

2015

Annual Report

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**SAINT PAUL'S CHURCH
BROOKFIELD, CONNECTICUT**

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“Transforming Lives Through Jesus Christ”

SAINT PAUL'S
232nd ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

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SAINT PAUL'S CHURCH
BROOKFIELD, CONNECTICUT

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JANUARY 24, 2016

**AGENDA FOR SAINT PAUL’S ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
JANUARY 24, 2016**

PRAYER

READING OF THE ROLL OF MEMBERS ENTITLED TO VOTE - By the Parish Clerk
(Unless it shall be voted to dispense with the reading)

DECLARATION OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AS BEING ORGANIZED FOR BUSINESS

**MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 25, 2015 -
Pages 6 –9**

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND VESTRY CHAIRPERSONS

1. Warden – Term of Two Years
2. Parish Clerk – Term of One Year
3. Treasurer – Term of One Year
4. Two Vestry Persons – Terms of Three Years Each
5. One Vestry Person - Term of Two Years
6. Two Alternate Delegates - Term of Three years

APPOINTMENTS BY THE RECTOR AND WARDENS

1. Almoner – David Williams (Acts in the absence of the Priest)
2. Collector – Beth Miller (Record and Deposit Weekly Offerings)
3. Financial Secretary – Beth Miller (Keeps Records of Parishioners’ Support)

APPOINTMENTS BY THE RECTOR AND WARDENS OF SAINT PAUL’S CHURCH

1. Acolytes and Advisors - The Rev. Carolyn Legg, Mike Kirner and John Tuthill, Advisors
Ryan Sampson, Head Acolyte
Acolytes:
Joe Bernardo, Stephanie Bernardo,
Nick Janofsky, Mike Kirner, Erin O’Hara, Jack Powell, Ryan Sampson,
John Tuthill
2. Adult Christian Education Coordinator - Fr. Joseph Shepley

(Continued)

AGENDA FOR SAINT PAUL'S ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

JANUARY 24, 2016

(Continued)

APPOINTMENTS BY THE RECTOR AND WARDENS OF SAINT PAUL'S CHURCH

(Continued)

- | | | | |
|-----|--|---|---|
| 3. | Altar Guild Directress | - | Gail Winkley |
| 4. | Auditor | - | Mark Malkin |
| 5. | Baptismal Instructor | - | Fr. Joseph Shepley |
| 6. | Carillonneur | - | David Szen |
| 7. | Christian Caring Coordinator | - | Gail Winkley |
| 8. | Coffee Hour | - | Chuck & Mary Allen (Coordinators),
Dave & Ann Allen, Gretchen & Vito
Barbieri, Beth Beck, Leena Bernardo,
Stephanie Bernardo, Amy Boyce, Pat
Brought, Sandra Chadwick, Jack
Collins, Dot Crocker, Kathy DeSanti,
Laurie Dobosh, Christine Domareck,
Karen & Rob Greeley, Reagan
Guglielmo, Lois Hunt, Mike Kirner,
Buni & Paul Kovacs, Cindy & Peter
Maier, Heather Melody, Lisa Meyer,
Nicole O'Connors, Paula Pascoa, Lori
O'Hara, Mary & Ken Perry, Robin
Powell, John & Joyce Sarver, Polly
Sorrentino, Pam & Dave Szen, Bonnie
& Larry Wanzer, Connie Williams,
Marie Williams |
| 9. | Contemporary Music Coordinator | - | Patrick O'Connors |
| 10. | Sexton | - | Doug Melody |
| 11. | Fellowship and Hospitality Coordinator | - | Mary Allen |
| 12. | First Communion Instructor | - | Fr. Joseph Shepley |
| 13. | Greeters and Coordinator | - | Pam and David Szen, Coordinators
Vito Barbieri, Kathy DeSanti, Laurie
DoBosh, Mike Kirner, Cindy Maier,
Peter Maier, John Sarver, Joyce Sarver,
Sandra Visser, Connie Williams, David
Williams |

AGENDA FOR SAINT PAUL'S ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

JANUARY 24, 2016

(Continued)

APPOINTMENTS BY THE RECTOR AND WARDENS OF SAINT PAUL'S CHURCH

(Continued)

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 14. Prayer Servant Ministry | - | Mary Perry, Coordinator.
Pamela Altemus, Phyllis Baskett,
Patricia Brought, Bev Carr, John
Carr, James Castronova, Donna
Cennamo, Susan Champagne, Jack
Collins, Laurie Dobosh, Lynne
Donnelly, Diane Hannah, Phil Hannah,
Barbara Hock, Joseph Hock, Mary
Ellen Oliveri, Linda Pendergast,
Kenneth Perry, Debbi Pomeroy, Lisa
Richardson, Joe Shepley, Tara
Shepley, Helen Sheridan, John Tuthill,
Walter Von Egidy, Kathy Whipple,
David Williams |
| 15. Historian | - | Harlan Jessup |
| 16. Home Eucharist Coordinator | - | Fr. Joseph Shepley |
| 17. Lay Readers | - | David Baskett, Phyllis Baskett,
Joe Bernardo, James Castronova,
Michael Chengeri, Ray Ferro, Lois
Hunt, Patricia Jennings, Harlan Jessup,
Mike Kirner, Pam Szen, David
Shepley, Joe Shepley, Jay Trott, John
Tuthill, Donald Winkley |
| 18. Lectors/Intercessors | - | Phyllis Baskett, Joe Bernardo,
Sandralee Chaleski, Dorothy Crocker,
Lynne Donnelly, Ray Ferro, Diane
Froelick, Michael Kirner, Linda
Pendergast, Mary Perry, Ingrid Pruss,
Lisa Richardson, Pamela Szen, John
Tuthill, Connie Williams |
| 19. Memorial Flower Chairperson | - | Gail Winkley |
| 20. Memorial Fund Financial Secretary | - | Jean Stauffer |
| 21. Memorial Garden Financial Secretary | - | Donald Winkley |
| 22. Mission Chairpersons | - | Barbara DeAnzeris, Donald Winkley |
| 23. Organist and Choirmaster | - | Kirsten Peterson |
| 24. Parish Office Coordinator | - | Beth Miller |
| 25. Prayer Chain Coordinator | - | Walter Von Egidy |
| 26. Sunday School Coordinators | - | Nicole O'Connors and Heather Melody |
| 27. Scholar-In-Residence | - | The Reverend William Loring |

REPORT OF THE TREASURER – Pages 10-12

(Continued)

**AGENDA FOR SAINT PAUL’S ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
JANUARY 24, 2016**

(Continued)

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE – (Note: The Budget for 2016 is set by action of the Vestry; therefore, no action is required at the Annual Parish Meeting.)

PARISH REGISTER – Page 13

REPORT OF THE RECTOR – Page 14

REPORTS OF THE WARDENS – Pages 15-16

SPECIAL REPORTS

- | | | | |
|-----|--|---|-------------|
| 1. | Hearts to Hands Ministry | - | Page 17 |
| 2. | Prayer & Healing Team | - | Page 18 |
| 3. | Altar Guild | - | Page 19 |
| 4. | Lay Servers | - | Page 20 |
| 5. | Christian Caring Committee | - | Page 20 |
| 6. | Beyond the Red Door | - | Page 21 |
| 7. | Memorial Garden | - | Page 22 |
| 8. | Mission Committee | - | Pages 23-24 |
| 9. | Music Ministry | - | Page 25 |
| 10. | Sunday School | - | Page 26 |
| 11. | Jericho Partnership | - | Page 27-28 |
| 12. | Coffee hour/Home Groups
/ Hospitality | - | Page 28 |
| 13. | History Book | - | Page 28 |
| 14. | St. Paul’s Own | - | Page 29 |
| 15. | Property Committee | - | Page 30 |
| 16. | Stephen Ministry | - | Page 31 |
| 17. | Wellness Ministry | - | Page 31 |

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

NEXT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING DATE AND PLACE – January 22, 2017, Parish Hall

ADJOURNMENT – (Requires a motion to adjourn; followed by a definite vote.)

**MINUTES OF
SAINT PAUL'S CHURCH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
JANUARY 25, 2015**

OPENING AND PRAYER – The 231st Annual Parish Meeting of Saint Paul's Church, Brookfield, was opened in prayer at 9:15 by Father Shepley, who led the meeting.

READING OF THE ROLL OF MEMBERS ENTITLED TO VOTE – A motion was made, seconded and approved to dispense with the reading of the roll of members entitled to vote.

DECLARATION OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING AS BEING ORGANIZED FOR BUSINESS – So declared by Lois Hunt, Clerk of the Annual Parish Meeting.

MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 25, 2014 – A motion was made and seconded to approve but not read aloud said Minutes as circulated.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND VESTRY CHAIRPERSONS – Bonnie Wanzer presented the following slate from the nominating committee:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>To Year</u>	<u>Nominee</u>
Warden	2 Years	2017	Mary Perry
Parish Clerk	1 Year	2016	Lois Hunt
Treasurer	1 Year	2016	Chuck Allen
Four Vestry Persons	3 Years	2018	Laurie DoBosh
	3 Years	2018	Ron Switzer
	3 Years	2018	Pam Szen
	3 Years	2018	John Tuthill
One Vestry Person	2 Years	2017	Dave Allen
One Vestry Person	1 Year	2016	Bill Schrull
One Delegate	3 Years	2018	Catherine Schrull

Being no further nominations and nominations being closed, a motion was made, seconded and approved directing the clerk to cast a vote electing each nominee.

APPOINTMENTS BY THE RECTOR AND WARDENS

1. Almoner – David Williams (Acts in the absence of the Priest)
2. Collectors – Donna Cennamo, Carol Gurski, Diane Simone and Jean Stauffer (Record and Deposit Weekly Offerings)
3. Financial Secretary – Beth Miller (Keeps Records of Parishioners' Support)

APPOINTMENTS BY THE RECTOR AND WARDENS OF SAINT PAUL'S CHURCH

1. Acolytes and Advisors - Fr. Shepley and David Szen, Advisors
Audrey Powell, Head Acolyte
Acolytes:
Joe Bernardo, Stephanie Bernardo,
Nick Janofsky, Mike Kirner, Rachel
Melody, Lauren Melody, Erin O'Hara,
Ryan Sampson, Sarah Shepley, John
Tuthill
2. Adult Christian Education Coordinator - Fr. Joseph Shepley

APPOINTMENTS BY THE RECTOR AND WARDENS OF SAINT PAUL'S CHURCH

(Continued)

3.	Altar Guild Directress	-	Gail Winkley
4.	Auditor	-	Donna Corey
5.	Baptismal Instructor	-	Fr. Joseph Shepley
6.	Carillonneur	-	David Szen
7.	Christian Caring Coordinator	-	Gail Winkley
8.	Coffee Hour	-	Mary Allen (Coordinator), Gretchen Barbieri, Beth Beck, Maria Beck, Leena Bernardo, Stephanie Bernardo, Amy Boyce, Pat Brought, Sandra Chadwick, Jack Collins, Dot Crocker, Laurie Dobosh, Christine Domareck, Karen Greeley, Reagan Guglielmo, Lois Hunt, Heather Melody, Lisa Meyer, Nicole O'Connors, Lori O'Hara, Mary Perry, Robin Powell, Joyce Sarver, Polly Sorrentino, Pam Szen, Bonnie Wanzer, Connie Williams, Marie Williams
9.	Contemporary Music Coordinator	-	Patrick O'Connors
10.	Sexton	-	Doug Melody
11.	Fellowship and Hospitality Coordinator	-	Mary Allen
12.	First Communion Instructor	-	Fr. Joseph Shepley
13.	Greeters and Coordinator	-	Pam and David Szen, Coordinators Vito Barbieri, Susan Champagne, Christine Domareck, Mike Kirner, Cindy Maier, Peter Maier, Doug Melody, Denise McCormack, Debbie Pomeroy, Lisa Richardson, John Sarver, Joyce Sarver, Sandra Visser, Connie Williams, David Williams
14.	Prayer Servant Ministry	-	Mary Perry, Coordinator. Pamela Altemus, Phyllis Baskett, Patricia Brought, Bev Carr, John Carr, James Castronova, Donna Cennamo, Susan Champagne, Deborah Delavventura, Laurie Dobosh, Lynne Donnelly, Diane Hannah, Barbara Hock, Joseph Hock, Linda Pendergast, Kenneth Perry, Tara Shepley, Helen Sheridan, Walter Von Egidy

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|-----|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| 15. | Historian | - | Harlan Jessup |
| 16. | Home Eucharist Coordinator | - | Fr. Joseph Shepley |
| 17. | Lay Readers | - | David Baskett, Phyllis Baskett,
Joe Bernardo, James Castronova,
Michael Chengeri, Ray Ferro, Lois
Hunt, Patricia Jennings, Harlan Jessup,
Mike Kirner, Pam Szen, David
Shepley, Joe Shepley, Jay Trott,
Donald Winkley |
| 18. | Lectors/Intercessors | - | Rose Barrett, Phyllis Baskett,
Joe Bernardo, Sandralee Chaleski,
Dorothy Crocker, Lynne Donnelly,
Ray Ferro, Betty Gardner, Michael
Kirner, Linda Pendergast, Mary Perry,
Ingrid Pruss, Lisa Richardson, Pamela
Szen, John Tuthill, Connie Williams |
| 19. | Memorial Flower Chairperson | - | Gail Winkley |
| 20. | Memorial Fund Financial Secretary | - | Jean Stauffer |
| 21. | Memorial Garden Financial Secretary | - | Donald Winkley |
| 22. | Mission Chairpersons | - | Barbara DeAnzeris, Donald Winkley |
| 23. | Organist and Choirmaster | - | Kirsten Peterson |
| 24. | Parish Office Coordinator | - | Beth Miller |
| 25. | Prayer Chain Coordinator | - | Walter Von Egidy |
| 26. | Sunday School Coordinators | - | Nicole O'Connors and Heather Melody |
| 27. | Scholar-In-Residence | - | The Reverend William Loring |

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Chuck Allen reported that our finances are in good order with income exceeding expenses by \$3,337 for 2014. Endowments are up 6.6% for 2014.

Building Fund pledges are 2/3 paid by the end of 2014.

REPORT OF THE RECTOR

Fr. Shepley thanked and presented gifts to those Vestry Members whose terms expired and were going off the Vestry: Jim Beck, Sandy Chaleski, Bill Mayers, Bill Nigro and Bonnie Wanzer.

Father Shepley reported that the unity of the parish is constantly growing, love for each other is demonstrated all around us and our outreach is deepening. He is blessed with a committed staff and thanked all of them.

Phase II of the building project is the Church School wing and will be completed this summer. Father Shepley reminded us that we don't worship the building, we use it to reach others for Christ. Jesus is going before us and leading us forward. He loves us all.

REPORT OF THE WARDENS

Bonnie Wanzer referred everyone to her report and said it has been a privilege and a blessing to serve as Warden for the past 4 years and is looking forward to what the Lord has for her in the future. She

thanked everyone for the privilege of serving.

David Williams referred everyone to his report, thanked Bonnie for her service and welcomed Mary.

OLD BUSINESS

A motion was made, seconded and approved to empower the Vestry to borrow and spend funds in 2015.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

NEXT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

We will hold the 232nd Annual Parish Meeting on January 24th, 2016 in the Parish Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, was seconded and approved and the 231st Annual Parish Meeting adjourned at 9:42 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lois Hunt
Clerk of the Annual Parish Meeting

2015 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

INCOME & EXPENSE SUMMARY	\$(K)	YTY \$(K)	EXP % OF TOTAL
INCOME	418.0	7.4	
EXPENSES			
- MANPOWER	235.9		53.7%
- BUILDING/SITE EXPENSES	78.6		17.9%
- ADMIN	58.9		13.4%
- MISSIONS/MINISTRY EXPENSES	65.5		14.9%
	-----		-----
TOTAL EXPENSES	438.9	7.8	100.0%
HOUSING ALLOWANCE	23.7	-0.1	
	-----	-----	
PROFIT	2.8	-0.5	

ASSETS	12/31/15 VALUE \$(K)	YTY CHG			
FRANKLIN FUNDS					
ASSIGNED					
INCOME FUND - HOUSING	415.2		INCOME FUND PERFORMANCE AT SEPT 2015		
INCOME FUND - MEMORIAL GARDEN	54.9				
INCOME FUND - MEMORIAL FUND	23.2				
INCOME FUND - EDUCATION FUND	20.6				
	-----		1 YR	3 YRS	5 YRS
SUB TOTAL ASSIGNED	513.9		(6%)	4.5%	5.9%
UNASSIGNED					
RISING DIVIDENDS FUND	52.7				
GROWTH FUND	24.7				
UTILITIES FUND	6.4				
INCOME FUND	34.9				

SUB TOTAL UNASSIGNED	118.6				

TOTAL FRANKLIN FUNDS	632.6	-145.8			
CAPITAL MONEY MARKET FUND	64.5	-1.3			
WEBSTER CHECKING ACCOUNTS	76.6	1.7			
	-----	-----			
TOTAL ASSETS	773.7	-145.4			
LIABILITIES					
SHORT TERM CONTRUCTION LOAN	-130.0	-66.3			
STATUS ON PLEDGE PROGRAM					
	\$(K)				
TOTAL PLEDGES	676.7				
PAYMENTS RECEIVED 12/31/15	569.1				
TO GO IN 2016	107.6				

(Continues on page 11)

2015 ST PAUL'S INCOME & EXPENSE ACTUALS

	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	YTY F/Y	C/M	F/Y
INCOME							
WEEKLY COLLECTIONS/ OTHER	72170	89698	65119	91087	318073		
LARGE CONTRIBUTORS	16250	23671	18325	41700	99947		
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----		
TOTAL	88420	113369	83444	132787	418020	-8097	7400
EXPENSES							
MANPOWER							
- SALARY & BENEFITS	47620	49669	48706	48717	194712		
- TAXES	1559	1586	1577	1578	6300		
- MEDICAL & LIFE INSUR	8400	8400	8400	8551	33751		
- PAYROLL EXPENSES	316	243	237	310	1106		
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SUB TOTAL	57895	59898	58921	59156	235869		
BUILDING/ SITE EXPENSES							
- UTILITIES/ WATER/SUPPLIES	13548	7534	3484	4525	29091		
- SEXTON CHARGES /OTHER	10655	9895	9593	8855	38997		
- MAINTENANCE	1593	1107	675	1784	5159		
- MEMORIAL GARDEN EXPENSE	0	490	785	2012	3287		
- CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	1851	0	0	227	2078		
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----		
SUB TOTAL	27647	19026	14537	17402	78612		
ADMIN							
- OFFICE OPERATIONS	2155	556	1030	1136	4876		
- INSURANCE	2871	2871	2871	2871	11484		
- DIOCESAN PLEDGE - 10%	7575	7575	7575	7575	30300		
- ALTAR GUILD	1226	1931	1184	2534	6876		
- BANK SERVICE CHARGES	43	57	0	26	126		
- ORGANIST SUPPLIES	0	0	0	0	0		
- CONTRACT SERVICES	180	0	0	0	180		
- DUES, SUBSCRIPTIONS & ADVERTISING	203	203	204	303	914		
- SUPPLY CLERGY	0	0	2120	0	2120		
- ST PAUL'S HISTORY BOOK	0	0	24	2026	2050		
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SUB TOTAL	14254	13193	15007	16472	58925		

MINISTRY EXPENSES						
- MISSIONS	1850	3850	8350	14700	28750	
- YOUTH / MUSIC MISSIONS	2122	3576	3851	3296	12845	
- TRAVEL	169	435	110	256	969	
- CONTINUING EDUCATION	1586	0	0	0	1586	
- EVANGELISM	3467	1371	1536	2917	9292	
- HEARTS TO HANDS	1075	1000	700	250	3025	
- RECTOR DISCRETIONARY	0	0	0	0	0	
EXPENSE						
- SUNDAY SCHOOL	514	0	829	529	1872	
- WOMEN'S MINISTRY	0	4097	0	1221	5318	
- HOPELINE	0	1837	0	0	1837	
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SUB TOTAL	10783	16165	15377	23169	65494	
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TOTAL EXPENSES	110578	108282	103842	116199	438901	
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NET INCOME	-22159	5087	-20398	16588	-20881	
HOUSING ALLOWANCE/ INTEREST	5931	5931	5931	5931	23726	
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ADJ'T NET INCOME	-16227	11018	-14466	22519	2844	-5958 -493

PARISH REGISTER

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
Total Attendance (All Services)	11,103	12,909	12,981	11430	10287
Total Sunday Attendance	9,162	10,758	10,422	9210	8625
Sunday Holy Communion Services	105	116	103	106	106
Weekday Holy Communion Services	61	62	63	66	66
Private Holy Communion Services	43	46	52	61	72
Children Baptized	8	8	3	3	11
Adults Baptized	0	1	0	0	0
Total Baptized	8	9	3	3	11
People Confirmed	-	14	10	-	18
People Received	-	2	8	-	5
People Received as Members	-	5	0	-	5
Total Confirmed and Received	-	21	18	-	23
Marriages	2	1	2	3	1
Burial Offices	3	8	10	8	3
Transferred OUT	1	1	3	1	2
			(1Person)		
	(1Person)				
Transferred IN	1	1	2	1	3
	(2 People)		(3 people)		
		(5 people)			
Families	125	124	132	127	121
Individuals	85	82	96	102	92

THE RECTOR'S REPORT

Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path (Psalm 119:105).

Dear Family of St. Paul's,

In the Bible, the number seven stands for completion; the Hebrew mind held this sacred number as a sign of perfection. As it is our seventh annual meeting together, a sense of completion appropriately fills the air, and while I am not ready to claim perfection among us, we are no doubt afforded a holy pause of reflection to consider how God has blessed us in closing one chapter with the promise of a new one beginning.

Firstly, we find ourselves once again on firm financial ground, ending 2015 with a profit. This is becoming a wonderful pattern, for it has been the case for a series of years now that we have ended up in the black rather than the red, and considering that we are still in our capital campaign (2016 is the final year for pledges to be paid off), this is a tremendous sign of health. God pays for what God orders. We will continue to focus on tithing, and I challenge us all to move in that direction to fully know God's blessings.

Secondly, we have now finished our second and final phase of our building project, and our children are thoroughly enjoying their renovated space. As stewards of God's gifts, several years ago we faced the reality that we needed to upgrade our facility not just for this generation, but for those to follow. I give thanks to God for our faithfulness to a vision, and our perseverance in seeing it to completion.

Third, and finally, we now look to what God has next for us as we stay true to our mission of "Transforming Lives Through Jesus Christ." Now that our house is in order structurally, we have further work to do internally as we begin to reach out more and more, beyond our red doors. The need for deeper biblical literacy among us informing our sense of mission is something that God has put on my heart, and this is why I have committed to leading a verse by verse Bible study every Monday evening throughout the year for men (and available to all the next day on our YouTube channel), as well as offering another Bible study for all on Sunday mornings during the Rector's Forum. God's Word is our light showing us the path ahead, and the more we study together and mature spiritually, the more effectively we can hear the Holy Spirit calling us in truth to God's mission.

The future is bright in the Lord, and let me say what a privilege it is to serve as your Rector. Know that you have my love, devotion and pastoral care as we see God turn the page into our next chapter together, illumined by the light of the Holy Spirit.

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fr. Joel". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Faithfully,".

WARDEN'S REPORT

*We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith,
your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.
1 Thessalonians 1:3*

A few weeks ago, Fr. Joe preached the Word of God on the three virtues of **faith, hope and love**. These virtues are the building blocks of the church and were demonstrated throughout 2015. They are lived out each day through the people of St. Paul's Church. In looking back over the year we can see how the Holy Spirit worked through each of us and strengthened our faith, clarified our hope and deepened our love for God as we served others.

The year 2015 had its blessings and its challenges. The blessings were overwhelming. The unity and support throughout the church and in the individual ministries and outreach programs were wonderful to see. New ministries were formed and have grown. Beyond the Red Door blew open the doors of St. Paul's and got us into the community to pray for others in need. New members joined St. Paul's and immediately got involved in ministries, and this demonstrates how God worked through them to complete the call of ministry. Existing ministries were infused with the Holy Spirit and grew and flourished. Renovations and upgrading of the property were completed, and the property committee has shown great leadership in preserving God's gift of our beautiful building. The continued care of the property by the Sexton, Memorial Garden Committee and the Garden Committee shows their concern about being good stewards over what God has graciously given us.

Many of us experienced loss, illness and even death of a friend or loved one in 2015. Through our faith in Jesus Christ and the faith of others around us, we were able to walk through the fire and see Life on the other side. The Stephen's Ministry and Healing Ministry were critical in coming alongside us and being a strong shoulder to lean on while calling upon the power of the Holy Spirit to heal us. Hearts to Hands and Christian Caring Ministries gave tangible support to those in need and provided life's necessities when no one else would. Jericho Partnership, Dorothy Day and Chaplaincy Ministries are the 'hands to the plow' and 'feet on the ground' to go out beyond the walls of our church and touch the lives of those in need. The glorious results of these wonderful ministries are that it builds the faith of those who are being ministered to and at the same time strengthens the faith of those who are ministering. Only God can create such a beautiful result, and it is happening every day at St. Paul's.

Faith in 2015 was also revealed in so many other ways. Our faith budget, which does not rely on spreadsheets and budget projections but rather a trust that God will pay for what he ordains, shows God's love and provision for us when we are faithful to His call. 2015, as in previous years, ended on the positive side of the ledger. To God be the glory!

Hope is to desire something with confident expectation of its fulfillment and to live out what has not yet come. This confidence comes from our saving relationship with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The closer we come to our Savior, the stronger our hope becomes. Through the Rector's Forum and Children's Sunday school, Men's and Women's bible studies, home groups and youth group, we are all drawn one step closer to knowing the will of the Father and deepening our commitment and hope of things to come.

"But the greatest of these is love". St. Paul's is often described as a church that shows great love for each other and for those that come in contact with us. I believe this is God's great desire for His church: that through each ministry we show the love of Christ to others, and through each individual that love of Christ is poured out to one another inside our walls and outside into the world. St. Paul's reflects the love that we receive from God. This should not build pride in us but rather bring great humility because God loved us first. Each act performed through ministry is a reflection of Christ's complete love.

I believe in 2016 God is calling us to go deeper and to go higher in our faith and in our hope and in our love for Him and for one another. We heard God's message on this point in the early fall when Rev. Julie Mudge delivered this message to us. Fr. Joe inspired us to extend grace to each other always and in all things because we do not know what others are struggling with in their lives. Let's desire God's proper provision in our lives, His protection in our lives, and most deeply desire His presence in our lives each day. With **faith, hope and love** we will serve our mighty God.

Submitted by David Williams

WARDEN'S REPORT

As I looked back and reflected on our 2015 church family's time together, I sensed the Spirit's presence was powerful and insistent as He purposely guided us to carry the torch of Faith together in meaningful ways for His purpose.

I think 2015 says a lot about who we are as a Christ-centered family and where we are headed together as we enter 2016.

Through Spirit-led Shepherding by Father Joe, I see God's presence was mighty and let's look at what He accomplished:

1. *He showed us the real meaning of church -*
 - a. Church can and should go Beyond the Red Door! We supported those in great need with our efforts with Jericho Partnership and the Jericho Food Pantry, Dorothy Day, Chaplaincy, and other ministries like these.
 - b. Church can be about prayer and evangelism out in the community to reach people Who need the love and compassion of Jesus and we walked with Jesus into many different places.
 - c. Through Ministries such as Hearts to Hands and Christian Caring he showed us that church is about helping each other in love when needs of all kinds arise.

2. *He nourished us –*
 - a. He gave us programs and ministries that strengthened us in Body, Spirit and Soul. The 12 Days of Christmas brought us a joy of celebration, fitness classes strengthened our bodies, Daniel Plan and Coffee Hours fed us, Stephen Ministers walked with us while God heals, prayer teams interceded for us, and people in the pew prayed for our requests.
 - b. He took care of the needs of our physical temple with Growing God's Kingdom renovations, and provided the dedicated people who care about the management and what it takes to run the church building and its grounds.
 - c. He nourished us through Music and Worship that sang His Praises and Lay Ministers that served us well.

3. *He connected us –*
 - a. Through Men's and Women's Ministries, Rector's Forum, Church School, St. Paul's OWN youth programs and Home Groups, he showed us the strength of being in like-minded groups, learning His Word and sharing our stories and our burdens with each other.
 - b. Through events like Joyful Noise and parish picnics He gathered us together to share food, be with each other and to just have fun together.
 - c. He gave us improved ways to communicate our information and who we are to those near and far, and He gave us our history in a beautiful book.

Wow. Look at what God did.

As we march forward into the start of 2016, I have no idea what the 2016 report will contain as I sit down to write it this time next year, but I do know a few things:

- a. We are blessed to have such a solid, faithful Shepherd in Father Joe,
- b. I'm grateful for our Deacon, staff, my fellow Warden, the Vestry and our Ministry Leaders
- c. I'm glad I'm with you all,
- d. I can't wait to see what God does!

May we keep in step with the Spirit, trust God and walk with Jesus confidently. Amen!

Submitted by Mary Perry

HEARTS TO HANDS MINISTRY

The Hearts to Hands Ministry began in November 2013 and our hearts for this ministry were moved by the verses in James 2: 14-17 that say "What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead."

Mission Statement:

To create an environment of Christ-like attributes among parishioner's by coordinating efforts to help one another with various needs from and for one another within the church.

Co-leaders of the Hearts to Hands ministry, Nicole O'Connors and Dorothy Crocker Nicole and Dorothy met with the Wardens to solidify an intake and requirement plan for Hearts to Hands ministry.

Following are the needs met during 2015 by contribution of the parish members:

- Over the summer, transportation arrangements were made for a parishioner going to and from rehab visits with additional volunteers to cover the 'regulars' over their summer away.
- A couple donated air conditioners fulfilling a need for an elderly person. A notice went into SWORD Points which came out on a Thursday morning and Dorothy received a call within two hours. By that Saturday, the air conditioners were picked up and installed in the parishioner's home that evening.
- A visiting schedule and meal arrangements were provided for a parishioner who came home after hospital/rehab stay.
- Meals were provided to several parishioners after returning home after hospital stays.
- Job searches for unemployed; obtained permanent or temporary employment.
- Coordinated need for household items between parishioner in need of and one cleaning out home
- Worked on budgets with two parishioners
- Assisted a family with meals and diapers need due to delivery of twins.
- Monies for a walker and hair care were provided to a parishioner shut-in.
- A parishioner that we were supporting financially secured employment and is moving towards self-sufficiency. The parishioner reported no longer is in need if financial assistance through the ministry.
- Provided recommendations to parishioner who was in need of overnight help with Mother. Parishioner interviewed and made selections independent from Hearts to Hands ministry. This not only assists this parishioner but provides income to other parishioners.
- Provided updates to the Policy and Procedure manual for the Hearts to Hands section.
- Arranged rides for a parishioner to church.
- Volunteer schedule for meals and transportation has been update to include new volunteers.

The Hearts to Hands Ministry received \$725.00 through the raffle of a beautiful quilt made by the St. Paul's Quilting group – a big thank you for this contribution and the quilting groups beautiful work.

In 2015, the Hearts to Hands Ministry had an income of \$4,610 and expenses of \$3,025, leaving an available balance of \$1,585. All funds for the ministry go through the treasurer.

Dorothy and Nicole would like to take this opportunity to all who have answered the call to serve God through the Hearts to Hands Ministry. Several parishioners have had life changing experiences thanks to your provisions through various means. We are thankful for God's grace and compassion He has instilled within you and look forward to your continued support for our parish family.

REMINDER – please contact Nicole O'Connors (203-313-2944) or Dorothy Crocker (860-355-5672) if you have a need or if you would like to share one of the many gifts the Lord has given you.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy Crocker and Nicole O'Connors

PRAYER AND HEALING TEAM MINISTRY

2015 Was a year of deepening intimacy with God for the St. Paul's Prayer and Healing Team.

For Our Spring Continuing Education Training we were joined by the Stephen Ministers, and together we spent time Growing in Intimacy with God – The Foundation of our Faith. In the Fall, we culminated our past two years of teachings and put them into action by holding monthly one hour Prayer Furnaces from September – November.

We felt led to pray for:

Wisdom
Insight
Faithfulness

It was a mighty time of community prayer for us as individuals, as a team and as a church. On a particular night of prayer, out of a heart that was called to speak for every person who is hurting, the Pray It Up Cards were born.

Today, there are Pray It Up cards in every pew, every Sunday. As you write a prayer request, it is placed in the red bowl, and you take another card that is already there – just waiting for you to take it and pray over it. We have seen and heard of God's answered prayer time and time again! God is so faithful!

We have distributed over 450 cards – that is 450 hurts, pains, sicknesses, thanksgivings, worries, etc. -- all prayed for by all of you as fervent prayers in a few short months! To God be the Glory!

We held Training for How to be a Prayer Servant and we have welcomed the following new members:

1. David Williams
2. Mary Ellen Oliveri
3. Lisa Richardson
4. Kathy Whipple
5. Jack Collins
6. Debbi Pomeroy
7. John Tuthill
8. Susan Champagne

They join the current faithful members:, Helen Sheridan, Mary Perry, Ken Perry, Diane Hannah, Phil Hannah, Lynne Donnelly, Tara Shepley, Joe Shepley, Barbara Hock, Joe Hock, Donna Cennamo, Jim Castronova, Bev Carr, John Carr, Pam Altemus, Pat Brought, Linda Pendergast, Phyllis Baskett, Walter Von Egidy.

This mighty group of prayer warriors serve every Sunday at the alter and are committed to their service.

Prayerfully Submitted by: Mary Perry

ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild members are always serving the Lord at Saint Paul's Church. From the time you enter the church until the time you leave, you will know the Sacristans have carried out their ministry. The altar has been prepared for worship, be it for weekly services or a wedding, baptism or funeral. The altar linen has been cleaned and pressed, and the memorial flowers and alms basons are in place. The veiled chalice is on the altar ready for the communion service, and the credence table is in readiness. The wine and water cruets and breadbox are on the credence table ready to be brought forward by parishioners during the services. The church is beautifully decorated at Easter, Pentecost, Harvest Home, and Christmas, and we give thanks to the Sacristans who are responsible for these special times in the life of the parish.

Behind the scenes, flowers have been ordered and records of memorials kept. Supplies, such as wine, wafers, liquid wax, candles, and linens have been ordered, inventoried, and maintained. Cleaning supplies have been purchased, linens cared for, and financial records kept.

The faithful Sacristans who carried out this wonderful ministry during 2015 are: Mary Allen, Susan Balla, Elizabeth Gardner, Carol Gurski, Sharon Hibler, Lorine Hodge, Lois Hunt, Patricia Jennings, Diane Loring, Doreen McManus, Linda Pendergast, Joyce Sarver, Jean Stauffer, and Gail Winkley.

We offer special appreciation to Carol Gurski for all the extra help she has given to the Altar Guild and the photography she has provided of the special decorations. We thank our Deacon, The Reverend Carolyn Legg, for her guidance in the distribution of the altar flowers to our parishioners and her Hospice patients. We also thank Diane Loring for taking excellent care of our altar linens, Jean Stauffer for handling all the billings pertaining to the memorial flowers, Linda Pendergast for repairing our linens and banners, and Gail Winkley for coordinating the Sacristans' schedules and training, ordering all the altar flowers, recording the donors and those to be remembered, and ordering all the supplies needed by the Altar Guild.

In the Spring, the Altar Guild members do a thorough cleaning of the Church Proper and Sacristy, including cleaning and waxing all the wooden items (pews, baptismal font, altar, and altar rails, etc.), vacuuming the pew cushions, polishing the brass, cleaning the windows, and reorganizing and restocking Altar Guild supplies in the Sacristy. This is followed by lunch together at a local restaurant.

In the Fall, the Sacristans enjoy a potluck supper together and share information on the Altar Guild ministry. A question and answer session helps everyone stay up-to-date on the latest Altar Guild responsibilities, and Sacristan assignments are made for the following year.

The Altar Guild is a wonderful way to serve the Lord in this place. New members are always welcome. If you feel called to this ministry, please contact Gail Winkley, 203-775-3343 or gailwinkley@yahoo.com. We will be happy to have you join us.

From "The Servants of the Altar" - "God, who has taught us the beauty of order in Thy universe, give us a constant sense of perfection, and a reminder that work is prayer if done for Thee; that we approach Thy Altar with humility and with a deep sense of our high calling in Thy service. For Thy sake we ask it. Amen."

Gail Winkley, Altar Guild Directress

LAY SERVERS

Currently we have 8 Acolytes, 3 couples and 5 non-couple Greeters, 8 Intercessors, 16 Lay Readers, and 13 Lectors. Several people do double-duty, i.e., Greeters are intercessors, intercessors also are Lay Readers, etc. Father Shepley and David Szen are served as Acolyte Advisors.

It makes my job easier knowing that I can count on everyone's support with these important Ministries. I would like to extend a special thank you to those of you who give me multiple options and allow me to place you where the need is for any given Sunday, it is a great help.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Miller, Scheduler

CHRISTIAN CARING COMMITTEE

The Christian Caring Committee was created in 1982 when Don and Betty Gardner joined Saint Paul's Church. Fr. Gardner regularly visited the elderly and felt this would be a very worthwhile ministry for the parish to offer them. So began a ministry that has lasted for the past thirty-three years by a group of dedicated parish members who have worked together in a lay pastoral program. They have reached out in love to the sick, frail, and elderly with friendly visits and telephone calls, and have provided an outlet for sharing concerns with one another and the clergy.

A greeting card ministry has long been part of the Christian Caring Committee. Parish members are remembered with cards at special times in their lives. Parishioners over eighty years of age receive cards on their birthday, Valentine's Day, Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Cards are also sent to parishioners on the occasions of graduation, wedding, new parents, new grandparents, first communion, confirmation, special anniversaries, retirement, illness, sympathy, congratulations, "thinking of you," as well as many other special occasions. During 2015, the greeting card ministry mailed over 200 cards to our parishioners. Birthdays are celebrated with some of the elderly on a regular basis.

Members of the committee are very willing to give of their time when one of our parish family is in need of meals after the birth of a child, confined to bed rest after surgery, when there is a death in the family, etc. Members visit parishioners who are in the hospital, nursing home, or those who are homebound. Telephone calls are made regularly to keep in touch with those who are alone. Members are also available to provide parishioners with rides to church services, and for hospital visits and doctors' appointments. There have also been occasions of transportation to local airports.

A learning session is held at each meeting, including handouts, in order to help inform committee members on various topics, such as bereavement, Alzheimer's disease, stroke identification, rheumatoid arthritis, fueling your diet, and many other health issues. For both personal and financial concerns, a "Preparedness Planning Guide for When Emergencies Arise" has been part of the program.

The Christian Caring Committee meets on the first Monday each month in the Guild Room at 10:00 A.M. The members exchange helpful information regarding their contacts with parishioners, as well as alerting the clergy of any additional recommended involvement.

Members of the committee welcome suggestions for ways to carry this ministry forward and names of parishioners who would benefit from what the Christian Caring Committee has to offer. New members are always welcome to share in this important ministry to help and comfort our Brothers and Sisters in Christ at Saint Paul's Church.

Gail Winkley, Coordinator
gailwinkley@yahoo.com or 203-775-3343

BEYOND THE RED DOOR MINISTRY

Beyond the Red Door was a heart-felt by-product of our 2014 12 Days of Christmas Events. During the Free Coffee/Free Prayer event, the Spirit ignited a passion for prayer beyond the inside walls of St. Paul's church.

The Objective of the Ministry is:

1. To take the powerful prayer ministry of St. Paul's out and Beyond the Red Doors to people desperately wanting prayer but may or may not be actively seeking it. (Supports our pillar of St. Paul's as a healing oasis).
2. To support St. Paul's call to evangelism by going out into the world to be a light in the darkness and share a Christ-centered message of love and forgiveness.

The Ministry started with a Steering Committee that met to help spiritually guide the beginnings of the Ministry. Those with Evangelism and Outreach experience and gifts fed into the ministry and, led by the Spirit, the Ministry was formed.

Core members are: Mary Perry, Pam Szen, Bev Carr, David Szen, Ken Perry, John Carr, Tara Shepley, John Tuthill, David Williams, Joe Bernardo.

Beyond the Red Door launched at our *Memorial Day Outreach* program in with its red "Prayer **Here**" banners and signs. People from the community were prayed for in earnest.

Then we had a space at the *Newtown Labor Day Parade* – it was hard to miss us with our red tent, banners and chairs! Again, members of the community came in for prayer.

In September, we were with the *Athletes of Christ* (a Jericho Partnership Ministry) at a walk in Danbury they were hosting. God's presence was felt mightily!

We closed out the year at our 2015 *12 Days of Christmas* Free Coffee/Free Prayer event, and although bitter cold, the fire of the Spirit kept us from freezing.

There is a deep passion for this ministry - we are always welcoming new members and can't wait to see where God's leads us in 2016!

Prayerfully submitted –
--- Mary Perry

MEMORIAL GARDEN

Saint Paul's Memorial Garden forms a portion of the beautiful church grounds. The stone wall, trees, and planned plantings add to the natural beauty of the setting. An urn, containing the cremated remains of a loved one, may be placed in a niche within the wall or buried in the ground. A simple brass marker provides the full Christian name and birth and death years of the person being remembered.

The garden has a simple uncluttered appearance. Plantings are added slowly and carefully to maintain the charm and dignity of the garden. The single hand-hewn granite cross stands at the highest point in the garden. The garden is reminiscent of a time gone by, when a person could be buried in the church yard where the parishioner worshiped during their lifetime. Perpetual care is provided for the garden.

During 2015, 5 niches were purchased. There were 5 interments in 2015. We continue to improve our plantings and the overall physical condition of the property. A beautiful array of perennial blooming flowers and shrubbery is on display from early spring until late fall.

Thanks to the Property Committee and the many parishioners who continue to help maintain the garden.

The objective in 2016 is to continue to promote the availability of the facility to our parish family as well as to enhance the beauty of the site. The committee plans to make retroactive notations in the permanent records of any Veterans - this will require the assistance of parish members.

Thanks to Mary Beth Durkin and Doug Melody the records of interments, available niches and site map is being incorporated into our computer system. Great Job!

A "Plan for Perpetual Maintenance" proposal, dated August 7, 2014 has been submitted to St. Paul's Finance Committee for consideration. No official response has been noted.

A statement of policy, regarding pricing and interment practices, plus a brochure regarding the garden, are available. The cost for a wall niche for parishioners is \$500 and \$350 for a ground plot. The financial accounting of the Memorial Garden assets and expenses can be found elsewhere in the Parish Annual Report

Donald L. Winkley, Financial Secretary
01/11/16

MISSION COMMITTEE

The Mission Committee continues to support Christian based missions at the local, national and global levels. A significant portion of St. Paul's budget goes toward mission. The Mission Committee reviews our budget annually and opens up to parishioners the opportunity to submit requests for missions they would like the parish to support.

We also coordinate The Salvation Army Kettle Campaign for the Northern Fairfield County Volunteer Unit – for the year 2015 we raised \$18,278.46. Of this amount, St. Paul's raised \$5,123.03. Monies are administered through the Social Service units of the towns in the name of The Salvation Army. They are designated specifically to meet the *critical and urgent* needs of our friends and neighbors.

Barbara DeAnzeris continues to facilitate a very dedicated group of parishioners who prepare and serve food at the Dorothy Day Hospitality House in Danbury. This is a significant ministry to the homeless and hungry – done in the name of Christ!

We continue to collect and deliver parishioner-donated nonperishable food, along with food certificates to the local food banks. Thanks to everyone involved in this important mission! Joyce and John Sarver make the deliveries.

As needed, the Mission Committee sponsors "Benefit Breakfasts". Many hundreds of dollars have been raised in these "fun" and social activities.

We also adopted and provided food and gifts for two families at Thanksgiving and three for Christmas. Again, thank you fellow parishioners for your support!

Lake Tanganyika Theological College continues to be a major recipient of our activities. Newly named Canon Bill and Cathy Schrull coordinate this excellent work.

The Jericho Partnership continues to evolve as a significant ministry involving many St. Paul's parishioners

In addition to the budgeted dollar amounts as shown on the following page, there are parishioners individually sponsoring each of the listed missions.

Mission Committee meetings are the first Thursday of each month, in the Guild Room at 7:30 pm. We welcome you to join with us! If there are missions you have an interest in, please let us know so that we might assist you in coordination, finances, and prayer.

Committee members are: Barbara DeAnzeris, Lois Hunt, Deacon Carolyn Legg, Joyce Sarver, Bill Schrull, Fr. Joe Shepley, Ron Switzer, Bonnie Wanzer and Don Winkley.

Barbara DeAnzeris
Don Winkley
Coordinators

DWinkley 01/11/16 annual report

St. Paul's Mission Committee – Budget for Year 2015

<u>Mission</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Month</u>
Ability Beyond Disability	(support)	P. Szen	SP Article/Sept
Chaplin Service of Connecticut	500	P. Baskett	SP Article/June
Christian Counseling Center	(???Joe) 1,000	J. Shepley	SP Article/Feb
Community Coffee House	(???Chris)1,000	C. Barrett	SP Article/Aug
Dorothy Day Hospitality House	500	B. DeAnzeris	SP Article/Jan
“Emergency Mission Needs” (Rector/committee administered)	(support)	Committee/Rector/committee	
Faith Encouragement Ministries	2,000	B. Schrull	SP Article/Apr
“Food Baskets and Certificates”	4,200	B. DeAnzeris	SP Article/Oct
Giving Tree	(support)	Committee	Nov
Habitat for Humanity	(OUT)		
Hope Line	(support)	B. Wanzer	SP Article/May
Kasulu Bible College – Internet	1,000	B. Schrull	SP Article/Oct
KBCollege	4,000		
Jerico Project (Inner City Danbury)	3,600	Committee	possible speaker
Monadnock Bible Conference	1,000	L. Hunt	SP Article/Nov
Salvation Army			
Local	2,000	Hunt/Winkley	SP Article/Dec
National	3,000	Hunt/Winkley	
SAMS – Mudge Family	(BILL) 500	B. Schrull	SP Article/Mar
SIMS – Kelly & Tim Malloy	(OUT)		
St. Paul's Missionaries	1,000	Committee/Vestry/Rector	
Monadnock Youth Sponsorship	1,000	P. O'Connors	SP Article/June
World Vision	1,000	C. Usekes	SP Article/Aug

TOTAL		\$27,300	

St. Paul's Mission Committee:

Barbara DeAnzeris
 Lois Hunt
 Carolyn Legg
 Bill Schrull
 Joyce Sarver
 Fr. Joe Shepley
 Ron Switzer
 Bonnie Wanzer
 Don Winkley

Note:

Committee also plans “Benefit Breakfasts” as needed.

MUSIC MINISTRY

The music ministry continued to thrive in 2015. Membership is strong; over 30 members of St. Paul's participated in the musical events and services in both regular and temporary capacities during the year. That said, we are always looking for new members. Whether on a regular basis, or as a "temporary" choir member, as a singer or an instrumentalist, the Music Ministry at St. Paul's is open to anyone who wishes to participate. If you have a musical gift and you're not sure how it can be incorporated into worship, or if you like to sing in choirs but can't commit to a regular schedule, we would love to hear from you. Please contact us (Kirsten or Patrick) with any of your questions.

Highlights of the year included the return of Joyful Noise in October served by the contemporary music team, several choir members participated in the Thanksgiving Ecumenical Service, which took place at the Congregational Church, and the Christmas season marked our 12th annual Lessons and Carols service and our 5th presentation of Andrew Peterson's *Behold the Lamb* in coordination with the Community Coffee House.

We feel blessed to have such a supportive environment for music at St. Paul's. The music ministry is more than just the members of the team, but it really incorporates the entire congregation. Without a singing congregation, we would not be able to do as much. Because of this we offer not one, but two full-music services, offering the best in blended worship—from contemporary praise music to traditional hymns, anthems, and service music.

We look forward to a musical 2016 at St. Paul's. Thank you to all of you who participate to make it a truly special ministry.

Kirsten Peterson
Organist/choirmaster

Patrick O'Connors
Contemporary Music Coordinator

SUNDAY SCHOOL

*Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it.
Proverbs 22:6*

It is our hope and desire to shape the children of Saint Paul's into faithful, loving and Christ-centered children under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We work to help them grow as Christians by understanding the value of daily Bible reading, prayer, and relationships that manifest love, joy and other gifts of the Spirit that are dependent on a love of Christ.

We are thrilled with the start of a new Sunday school year. Our classrooms continue to be active and vibrant each week, with each classroom level having a solid core of students that return consistently to benefit from instruction and community. We are so excited to see what God will do with this growing and committed group of children under such wise leadership. Thank you to all of the parents who have made Sunday School a priority each week.

We are really enjoying the updated look of our classrooms, hallway and closets, courtesy of the recent Sunday school wing renovation. The fresh walls and paint, polished floors, new rugs, safer windows and the state of the art heating and cooling system have really enhanced and encouraged the work that we are doing each week in the classrooms. We would like to thank everyone that supported this renovation, including our teachers for their incredible flexibility and willingness to teach anywhere until our new home was finalized.

A large and committed group of young children received their baptism, First Holy Communion or Confirmation throughout the course of the last year. They worked diligently throughout a series of classes with Father Shepley and we were so proud to welcome them more fully into the body of Christ.

We also rejoice in the overwhelming commitment that our classroom teachers make to the children of St. Paul's. We had many amazing teachers from last school year return to teach this year, bringing such experience and dedication to their classrooms. Their love for this ministry is so very evident in the extra time that they put in, often arriving early to prepare, and in the love that they extend to their students each week. New teachers joined the mix bringing fresh insights, enthusiasm and approaches for working with the youth. Many older students continue to assist in lower level classrooms each week. Their enthusiasm for pouring themselves back into the ministry that raised them is inspirational and fills a large need for classroom and nursery assistants. We will continue to encourage this age group to find a way, either in this ministry or another, to give of their time and talents to serve Christ and our church community. We are so thankful for all of these teachers who serve as the hands of Christ in our classrooms and during the church services each week. Thank you for setting such a high example for the children to come!

It is with a great deal of appreciation that we thank all of our Church school volunteers who have come forward with their time and talents to serve Christ through this ministry: Anette Hamerski, Bob Cutting, Janet Franklin, John Tuthill, Joan Boehm, Rachel Melody, Lauren Melody, Venus Okwuka and Juliet Barbieri. Thank you to all of the volunteers who made the Sunday School Picnic, the Easter Egg Hunt and the Christmas Pageant possible this year. We look forward to all of these events again this coming year. The work that you all do is purposeful and eternal and we feel blessed to partner with all of you in the task set before us.

As we look forward to 2016, we are so excited for what is to come. Please continue to pray for the Sunday school program, that God might continue to draw His children closer to Himself and guide the work of our hands each week.

Yours in Christ, Heather Melody and Nicole O'Connors

JERICHO PARTNERSHIP

St. Paul's parishioners continue to share their time and talents by serving as local missionaries supporting the Jericho Partnership. During 2015, our volunteers provided administrative support in the following ways:

- Rose Street Headquarters Welcome Center - administrative support
- Phonathon - volunteers
- Naomi Mentoring Project – mentors
- Samaritan Health Center – nurse
- After school tutors
- Good Samaritan Mission – overnight male volunteers and meals
- Stewardship Committee volunteer
- Board member
- Athletes of Christ – Beyond the Red Door opportunity at Annual Race
- Day of Service – Street Clean Up and Administrative Support
- Food Pantry & Clothing Bank (see separate report for details)

If you feel called to serve in some way, there are plenty of opportunities. Please contact Pam Szen at prszen@gmail.com to learn more.

Jericho Mission Opportunities

- Pathways Academy – Reading Buddies (Anita Rice)
 - Weekly commitment of about 45 minutes
 - Boys in 6 – 8 grades
 - See kids progress
 - Always a need for Reading Buddies
- After school tutoring
- Good Samaritan Mission (Mark Grasso/Hal)
 - Need people to be present with men upstairs while other men are taken on appointments
 - Drive men to appointments (counseling, P/T) in the Danbury Hospital vicinity
 - Pitched idea of preparing meals & offering prayer – will discuss
 - 14-15 men served daily
 - Come in around 8-9 p.m. Doors are locked at 10 p.m.
- Welcome Center
 - Daytime commitment of 1-2 hours
- Welcome Desk
 - Need for weekly volunteer for 2-4 hours
- Board Members
 - Athletes of Christ
 - Board Secretary
 - Day of Race volunteers
- Young Mom's (Karil Cooper)
 - Women mentors needed for young girls with kids
 - Meet in multi-purpose room at Rose Street
- Naomi Mentoring Project
 - Mentor young girls
 - Minimum commitment – 1 hour/week
- Samaritan Health Center (Eva Tan)
- Good Neighbor Day (Day of Service)

Thank you all for your ministries and involvement with the Jericho Partnership.

JERICHO FOOD PANTRY & CLOTHING BANK

October of 2015 marked 1 year since St. Paul's began volunteering on the second Saturday of the month at the Jericho Food & Clothing Pantry in Danbury. The Pantry is only one of the many services that the Jericho's Spring Street Ministry offers the families in the surrounding neighborhoods. Currently the pantry is serving approximately 70 families a month and St. Paul's has not only provides volunteers but collects food and clothing for the pantry. We currently have a list of 32 people who help out when their schedules permit and are always looking to add volunteers to our list.

COFFEE HOUR/HOME GROUPS/HOSPITALITY

COFFEE HOUR: Many thanks to all the wonderful people that host one of the two coffee hours on Sunday. These fine people take the time to bring in tasty treats for their fellow parishioners on their assigned Sunday. We are always looking for more people to host. It's fun, it's easy and it's very rewarding. Hosting averages only three times a year or so out of the 52 Sundays! If we can get more sign-ups, that will go down even more. Please contact Mary Allen for additional information. A special thanks to Mike Kirner for offering to supply the WEEKLY milk and cream!

HOME GROUP LISTING: A master list of leaders and current participants in Small Groups and Bible Studies is prepared and updated three times a year. It is distributed to Vestry members and Father Shepley. Anyone interested in participating in a group can contact Father Shepley and he will review the listing with you.

HOSPITALITY: Hospitality coordinates refreshments for the annual meeting in January, some special coffee hours, Lessons and Carols, and certain selective events. Many of our Saint Paul's members have volunteered their time to prepare food, set up, serve and clean up during these functions. Many hands make lighter work. Our Saint Paul's members have done remarkable work to make each event a great success. We are all blessed to have wonderful people in our church who are willing to give their time and energy. Thank you all for your participation and I look forward to working with you in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Allen

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH HISTORY BOOKS

In celebration of our 230 year anniversary, a book was compiled and published. It includes a complete history of St. Paul's Episcopal Church and all of its former rectors. The book describes the significance of all of the stained glass windows, as well as illustrates the missions and ministries, the celebrations of our sacramental life, and a photo-study of the people and historical highlights of St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

One hundred copies were published, at no cost to the church, and almost all have been sold and distributed to parishioners and other interested persons, making a slight profit. Copies of the book have been placed in the Brookfield Public Library, the Brookfield Historical Society, and the Diocesan Commons Archival Library (by Bishop Ian T. Douglas).

Report submitted by Sandy Rynd Chaleski

ST. PAUL'S OWN

We had a busy winter and spring of 2015 including our winter retreat to Monadnock Bible Conference, where they actually had *less* snow on the ground than we had in CT! We participated in Jericho's "Faith and Family Night" at the Danbury Whalers game. Spent a Saturday morning at the Jericho Food Bank, and continued to prepare for our summer mission trip.

We once again held our blind auction, which had a good turn out from the congregation and helped us raise a significant portion of our mission trip funds. We wrapped up the spring by hosting the Memorial Day Free For All on the front lawn.

In late May we found out from Youthworks, the organization we've partnered with on our past three mission trips, that our mission site in Boston would not have any other churches on site for the week we were scheduled to attend. They graciously offered to work with us to help us find another site where we could work with other churches for the week, and after a few weeks of searching we found room in Toronto!

The students were very excited to be leaving the country for the week and it was incredible to see how the summer and the trip itself unfolded. It was certainly the most memorable and impactful trip we've had thus far and it was definitely no coincidence that we ended up at that site last year. I was once again floored by how God works through everything.

Heading into the 2015-16 school year we made one small tweak to our schedule regarding our Juniors program. Juniors now meet the third Sunday of each month and are combined with our regular Youth Group time of 4:00 – 5:30. Our teaching focus for this year is Relationship & Religion where we are learning about what it means to be part of a Religion while having a personal Relationship with Christ

Our fall started off with helping to reignite the Joyful Noise celebration where the students helped with the event and one student even helped lead the music. Late October brought about our fifth annual Trunk or Treat, which turned out to be our biggest yet with over 100 kids showing up. We are also once again planning a summer mission trip, this time to West Virginia.

Thank you to everyone who supports the Youth Group program here through donation, prayer, volunteering, etc. It truly is a joy to serve in a church family where youth are a main focus.

Patrick O'Connors
Family Ministry Coordinator

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

“Pay careful attention to yourselves and all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.”

The caring momentum for our home ignited in 2014 carried over to 2015 and continues to bless us in surprising ways when we least expect it. Looking back to the “winter that would never end” we can consider ourselves very fortunate. Through the dedicated efforts of our Sextant, the snows were cleared, the icy spots attended to and the minor water leaks we all experienced never affected any activities at St. Paul’s.

As spring approached the Sanctuary flower beds were cleaned, mulched and planted along with a very extensive winter parking lot clean up. Other projects completed during this period include mulching of the Memorial Gardens, hard topping of five additional parking lot spaces, an extensive resealing of multiple cracks and filling of several potholes, the replacement of our main hot water heater, the contracting of a dedicated recycling dumpster and a switch from AT&T to Charter Communications for our phone and internet resulted in saving us over \$60 a month in fees.

Through the unselfish commitment of our Parish members to the Capital Fund Campaign and the dedicated efforts of many of our family members we were able to plan, fund, and complete the second phase of our renovation project. While planning for this project the very concerning requirement of upgrading our electrical service was evaluated. We were wonderfully surprised when the Lord blessed us with the result (verified by two separate contractors). Our existing service is fine and there was no need to upgrade, a savings of tens of thousands of dollars!! Under the meticulous hands of Samuelson Construction our entire Classroom wing was renovated to modern standards. All remaining cinder block walls were covered with drywall, drop ceilings were installed while maintaining the visual beauty of existing ceiling beams, all lights were replaced with LED fixtures, each classroom was fitted with individually controlled HVAC units, wood floors were sanded and refinished, classroom window casings were insulated and boxed in with complimenting wood trim while the windows themselves were either insulated with Lexan coverings or replaced. All spaces thoroughly cleaned and received a fresh coat of paint while existing wood trim was left undisturbed. The final portion of this project was to upgrade the existing bathrooms in this wing and to replace the old kitchenette in the Tuck room with all new cabinets, fixtures and appliances.

Some other success stories from our “One Project a Month” philosophy include the installation of the Emergency Automated External Heart Defibrillator (AED) in Crocker Hall (and subsequent training), the repair and re-alignment of multiple slates in the front walkways, the installation of ice melt wires on problematic drain pipes and slate roof areas, the installation of a watering system for the front flower beds, the repair of a water damaged section of wall in Crocker Hall, and just recently, were fortunate enough to have all remaining exterior doors renovated/ upgraded by a professional company who specializes in maintaining original structural integrity and finish of such doors. We also compiled several estimates to install a security camera system as a possible future project.

Future and potential projects in the queue include beginning the long awaited Stained Glass Window Maintenance program, installing a commercial grade irrigation system in the front gardens and lawn, extending the exterior hand rails to the end of the walk, developing a plan to install lighting in the parking lots and meadow areas, installing electrical and water outlets in the Memorial Garden and instituting a Safety Awareness Program.

We have been truly blessed this year and thank all for their support. As a reminder of Good Stewardship all we ask is for those who use our facilities is to clean up after your event, put all items back where they came from, to remember to take out the trash, turn off the lights, close the curtains (during the winter) and check the thermostats when leaving.

Even though our committee is small in numbers we truly enjoy serving the Lord in our quiet manner. If you have any interest, or concerns, in our mission we encourage all to join us at 7:30pm on the first Thursday of every month for great fellowship and a little bit of labor.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Chengeri

STEPHEN MINISTRY

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you fulfill the law of Christ"
Galatians 6:2

Our Stephen Ministry consists of 12 faithful Stephen Ministers who meet twice a month for 2 hours. The first hour is devoted to continuing education and the second hour to group supervision. Currently ten of our Stephen Ministers have care receivers (a care receiver is the one who receives care from a Stephen Minister) each Stephen Minister meets once a week with their care receivers for one hour.

Each Stephen Minister is trained for 50 hours in the following areas: listening effectively, dealing with feelings, confidentiality, using the resources of Christianity, being assertive, and a number of topics dealing with specific life crises. Throughout the training the emphasize is on caring for the whole person.

Stephen Ministers are compassionate, trustworthy, skilled and full of faith. Stephen Ministers are Christ-centered. They know that their calling to care comes from Jesus, and that He is the power behind all that they do as Stephen Ministers. When Stephen Ministers care, they bring Christ's care to their care receivers, they never think their care receivers' well being depends on what they do, but on what Jesus does in and through them. Stephen Ministers work on staying connected to Jesus so that they will be able to bring his love to others.

If anyone feels called to be a Stephen Minister or is in need of a Stephen Minister, please contact Father Joe Shepley, Ken Perry, Mary Perry or Patricia Jennings.j

I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow.
1 Corinthians 3:6

Faithfully submitted,

Patricia Jennings, Stephen Leader

WELLNESS MINISTRY

The Wellness Ministry got off to a fast start in January with a six-week class on the Daniel Plan – a lifestyle plan that focuses the role that Faith, Family, Friends, Food and lifestyle all play in living a healthy lifestyle as God directs us to.

It was well attended by about 20 people and each week there was a bible study, discussion questions and a sampling of different foods and recipes each week!

It was during that class that a team was formed to become the Ministry Committee: Robin Powell, Diane Froelick, Dot Crocker, Beth Trott, and Laurie Dobosh.

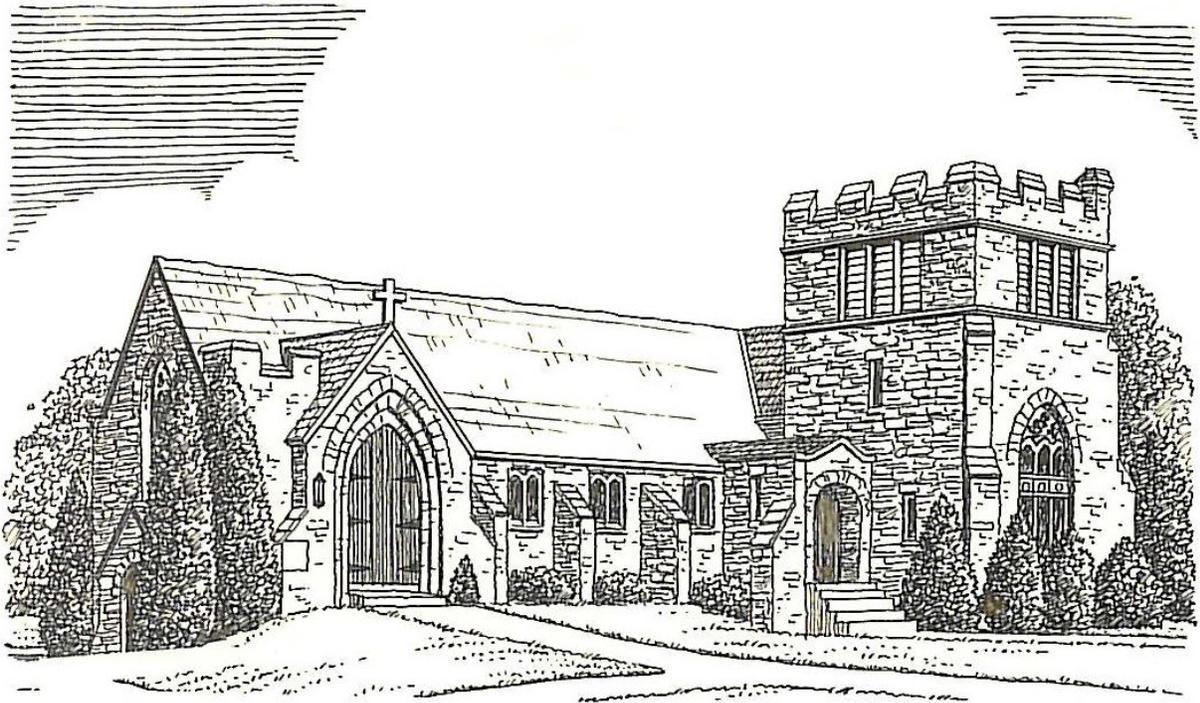
God called Diane Froelick to feel moved to teach a fitness class called Boot Camp and we kicked that off in Spring to a great response! Today, the class meets two times a week with a faithful group of Fitness Warriors!

PraiseMoves continues to meet Saturday morning for Scripture and stretching postures that strengthen ones core – both spiritually and physically!

The Ministry is blessed to be able to offer free fitness classes three times a week at St. Paul's.

All are welcome to join a class at any time, and bring family or friends.

Submitted in Body, Spirit and Soul,
-- Mary Perry



St. Paul's Church

Brookfield Center, Conn.