained an age where they are required to make required minimum distributions (RMD) from their retirement accounts to obtain a tax advantaged position by avoiding capital gains taxes on appreciated securities as a cash contribution to the parish current account through the Foundation's exempt status (IRS 509(a)(3)). This arrangement permits the donor to specify their intent to support the parish current operating account by designating the funds to support specific outreach and mission categories in the upcoming year's budget

This arrangement requires an amendment to the Foundation's charter to allow payment of such designated contributions to the parish operating account; amendments to that document must be approved by a 2/3rds vote of the Endowment Committee and a 2/3rds vote of the parish at two successive parish meetings. This is the first parish meeting since this capability was approved by the committee. Approval of the recommended change (below) will also be on the agenda for the 2026 parish meeting to finalize the revision of the charter:

“The Endowment Foundation offers the capability to receive gifts of appreciated stock, designated by the donor as intended for the support of the parish operating account to support mission and outreach functions in the upcoming budget year. Such gifts must be designated for chartered purposes of the Foundation, supporting exclusively charitable, religious and educational activities including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations described under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code. Such donor directed gifts are exempt from the Foundation's guidelines limiting support to the parish to 4% of the net gain realized in invested assets of the endowment fund.”

**The Endowment Committee recommends approval of these changes.**

2024 marks the completion of the term of Frank Masterson on the Endowment Committee. The Executive Committee nominates Michelle Garcia to replace Frank. We offer Frank our heartfelt thanks for his long and faithful service.

## **2024 ST. PAUL'S MEMORIALS AND GIFTS FUND**

Beginning Balance 1/1/24	\$13,071.83
<b>Income</b> - Memorial and gift deposits during the year 2024	2,375.00
<b>Expenses</b>	
Purificators (3) for Eucharistic Kits	\$ 68.84
Dark green Chasuble and Stole	717.00
Host box for Ledbettr Eucharistic Kit	199.10
AEDs	3,768.88
Cabinets for AEDs	679.58
Organ fund	100.00
Miscellaneous Supplies and Brass Plaques	61.08
<b>Total Expenses</b>	\$5,594.48
<b>Ending Balance</b> 12/31/24	<b>\$9,852.35</b>

A detailed balance sheet showing each memorial is available from the church office.

The Memorial and Gift Fund receives memorial gifts donated to St. Paul's. All financial contributions made as memorials to St. Paul's are placed in a common fund known as the St. Paul's Memorial Fund; a record is kept showing the amount of the gift, the honoree and the contributor. Unless instructed otherwise, an acknowledgement will be sent to the honoree's family (including the contributor's name).

A list of items needed by St. Paul's will be kept by the Vestry. The various ministries of St. Paul's may suggest needed items to be included on this list. If the family wishes to give a gift not on the list of needed items, the request of the family will be considered by the Vestry. The Vestry reserves the right to reject requests if the proposed item is viewed as inconsistent with the current needs of St. Paul's. If a family has not made a recommendation to the Committee or designated the funds for a particular item or area of concern; building and maintenance, organ fund, altar guild, etc. within six months of the death of the honoree, their memorial gift will become a part of the general Memorial Fund.

In general, Memorials will be of a more permanent nature and will not be items needed for the general work of St. Paul's. When memorialized items no longer serve a useful purpose due to wear or obsolescence, they will be disposed of in a reverent manner. If memorial items are in good and usable condition but are no longer needed at St. Paul's, they will be offered to other congregations. If the memorial item in question is of

substantial value but no longer serves the needs of the parish, at the Vestry's discretion, the item may be offered for sale and the proceeds used to further the work and ministry of St. Paul's.

Memorials used are recorded in the Book of Remembrances kept in the church on the back Credence Table that also holds the iPad for recording services. A brass plaque is placed on the board in the back of the church showing the honoree and the item. Look for brass plaques on items if they are able to be attached.

Any questions or suggestions, please contact Amy Masters or Jan Hubbard, Memorial Fund Coordinators.

### **Altar Guild**

The Altar Guild is a volunteer group of the parish whose ministry is to care for the altar, vessels, and altar linens. Altar Guild members prepare the sanctuary for services and clean up afterwards as well as prepare for Baptisms and Funerals. We consist of 19 members on 3 teams. Teams serve for a two week period. Members from all teams meet twice a year to prepare for the Easter and Advent seasons. Serving on the Altar Guild is a beautiful way to serve the Lord, learn more about the church traditions, and experience fellowship with others.

Liddell Hobin  
Altar Guild Director

### **Parish Life Vestry Subcommittee**

It was a busy year for the Parish Life Committee. In addition to overseeing the various parish groups, we were actively involved in the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, the Spring Plant Sale with the Flower Garden Nursery, the Tag and Rummage Sale, and the Fall Chili Supper. It truly "takes a village" of dedicated volunteers to support all the church activities, and we thank everyone who helped! Give yourselves a big pat on the back for a variety of jobs well done!!

Gwyn Hawk  
Joe Porter  
Kathy Meyer

### **Acolyte Ministry (2024)**

The Acolyte Ministry at St' Paul's Episcopal Church is alive and well!

We began the year with three acolytes and ended with four – a welcome increase. Acolytes’ ministry dates from the Old Testament with Samuel assisting Eli and Elijah assisting Elisha. When early Christians began developing Church practices, they adopted the acolyte as an assistant to the Celebration. We continue that tradition in order that our celebration of Holy Eucharist and other rites be conducted with dignity and available to everyone.

We encourage all younger members of the Parish to join the Acolytes in assisting the Celebrant, whether priest, deacon, or lay minister in leading services. The main requirement for becoming an acolyte is being a baptized member of the Church. Beyond that, a new acolyte should have a willingness to serve and ability to follow instructions. Acolytes begin as torch bearers, serving in the opening and closing processions. During a normal Sunday service, younger acolytes sit in the choir pews, and may be asked to receive the weekly offering from ushers,

After gaining experience, a new acolyte may be given the responsibility of carrying the processional cross in the opening and closing processions and lighting Altar Candles and Service Lights. Carrying the processional cross requires a certain degree of strength and balance, as the processional cross – even the lighter one – can be a bit top heavy!

More senior acolytes learn how to assist the Celebrant in preparing for the Eucharist, serving the Celebrant at the altar. Senior acolytes also help train younger acolytes and provide coaching as may be required during services.

As noted in last year’s report, we began 2024 with three acolytes: Isie and Ele Haberland, and Lilla Bouchette. Isie is now attending boarding school, and therefore is only infrequently available to serve; we consider her an “acolyte emeritus” and welcome her to serve when home on school vacations. We added two new acolytes, Catherine and David Streb, who quickly mastered their duties and became valued additions to the ministry. All of our acolytes are doing an outstanding job in assisting this congregation’s worship.

Gary Hobin

The Acolyte Guy

### **St. Paul’s Flower Fund**

The flowers on the altar each week are provided by a flower fund which is separate from the church operating funds. Those who request flowers in memory of loved ones or in thanksgiving for family and friends pay for these requests. The current cost is \$30. Any member interested in donating altar flowers can contact the church office or a member of the Flower Fund Committee.

In 2024, parish members donated 35 lilies to decorate the church for Easter as well as 30 poinsettias for Christmas services. Palms are used in place of altar flowers on Palm Sunday.



The Flower Fund is managed by Sue Porter and Pam Jordan.

### **Missouri River Minster 2024**

The Missouri River Minster continues to function and will celebrate its fourth year this spring. The Minster, as has been reported in previous years, is a regional collaborative organization whose purpose is to link “geographically proximate parishes” for “relationship, ministry, sacramental provision, and mission in their shared neighborhood.” (October 2022 amendment to Diocesan Canons) The Missouri River Minster joined St. Paul’s parish with Trinity parish, Atchison initially. St. Thomas’ parish, Falls City, Nebraska became the third member parish through a special agreement between the Diocese of Kansas and that of Nebraska.

Members of the Minster meet monthly during the school year, normally on the first Tuesday of the month. The Minster does not hold meetings in the summer months (June to August). At present, most meetings are hosted by Trinity parish, which is more centrally located, but Minster meetings have been held at each of the member churches. Meetings are open to all parishioners. Presently, fifteen members regularly attend the Minster meetings.

During this calendar year, the Minster continued organizing events to meet the intent of developing and nurturing relationships among the member parishes. In March, the Minster hosted Rev. Lisa Senuta, Canon to the Ordinary, for a Holy Week presentation which she entitled “Spirituality of Holy Week: Walking in Conscious Love” at Trinity Episcopal Church. In October, the Minster celebrated the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi with the now-annual Minster picnic at Weston Bend State Park. Both events were well attended by people from all three parishes.

One special event this year was the installation of Fr. Jere as Priest in Charge here at St. Paul’s. This event, too, was well attended by people from all three parishes as well as a clergy from throughout the Diocese of Kansas.

Planning for these and similar events is a major undertaking of the Minster, but members have also conducted book studies to enrich ministries and mission in respective parishes. Currently Minster members are working through Eric Law’s Holy Currencies: 6 Blessings for Sustainable Missional Ministries (2013).

As stated earlier, Minster meetings are open to all parishioners. Consider yourselves invited to the next monthly meeting!

Gary Hobin

Minster member, St. Paul’s Church

## **Community Meal**

On the Second Saturday of each month, members from St Paul's with the assistance of members from the Post Chapel, provide a free community meal to Leavenworth in the parish hall from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Volunteers from St Paul's and Post Chapel provide the food, cook, set up, serve, cleanup and many other tasks.

Started prior to 2013

Totals for 2024

Guest Served - 870

Meals Served – 4678

Dine in – 441

Carry out - 4237

Volunteered Hours - 1,335

January 2024 we resumed dine in meals.

## **Relay for Life 2024**

We met, we worked and played, we celebrated. And we raised \$3895.00 in donations, exceeding our goal of \$2000 by almost \$1900. The Leavenworth County Relay for Life, raising funds for the American Cancer Society to fund cancer research and to increase awareness of the social costs of cancer, took place on Saturday, 21 September at Berkle Memorial Stadium, the University of St. Mary football field. The threat of severe weather put the location in question earlier in the day, but the clouds cleared away and the day's earlier rain dried sufficiently to allow the gates to open at 1500 (3:00 PM) as scheduled. Event participants had a pleasant interval of clear weather for the remainder of the event. St. Paul's Relay for Life Team arrived and set to work, erecting our protective canopy and setting up for a lengthy stay. The Relay's opening ceremonies took place beginning at 1620 (4:20 PM) with the first circuit of the football field by cancer survivors and their caregivers. Thereafter, folks attending the event were free to walk or jog the track as many times and at whatever speed they wished. Although precise numbers are in some dispute, somewhere between 35 and 40 members of the Parish participated in the Relay for Life during its scheduled four-hour duration, many sporting blue St. Paul's t-shirts. St. Paul's Team members supported other activities during the Relay as well. Tom Dials manned a charcoal grill as the event's chief cook for hamburgers and hot dogs, while Weldon and Dolly Elrod assembled the grilled meat for delivery to hungry patrons. Team members also delivered several boxes of non-perishable food items, collected over

preceding weeks, to Event organizers. The threat of approaching severe weather forced an early end to the event, with the decision to curtail it coming at about 1830 (6:30 pm). Most organizations collapsed their canopies and vacated the field before 1900 (7:00 PM) but a small number of participants remained on hand to witness the formal closing ceremony. A single individual with a lighted torch circled the field while two pipers performed at its center: the sound of bagpipes playing “Amazing Grace” and other tunes of remembrance reminded all who heard of the social cost of cancer.

For the second year, St. Paul’s Relay for Life team demonstrated the Parish’s commitment to serving the needs of the Leavenworth it!

Well done, folks

Gary Hobin, Team Captain

## **NECROLOGY**

St. Paul’s members and family members who have died since last year’s Annual Meeting.

Angie Goodin

Harold Kelly

Angela Redmon

Father of all, we pray to you for these, our sisters and brothers, and for all those we love but see no longer. Grant to them your peace and eternal rest: let light perpetual shine upon them; and in your perfect love, may they rejoice in your kingdom, where all tears are wiped away, and where we will sing your praises for ever and ever; through Christ our Lord. *Amen*