

SP SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL



SACRED FOUNDATIONS – URBAN HORIZONS

2023 Annual Report

January 28, 2024

PRAYER FOR ANNUAL MEETING

*Almighty and everliving God,
source of all wisdom and understanding,
be present with those who take counsel in St. Paul's Cathedral,
for the renewal and mission of your Church.
Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory.*

*Guide us to perceive what is right,
and grant us both the courage to pursue it
and the grace to accomplish it,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Dean's Report

Beloveds,

As we reflect on the year 2023, I am filled with an overwhelming sense of gratitude and joy. St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral has experienced a year of growth, resilience, and deepening faith, thanks to the collective efforts of our clergy, staff, and volunteers. Together, we have woven a tapestry of love, compassion, and commitment to our shared mission.

****Celebrating Our Spiritual Journey****

Our journey together in 2023 has been nothing short of extraordinary. We have navigated the highs and lows of life, supported one another through trials, and celebrated the triumphs of our community. The tapestry of our shared experiences continues to strengthen the bonds that hold us together as the vibrant and vital congregation we are.

****Clergy: A Beacon of Light****

Our clergy have been a beacon of light, guiding us through the challenges of the year with wisdom, compassion, and a healthy dose of humor. Canon Tim Sean, Curate Omar, and our beloved Deacons Tracy, Gerald, and MR give so much of their time and hearts to our benefit. I am grateful for each of them and the variety of flavors they bring to the Cathedral. We said goodbye to Mtr. Sarah, and I continue to be grateful for her impact on our community.



****Staff: Unsung Heroes****

Our Cathedral would not be the same without the unwavering commitment of our exceptional staff. These team members work tirelessly behind the

scenes to ensure that everything runs smoothly and efficiently. They are the unsung heroes who organize events that uplift our spirits and manage the day-to-day affairs of the Cathedral with precision and care.



Our staff is the backbone of our community, and we are endlessly grateful for their invaluable contributions. The passion and dedication they bring to their vocations are truly inspiring. From the warm smiles at the front desk to the meticulous work in the back office, every team member plays an essential role in creating a welcoming and supportive environment. We recognize that change is a constant in life, and our Cathedral staff is no exception. However, the one constant remains their joy and dedication to their work. We are privileged to have such a selfless team that is always ready to go above and beyond for the betterment of our community.

****Volunteers: A Symphony of Service****

At St. Paul's, we are blessed with a heart for service, and so many selflessly give their time, talent, and energy to make our community a better place. Whether it is through the countless hours spent organizing outreach programs, beautifying our sacred space, or creating a warm welcome for newcomers, those who serve are the backbone of our congregation. I am in awe of the dedication and commitment shown by each one of you who give to the mission and ministry of the Cathedral. You embody the spirit of love that permeates our community, and your selfless service is a testament to the power of kindness and generosity. Without your tireless efforts, we would not be the vibrant and thriving community that we are today. From the bottom of my heart, I want to express my sincere gratitude to every one of you. Your unwavering dedication has played a crucial role in the growth of the Cathedral, and I am immensely grateful for all that you do. Thank you for being the heartbeat of St. Paul's.

****Growth in Numbers and Faith****

This year, we have witnessed not only numerical growth but also a deepening of our collective faith. The pews have familiar faces and new friends seeking spiritual nourishment. Our various ministries have flourished, providing avenues for everyone to engage with their faith meaningfully.

The year 2023 was filled with numerous significant events that deeply impacted the St. Paul's community. We celebrated the joys of life through large events like weddings and mourned the loss of loved ones through funerals. The return of Advent Dinners brought us together to share stories, learning, and delicious meals. During the harsh winter months, we opened our doors to provide emergency shelter to the homeless, providing warmth and safety to those in need. The Cathedral Choir's Residency at the National Cathedral was a moment of great pride, showcasing our musical talents and spreading the message of love and faith. We hosted an Iftar Dinner with Raindrop Turkish House, a beautiful expression of interfaith unity, celebrating the diversity and richness of our community. We also continued our tradition of the Way of the Cross through the streets of Oklahoma City, reminding us of the sacrifice and love of Christ.

These events have brought us closer together, strengthened our bonds, and deepened our faith. As we continue to grow, let us remember that our accurate measure of success lies not in the numbers but in the love and grace we extend to one another.

****Looking Ahead: A Beacon of Hope****

As we look ahead to the coming year, let us approach the future with hope and anticipation. The path before us may be unknown, but we walk it hand in hand, united by our faith and the love that binds us together. St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral is not merely a building; it is a living, breathing community of believers, and our journey together is a testament to the enduring power of God's grace. We are built upon a Sacred Foundation while we look to new Urban Horizons.

I conclude with my heartfelt gratitude to each member of our community. Your faithfulness,

love, and dedication have made 2023 a year to remember. May the light of God's love continue to shine upon us, guiding our steps and illuminating the path ahead. 2024 will mark the beginning of my 4th year as your dean, and I can wholeheartedly say that I wouldn't want to be anywhere else than serving at St. Paul's.

With gratitude,
The Very Reverend Katie Churchwell+
Dean, St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral

Senior Warden's Report

Dear St. Paul's Members:

There is a philosophy or concept in fitness called "stacking." In fitness, like many other endeavors, consistency and a "long term" outlook is highly valued. The ability to execute good workouts that incorporate great effort, a positive attitude, and an intentional outcome typically render great results. The ability to add, or "stack," workouts move the athlete closer to the objective. "Stacking" also generates momentum, confidence, and a feeling of fulfillment. The Vestry of St. Paul's Cathedral have "stacked" a lot of good efforts in 2023, which have been "stacked" on great years prior and are in a fantastic position to leverage that momentum and confidence into great things in 2024!



Your Vestry, Officers, and Wardens have the challenge and opportunity to build upon the efforts and activities of those that served before us. Having a firm foundation and solid footing allows us to look forward and upward as we plan for, prepare, and strategize the future of St. Paul's in a physical form and a Mission form.

These representatives hold the challenge of managing the physical and financial resources of the Cathedral with great respect and seriousness. The Vestry is constantly reviewing the highest and best uses of our financial gifts and how these gifts can best be applied to our Mission and Vision. One element of this reflection is how to best care for our unique physical structure. Physical structure care not only means managing the current challenges, but also preparing for future needs of the Cathedral. Future needs may include what our Cathedral physical plant should look like to better serve our Mission today and our Mission in the future. This will be a topic that will require significant discernment and prayerful consideration from all members of the Cathedral.

Careful and appropriate management of finances is the other half of the Vestry charge. Aversion to risk, stability, and flexibility best describe our philosophy in handling these gifts from God through our membership. We deliberate, discuss, and struggle with each other to apply these gifts to the area(s) that generate the best outcomes. Due to the hard work of our treasurer and finance committee, we were able to structure our accounts to generate revenue, reduce management costs, and provide multiple options without sacrificing security. Many times, this entails pushing our creativity to the limit, but the end product is something worthy of pride.

As we move forward in our second century of presence and service, the Cathedral family will see a greater number of ways to acknowledge and celebrate our shared history. We'll continue to recognize those people that have influenced and motivated us in our journey as a Cathedral. We will continue to capture these stories of the past and the stories of the current so that others, as well as our current Cathedral family, may know and share in what makes us who we are. Opportunities will present themselves to share personal stories in written and video formats later this year.

One mechanism that will continue to grow and flourish is the Legacy Society of St. Paul's. This fledgling program is our way to remember, record, and celebrate those that have graced us with a gift

that extends beyond the giver's time with us. Our Cathedral family, past and current, has been extremely generous when it comes time to remember St. Paul's in various gifts and bequests. The Planned Giving element of our Stewardship program is an opportunity to remember St. Paul's in the donor's estate and to direct gifts to a variety of destinations within the St. Paul's professionally managed endowment. We are very excited about the continued maturation of this program and would love to answer any questions that might arise.



One continuing theme in the life of the Cathedral is the desire for additional feedback, comment, and discussion. We will have plenty of programs and projects in 2024 that will require the participation of ALL our Cathedral family. As I may have mentioned last year, please throw off the quiet, stoic stereotypes of an Episcopalian and make your voice heard! We are such a unique, clever, and special assemblage of people and your voice is necessary and valued! We're striving to be extremely transparent, open, and available. Vestry meeting minutes, treasury updates, and other program milestones will continue to be communicated in a variety of means. If there are different mechanisms better suited to communicating within our Cathedral family, we would love to hear it! The multi-generational composition of our Cathedral sometimes makes it a challenge to find the right "way" to best communicate with each other, but we continue to seek language and mechanisms that bring us closer together.

I would be remiss in not recognizing the sterling example of servant leadership lived by Sarah Mussler as Junior Warden. In this position she led many critical and complex projects to fruition with grace, serenity, and professionalism. She was

always the first person to suggest special recognition/treats/gift baskets for special occasions. Her strength, wisdom, and calm approach to challenge will be missed, but I am grateful for her influence on the Vestry and St. Paul's Cathedral.



Respectfully submitted,
Tim Fischer
Senior Warden

The Vestry is eternally grateful for your prayers, support, and fellowship. 2024 is going to be a special year for St. Paul's Cathedral, and I look forward to serving you, and more importantly, serving with you, to the glory of God!

Junior Warden's Report

Our beloved Cathedral campus continues to support our ever-changing needs and the needs of the larger community. We hold activities, enjoy shared meals, and host events. Our facility plays a significant role as we engage with the world beyond our gates by providing shelter from the cold, beauty throughout the seasons, and comfort in many forms. It provides a solid foundation for more of the same and better.

In return, we are responsible for its care. Our newest building is more than 30-years old, and our oldest is more than 100. As stewards of the property entrusted to us, we continuously assess and prioritize maintenance, repairs, and renovations in thoughtful ways. In 2023, we improved campus security by updating and enhancing our exterior lighting, our main elevator was repaired, roof maintenance across the entire campus was evaluated and cataloged, and we hired Chris Allbright, Director of Facilities!

I am especially grateful to our diligent Building and Grounds Committee members for their time and talents. A big shout-out to the amazing Todd Olberding, who was called to manage our physical plant when we needed him most. He continues to

unravel complexities of service contracts, engage with experts, and draw upon his vast experience to oversee our most challenging projects. I will be forever in his debt and appreciate his contributions. Mike Murphy continues to be a valuable resource and the fabulous staff steps up every day in every way. Of course, none of it would happen without support from Dean Churchwell, our other clergy, and our most valuable Vestry.

Many thanks to everyone who watches over our ever-evolving church home. Every call, note, and passing comment about running toilets, squeaky doors, and burned-out light bulbs are helpful. St. Paul's is a very big property with many working parts; it takes us all to care for this special place. Thank you to our Handy Saints for changing ceiling tiles, repairing pews, beautifying spaces, caring for the garden, hanging holiday lights, and so much more.

Thank you, thank you,
thank you!

Respectfully,
Sarah Musler
Junior Warden



Treasurer's Report

The December 2023 financial report is not yet completed. A summary of 2023 financial activities and the CY2024 Budget will be presented at the Annual Meeting on January 28, 2024.

The data for year-to-date November suggest that we will have another strong financial position to report. We have a number of both opportunities and challenges that we need to deal with over the next few years. The Annual Meeting presentation will identify the issues and strategies for dealing with the issues.



Respectfully,
Carl Stover
Treasurer

Stewardship Committee's Report

Your Stewardship Committee has grown from being active only during the pledge season to year-round sharing of time, treasure, talent, and spaces. We have sought to balance financial needs with spiritual needs and have done everything in a prayerful manner. Our corner of St Paul's website is ever evolving. Specifically to pledges, though, as of January 14, 2024, the Cathedral has received 213 pledges totaling \$993,170.04. Of these, 35 are new pledges!



As outgoing Stewardship Chair, I want to thank everyone involved during the past three years. They have been a time of growth, hope, and gratitude. Committee members Carol Goodwin (our new Chair), Robert Dennis, Rob Duran, Tim Fischer, and Susan Urbach, staff members Lauren Bass, Stephanie Jensen, and Sarah-Emily Steinhardt, and our Dean Katie Churchwell are beyond priceless, and the congregation of St Paul's is incomparable in the best ways.

Always grateful,
Samonia Byford
Stewardship Chair (2021-2023)

Curate's Report

Dear Cathedral Congregation,

I am grateful to stand before you today as your curate, reflecting on the past six months and expressing my profound appreciation for the warm embrace my wife and I have received from this remarkable congregation. Your kindness has made our transition into this community not just smooth but incredibly welcoming, and for that, my wife and I are truly thankful.

In the Anglican context, the role of a curate is unique and comes with its own set of challenges

and rewards. I want to extend my gratitude to the Cathedral for providing me and Mother Sarah, our former curate, the opportunity to learn and explore our roles in a live setting without the training wheels. Being a curate is not an easy journey, and I am fully aware that it's not always easy for a congregation to embrace a "half-finished" priest. Yet, your openness and support have been instrumental in our growth and development.

Over the past months, I have been engaged in various aspects of pastoral and liturgical ministry. Here's a glimpse into what I've been involved in:

- 1. Pastoral Care Support:** I have had the privilege of working closely with Jani Hill, our Pastoral Care Coordinator, in making pastoral visits to individuals in hospitals and homebound parishioners. This ministry is essential in providing comfort, companionship, and prayer to those in need. This work has been gratifying, and I am thankful for all the parishioners I have connected with in their homes in times of crisis comfort, companionship, and prayer to those in need. This work has been gratifying, and I am thankful for all the parishioners I have connected with in their homes in times of crisis comfort, companionship, and prayer to those in need. This work has been gratifying, and I am thankful for all the parishioners I have connected with in their homes in times of crisis.
- 2. Newcomer Support:** Another significant aspect of my role involves welcoming and shepherding newcomers. Spending time with them, whether over coffee or lunch, answering questions, and helping them integrate into their new life at the Cathedral is a fulfilling part of my ministry.
- 3. Formation Class:** I have taken on the responsibility of co-teaching the "Being Episcopalian" class, where I aim to assist both new and old Episcopalians in loving and embracing our Anglican/Episcopal identity. This class serves as a foundation for understanding the richness of our tradition and fostering a deeper connection with our faith.
- 4. Liturgical Functions:** As the second full-time priest, my role in liturgy is vital. I perform various liturgical functions, contributing to the spiritual life of our community. Additionally, I have been

honored to fill in for the Dean liturgically, whenever required, as part of my commitment to ensuring the smooth functioning of our worship services.

In conclusion, I am deeply grateful for the opportunities and challenges of serving as your curate. Your support and warmth have made this journey fulfilling, and I look forward to continuing to grow and serve alongside each of you.

May God's blessings continue to abound in our Cathedral community.

Yours in Christ,
The Rev. Omar Cisneros
Curate



Fr. Tim Sean Youmans+ Report

I am currently in my 12th year as chaplain at Casady School. I generally put in around 50 hours a week at Casady with an additional 4 to 8 hours at St. Paul's on Sundays. I was away from St. Paul's one Sunday a month to teach the Bible Year at our Iona School of Ministry (education for candidates for Deacon and Bi-Vocational Priests) at St. Crispin's.

Preaching and Celebrating. This past March I began my 11th year serving as an Associate Priest at St. Paul's where my primary function is part of the **liturgical and preaching** rotation.

Lesser Feast is a worship and folk band made up of a rotating roster of church members. We did a concert in the East Garden in May, and we hosted a "Woody Guthrie Prayer Service" in October around the day of his death. The service had 40 people in attendance. We brought our monthly "Rooted" to a close. The members of the band found it increasingly hard to find time to rehearse.

The good intentions were there, but the time to fulfill it was hard to come by.

The Bible Project. This is a general Bible Study every Sunday at 4pm, geared toward an offering that serves as a ramp-up activity for the 5pm services, as well as an option for youth parents to have a concurrent study during youth group. We average 3 to 7 folks. We are currently using the TV show "The Chosen," a dramatic rendering of the Gospels, to discuss a variety of issues of interpretation.

High Fidelity is an adult formation group that meets monthly on Sunday evenings before the 8 p.m. Compline service. This is a *faith and culture* discussion group that does a theological interpretation of essentially secular music. This past year we listened to the music of Oklahoma artist Samantha Craine, U2, songs about "Babylon," as well as a look at Traditional Irish Music. We have anywhere from 2 to 8 folks attend these discussions.

Sunday Formation. I taught an Advent Series on the "Second (Advent) Coming of Christ."



Faithfully,
Reverend Canon Tim Sean Youmans
Vicar, St. Edward the Confessor Chapel, Chair of Religion Dept, Casady School, Bible Instructor, Iona School of Ministry, Diocese of Oklahoma, and Clergy Canon for St. Paul's Cathedral

Deacon/Parish Nurse Marilyn Robertson's Report



This year has been a year of challenges and growth. I celebrated my 30th year at St. Paul's and my 15th anniversary as an ordained Deacon (at St. Paul's). This wonderful community has lifted me up during my

mobility issues over the years and especially this year. The Sunday before my right below knee amputation, the whole congregation surrounded me with prayer, love, and support. God continues to heal me in so many ways. Thank you, St. Paul's family, for consistently being with me.

In October the St. Paul's Health Team provided the 20th annual Health Fair in the Dean Back Building. There were flu shots and various booths that provided learning opportunities to stay healthy. The Health Team continues to provide consultations as needed. Reach out to us!

The CAT team—Cathedral Action Team—consists of nurses, doctors, the Altar Guild, the Usher Guild, and members of St. Paul's. We are ready and prepared to help those on the St. Paul's campus that need medical help. If anyone witnesses a situation that requires immediate medical help, please find me, or any other member of the Health Team, Usher Guild or Altar Guild, and we will activate the CAT team. We are here to help you!

It's been a blessing to serve as your Deacon for over 15 years! For the last weeks I've been learning to walk again...in more ways than I knew. I am not ready to serve at the altar just yet...but I will be there again.

Faithfully,
Marilyn Robertson, MR
Deacon/Parish Nurse

Deacon Gerald Butcher's Report

Things have not changed much in 2023 as a result of health issues for me. As you may know, I was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease (PD) in 2021. Symptoms with Parkinson's Disease vary from patient to patient, and my symptoms seem to affect me with tremors in my legs, voice, eyes, and milder tremors in my arms. Fatigue is an issue too. Medication helps with these tremors, but it is not a 100% fix. Exercise is a big help too and may be more effective than medications, according to PD experts.

My normal exercise schedule for a typical week includes 1 hour of Rock Steady Boxing, 2 hours of dance for Parkinson's, 2 hours of exercise at Mercy Hospital, 1 hour of speech therapy, and 1.5 miles of walking. Since I retired from my secular job one year ago, I have more time to do these exercises.



Since retiring, I attend St. Paul's weekly staff meetings. This has made me aware of more pastoral needs in our congregation, which has resulted in more pastoral calls. I also led an Ignatian Group Retreat in Daily Life on a normal Sunday. I typically serve at the 8am and 9am services. Dean Katie and I have been cautious about scheduling me to preach. I did, however, preach Thanksgiving Day.

Sincerely,
Deacon Gerald Butcher

Deacon Tracy Anderson's Report



As a newcomer to St. Paul's, I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the people and traditions of the Cathedral and am thankful that Bishop Poulson has let me serve here.

Typically, I serve at the 9 and 11:15 Sunday services and occasionally at 8am; with recent changes to my schedule, I am also about to assist at noon services during

the week, as well as funerals. I am working with those involved to help run our emergency cold weather shelter this winter. I am delighted to be part of the prayer shawl ministry and making new friendships there. In the coming months I look forward to becoming more involved with the Evensong service and helping provide practical assistance to our parishioners as needed.

Sincerely,
Deacon Tracy Anderson

Canon Musician's Report

Dear Friends at St. Paul's,

Cathedral music continues to thrive and grow. Our Cathedral Choir and Youth Choristers continue to lead worship weekly at the 9:00 a.m. service. Over the summer, they sang services at the Washington National Cathedral to great success. They were well received, and we represented St. Paul's OKC in Washington D.C. to a very high level!



The next choir trip is planned for July of 2025. Our youth choristers continue an active rehearsal schedule of twice per week and have been offering choral evensong on the third Wednesday of each month. Together with our adult choristers, the full choir comes together each week to have dinner before rehearsal. This has been a wonderful way for our singers of all ages to enjoy fellowship with one another. The new but popular tradition of singing A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols was put on hiatus this year with the shortened Advent season but is scheduled to resume in 2024.

Our Cathedral Schola presented a wonderful concert last April entitled "Music for Glory and Praise." This was in conjunction with the OCU Early Music Ensemble and featured renowned counter tenor soloist, Daniel Moody from NYC. This concert was made possible by some very generous donors. Thank you! The Schola Cantorum continues to lead worship at 11:15 a.m. as well as various other special liturgies and events. Though we didn't offer Nine Lessons & Carols this year, it was great to have the Schola lead the Advent Procession on the second Sunday of Advent. Another yearly tradition that continues.



I continue to be very proud of all of our singers in our choirs. They are very dedicated and work hard to

lead services each week. Between both of our choirs singing Sunday morning and feast day services, choral evensong and choral compline are offered regularly each month. These are important services in the cycle of daily prayer.

During the past program year, I am happy to have Mary Reynolds on board as director of the St. Cecilia Choir. Mary and I worked over the summer to reimagine a contemplative service featuring music from the Taizé tradition. We came up with a lovely liturgy and service entitled "Draw Near."

Mary's report is as follows:

For the first 9 months of 2023, members of the Saint Cecilia Choir, in various combinations, sang music for the Good Night Yoga services held every 1st and 3rd Tuesday. Beginning the first Sunday of October, our group was very happy to welcome the Draw Near: Contemplative Worship service.

Our census at the moment is 10 singers. I am eager, and the choir is as well, to welcome anyone who would like to serve with us. The music is not difficult. We sing very traditional hymns and chants as well as folk, gospel and world music. And we have a warm fellowship. I am happy to be of service as the leader of the Saint Cecilia Choir.

Sincerely, Mary Reynolds



Last Fall, our choirs produced a lovely fundraising event entitled "Cathedral Cabaret." This included a meal, silent auction, and musical entertainment by many of our musicians. A surprise appearance by Dean Churchwell helped to make the evening memorable. We have so many talented musicians and wonderful music supporters. This Cabaret was made possible by the hard work of many choir members to produce food, service, entertainment, and more. Thank you to all who make Cathedral Music possible as it is essential to our life of worship here at St. Paul's.

A wonderful new addition to the music program this year is the Cathedral Organ Scholar position. Christopher Pharo was called over the summer to fill this position and his presence among the choirs

and during worship has had a huge impact on the music program. Chris assists in chorister training, playing services, and accompanying the choirs at all choral liturgies. A native of North Carolina, Chris comes to St. Paul's after serving as the 2021-2022 Gerre Hancock Intern at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco. Chris has many talents and is a wonderful person. We look forward to his continued presence at the cathedral over the next two years. The two-year financial commitment to this position was made possible by a very generous donor. My family and I continue to love being a part of the St. Paul's community. We can certainly say that Oklahoma City is home for us! Thank you for your love and support of music and liturgy at the Cathedral.



Respectfully submitted,
Joseph Ripka

Canon Precentor & Director of Cathedral Music –
Diocesan Music Missioner

Acolyte's Report

The Acolyte program at St. Paul's Cathedral has for generations provided a path of spiritual growth and service for our youth. The program nurtures and supports the Acolytes and affords leadership opportunities for older Acolytes. At year-end, we were blessed with 20 youth between the ages of 8 and 18 serving as Acolytes and 17 adult Acolyte Masters. I have enjoyed watching the younger



Acolytes grow in the program and hearing from parents who say how much the Acolyte service means to their children.

The Acolytes serve at 8, 9 and 11:15 a.m. Sunday

services and during special services, such as Christmas and Easter. The roles vary according to experience. Younger Acolytes typically start as torchbearers. As they gain experience, they perform more complex roles, including serving in the setting of the Eucharistic table. We provide periodic training for new Acolytes and new Masters. To aid our training, we have an Acolyte Manual describing the various roles. The Acolyte Manual is available online.

We invite all parents to consider whether their children would enjoy the Acolyte program. The Acolyte program is open to all youth eight years of age or older. We have an enviable retention rate with many of our Acolytes continuing their service through high school.

If you have questions about the Acolyte program or have a child that may be interested, please contact any Acolyte Master including Gary Derrick (derrick@derrickandbriggs.com).

Yours in Christ,
Gary Derrick

Altar Guild's Report



Our St. Paul's Cathedral Altar Guild is responsible for 'setting the Lord's table' for every Sunday morning and evening service, for our Wednesday noon services, and Feast Day services, weddings, and funerals. The Altar

Guild works closely with the Bishop and Diocesan staff in planning various celebrations including ordinations in June and December.

As a result of a Flower Guild member on each of the four Altar Guild teams, our high altar is weekly adorned with beautiful flower arrangements. The special altar presentations for Easter, Christmas, Thanksgiving and Oakerhater Sunday are nothing short of stunning.

2023 was a year of transition for our Guild. Several members stepped away after years of service and their contributions will certainly be missed. We

have also experienced additions to our membership and with them a new energy and enthusiasm within our ministry. Dean Churchwell continues to be very generous in the time and attention she gives to the Altar Guild providing us direction while encouraging us to ask questions and make suggestions.

Should you be interested in learning about the backstage activities associated with our worship services, we would love for you to join us. We are proud of the care we take in serving the clergy and membership of our Cathedral, not to mention the great fun we have and the lifelong friends we make while serving this ministry.



Altar Guild Team Captains

Mary Ann Johnson, Ann Bonsteel, Dianne Dooley and Robert Dennis

Archive's Report

We have continued to organize, preserve, and make available records for inquiries and artifacts for events during 2023.

I. Records Management: Continued to sort, to organize, to process church records, and donated materials.

II. Preservation and Protection: Monitoring of temperature and humidity upon entering showed less fluctuation and more consistent ranges (T 56-74; H 45%-65%) closer to ideal for most of the materials. Exceptions were on days when outside doors were open for church maintenance.

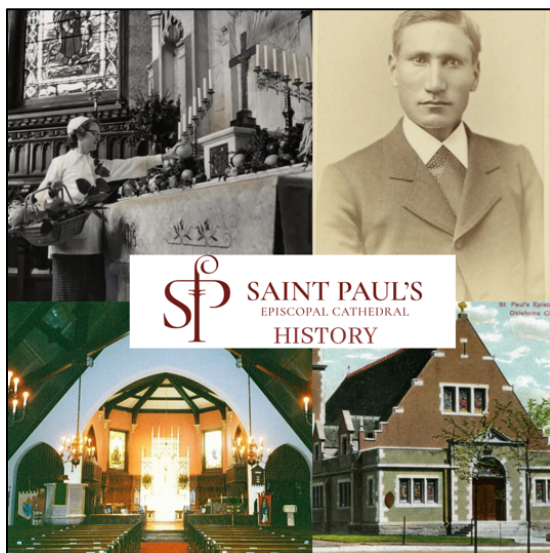
III. Acquisitions: Included church bulletins and other mixed paper materials; box of miscellaneous materials of Rev. Margot Lord Nesbit from family; and artifacts from around church including pre-dieus and large, wooden eagle.

IV. Deaccessions: Duplicates of materials and nonessential old records (not legally required to be retained); previous years red, bound Registers moved to Diocesan office.

V. Archival Requests: Information for congregational members baptisms, marriages, funerals, and guilds; history of church; artifacts for display and events.

VI. Goals: Continue to process materials; be a reference resource.

I would also like to thank Van Bielstein who is helping with processing and filing of the records.



Please remember history provides us with insight into our congregational culture. This history connects the present with the past to help with the future. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Meites

Audio/Visual Report

The Audio/Visual Guild is responsible for the livestreaming of all the services conducted by St. Paul's Cathedral. The guild is comprised of eight members who attend the services to operate the cameras and sound controls to ensure that the livestream goes smoothly. In addition, all livestreams must be scheduled in advance, and the credits are updated each week to reflect those who are participating in that service.

This was a busy year for the Audio/Visual Guild. Several things were accomplished.

Currently, all 8:00, 9:00, 11:15, Sunday evening, weekday noon, and Feast Day services are available online as well as in person. The livestreams are sent to Dean Churchwell's Pop-up Prayer Facebook page, St. Paul's website, St. Paul's Facebook page, and St. Paul's YouTube page. Also, several Diocesan Ordination events were livestreamed to the Diocesan social media sites.

This last year we have continued to experiment with the microphones in the Cathedral to enhance the sound not only in the room itself but also on the livestream broadcast.

New speakers were installed in the courtyard to replace the old speakers that had ceased to work. In addition, new speakers were also installed in the east garden to replace those speakers that had also stopped working. A portable speaker system with cordless microphone was purchased to allow for presentations to happen in the reception area and the garden gallery.

We have just started a large project to update the audio/visual system in Dean Willy Hall with a bigger screen for video presentations, new receivers for the microphones, and a camera such that presentations can be livestreamed from that location.

Also in the works are an update to the TV and audio system in the Chapter Room.

I would like to sincerely thank the members of the Audio/Visual Guild for their hard work, dedication, and resourcefulness in keeping everything going smoothly so that the livestreams can be enjoyed by those who cannot always attend the services in person.

Respectfully submitted,
Terry Jenks



Children's Formation and Cathedral Life Report

Children's Formation:



We started out the New Year in the undercroft with vaccinations being available for most. It was finally a sigh of relief! We completed the entire Church School year in the undercroft. We have anywhere from 30-50 kids each week in church school with a wonderful group of volunteer teachers. We have church school beginning after Labor Day and running through the weekend prior to Memorial Day.

Our youngest class, 3y-K are using the Spark Lectionary curriculum, our 1-2 graders are using Godly Play, and our 3-4 graders used the Connect curriculum. The new curriculum has been going well, and we have continued to use it throughout the year.

We had Godly Play training in February with Teresa Phares from the Diocese and had a pretty good turnout. It was great to refresh some of our newer teachers with that method of teaching. Our Easter celebration was in the East Garden where we hunted for eggs and in turn donated funds in honor of our children to whatever organization got the most wooden eggs in their basket. The kids

really enjoyed giving back and don't fear they got a treat bag at the end.

This summer we had over 50 children attend St. Crispin's. Two weeks of our summer camp sessions were organized by Cathedral Staff. St. Crispin's is such a huge part of our children's spiritual development. We are thrilled so may continue to attend each summer.

The nursery is open with our wonderful staff and occasional volunteers, and we have anywhere from 5-10 children each week. We have expanded the times the nursery is open from 7:30 until after the 11:15 a.m. service. We have choir members and even some 8 a.m. service people who needed it to be open earlier.

This fall we started doing Children's Chapel in the St. Nicholas Chapel during the 9 a.m. service. The children leave before the Gospel reading and return at the Peace. During this time, we read a kid-friendly Gospel, have a Children's Sermon, Prayers of the People, Confession, and a Collect, followed up by a time of singing. Having a less formal time with the children is enabling us to teach them more about our cooperate worship and why we do what we do. During the 11:15 a.m. service we offer a Godly Play story or read a story to those who are in the nursery during the service. While I know many adults miss the children's message this is going quite well, and the kids are enjoying their special service.



We preformed the Christmas Pageant in the Cathedral on Advent Three and had a wonderful reception back up in Dean Wiley Hall with a special appearance by the beloved St. Nicholas.

Cathedral Life: Throughout-the-year outings, meet-ups are planned to give people the opportunity for fellowship outside of the Cathedral walls. Some are better attended than others and all



ages are welcome, unless indicated otherwise. Newcomers are invited quarterly to come and go coffees with Clergy, Staff and

Volunteers; these are a great space to learn about where you could find your place in the Cathedral. Visitors are sent welcome emails after they attend where the Dean offers to meet for coffee or a phone call. We hope to make everyone feel welcome and connected at the Cathedral.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ashley Ozan
Children, Family and Cathedral Life Minister

Communication's Report



If we haven't yet met, allow me to introduce myself formally. I am Sarah-Emily (SE) Steinhardt, your Communications Minister. I joined the Cathedral Staff in late August 2023 as the new Minister of Communications. Although the time I've been here has been brief, I have been able to learn so much and engage in numerous activities.

As your Communications Minister, I am responsible for managing the weekly emails, website, social media presence, Sunday announcement inserts, videos, graphics, banners, letters, printing materials, and more. In essence, anything that relates to communications, marketing, or promotion is my responsibility. You may have seen me during worship, formation, or social activities, capturing images, and requesting smiles for photos. I am passionate about storytelling and sharing the story of this outstanding community through images, words, and video.

I am profoundly grateful for the relationships and connections I have made with the beloved St. Paul's Family. You have warmly welcomed me and included me, which has been so helpful as I learn all about the tremendous ministry happening within this sacred space. If you have any ideas, need any support, want to talk, or even volunteer in communications, please don't hesitate to reach out. I warmly welcome your input and want to know you better. You can send me an email at sesteinhardt@stpaulsokc.org or call the church office anytime.

I'm looking forward to a fantastic 2024 here at St. Paul's, I thank you all for the support you have provided me these last few months of 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sarah-Emily (SE) Steinhardt
Communications Minister, St. Paul's Community

Episcopal Church Women's Report



St. Paul's ECW is beginning in earnest again this year with the ever-loved Cake Boss auction at Annual Meeting. Thank you bakers! Last year's Easter and Christmas receptions were very well attended. Thank you to the many volunteers who brought food and helped set up and clean up. The Bookstore continues to provide financial support to the ECW. The Bookstore stocks wonderful books, gift items, and cards, so stop in and shop between services or during their weekday hours.

2024 looks to be a year to revitalize the ECW, so please be on the lookout for some fun ways to get involved in ECW this year!

Thank you,
Heather Sessing

Lay Liturgical Leaders' Report

There are currently 47 individuals serving as Readers, Intercessors, and/or Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs). Readers assist in reading assigned Scripture lessons. Intercessors assist by leading the Prayers of the People. LEMs assist in serving communion. These ministers serve at all four Sunday services (8 a.m., 9 a.m., 11:15 a.m., and 5 p.m.), as well as Wednesday noon services, funerals, and special services throughout the year, particularly for Advent, Christmas, and Lent.

Many serve as a Reader only. Some serve as Readers and LEMS; some as Intercessor and LEMS; and some LEM only. There are no expectations that a person serve in all 3 roles, unless that person requests it.



Ministry Scheduler Pro is still being used for scheduling. It has been a learning experience for some of our members, but we are working with the church staff to make it easier.

Two trainings were held this year: August 26 and November 4, and four new people have joined our ranks. More training is planning for 2024, so watch for details in the weekly newsletter.

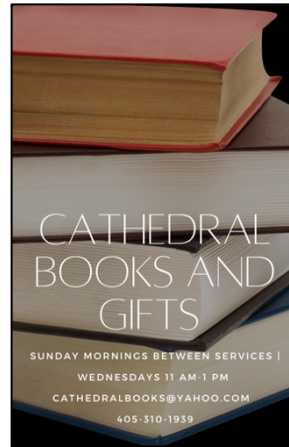
This has been my first full year to work with this group, and it is an honor to work with these people dedicated to the Word and Service of the Lord.



If you're interested in this ministry, contact the church office.

In His holy Name,
James A. Collins

Nira Smith Bookstore/Cathedral Books & Gifts Report



2023 was another year of changes and challenges. Even though the year is not quite over, it is apparent that our total sales for 2023 will be significantly less than previous years, which negatively impacts ECW's outreach efforts. Light to nonexistent foot traffic during the week and the loss of available

volunteers caused us to change our open hours, which are now Sundays between services, 8:40-9:00 and 10:15-11:15 and Wednesdays, 11:00-1:00.

Outside of our regular hours, the "traveling version" of CB&G was present at the ECW Retreat in February and September and the ECW's Annual Conference and Bishop's Day in April. We were present at St. Paul's for Clergy Vow Renewal during Holy Week and the June Ordinations. In October, we were present at Diocesan Convention.

In 2023 the board began to consider what the future CB&G will be. Like many small businesses in the nation, we are facing difficult decisions. Should we close our doors, after over 50-60 years of operation? If not, what will the future look like? We will continue this discernment in 2024. Regardless of this uncertainty, our goal is to continue to follow our mission statement and increase awareness and interest in the bookstore.

Please let us know if there is something we can order for you. Reminder: we need 3-4 weeks advance notice to receive books or other materials by a specific date, i.e., for a book study or other formation class. Our phone number is 405-310-1939 and our email address (and the best way to reach us) is cathedralbooks@yahoo.com.

As always, two groups of people are vital to our ministry, Firstly, YOU, our customers. THANK

YOU! Secondly, our volunteers, without whom we could not operate; Cheryl Baker*, Fran Derrick, Jennifer England-Burnside, Susan Gabbard*, Mary Ann Johnson*, Elizabeth King*, Linda Reed*, and Nancy Wallace (*indicates a board member). Also, special thanks to Mike Murphy for his amazing tech support!!

Respectfully submitted,
Board of Directors
MaryAnn Johnson

Mobile Meals' Report

Dear St. Paul's Family,

The St. Paul's Mobile Meals Ministry continues as one of the longest ministries active at our Cathedral (since June 1979)!

This year 2023 our small, however very dedicated team prepared and served a total of 1,620 meals. Our team consists of a team of 10 rotating chefs and assistants and a drive team of only 11 regular drivers with about 2 substitute drivers if available when needed. This sometimes appears to be an overwhelming task of preparing an average of 31-32 meals per week, but the team is undaunted.

We had the extreme pleasure of adding Jennifer Jones and Natalie Stanford to our chef roster for the year 2023 to cover meal preparation the 1st week of each month. We also added new and/or returning drivers of Gladys Prescott as well as Rick and usually Jani Hill. Our efforts would be in vain without our drivers!

Without access to our big Cathedral kitchen most of the meals were prepared in our chefs' homes and would be assembled there or in the East Building kitchenette! (AMAZING!) With the repair of the elevator and newly installed refrigerator, we are hopeful to be able to return to the kitchen in 1st quarter 2024. Our drivers would meet here at the Cathedral and deliver their 'routes' be it North or South.

For the upcoming year, we are looking for a person or team of chefs to help cover the 1st week of the

month, or if available on another Wednesday, we can make it work! Many of our chefs pair up with a friend or two to make the meals for their weeks. If we have additional volunteers, the schedule can be an every other month commitment. If you are interested, please contact Sarah-Emily Steinhardt at the Cathedral office, or I can be reached at 405-401-9092 by leaving a message.

It is a very rewarding experience to be able to deliver a hot meal to our client list and receive their smiles in return. Some of our clients have even sent us cards to let us know that we have the "Best Meals" that they receive each week.

I am most appreciative of Sally Alworth that prepares our meal trays with a picture and a prayer each week and also often helps cover coordination if I happen to be unavailable. I express my gratitude each week and month for all of the efforts from this team and for what we are able to accomplish. Lastly, we serve a "Blizzard Meal" to our clients if climate weather is forecast to try and ensure a meal will be available to them.

Ending Hunger in OKC also sends out larger boxes to each client, we have 2 that our group received that do need to be filled and returned to St. Luke's Methodist church, where they are headquartered. If you can assist to fill a box, please contact me at 405 401-9092.



Thank you for all of your support to keep our shut-ins fed and served by our Mobile Meals Teams!

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Ellington
Coordinator, St. Paul's Mobile Meals Team

Supper Clubs



St. Paul's Supper Clubs, formerly called Foyer Groups, are a way to better get to know our fellow parishioners through informal get togethers in small groups. Normally, groups gather in a home for a meal, but they can also meet in a restaurant; each group decides how it would like to meet. The groups usually consist of 8 people, couples, and singles. Groups change every 6 months, giving each member a chance to plan one of the gatherings. Supper Clubs have been very popular, especially with empty-nesters who have the time and flexibility to plan and host a gathering; however, we encourage anyone to be part of our groups. The point is to establish relationships with people we may not otherwise have had a chance to get to know. This past year we have had as many as 45 people participating in Supper Clubs. Our hope is that Supper Clubs groups will continue to grow and be vital part of St. Paul's community.

Respectfully,
Julie Mills, St. Paul's Supper Clubs

Oblationers Report

This past year, many parishioners volunteered to serve as oblationers. Serving as an oblationer is an opportunity for lay people to actively participate in the worship service, without the need to vest or speak in front of the congregation. Oblationers can be any age, and you may serve alone, or with friends. This is also a wonderful opportunity for families to participate together.

Each Sunday morning at both the 9:00 and 11:15 service, one or more oblationers carry the cruet (containing wine) and the ciborium (containing the wafers) from the back of the Cathedral to the acolyte waiting at the front. This takes place after the offering plates have been passed, and the Verger leads you down the aisle. Special services such as Christmas Eve, Holy Week, etc., also offer other opportunities to serve.

If you want to serve at 9a.m., I will serve with you the first time. If you want to serve at 11:15, Terry Jenks will serve with you the first time.

If you think this is something you might want to do, or you want further information, please email me at jana.plowman@cox.net.

Respectfully,
Jana Plowman



Outreach Report

The Outreach Committee was very active during 2023! The wonderful volunteers in the Outreach group, along with this generous congregation, allowed St. Paul's to show Christ's love to our community in many ways. From the members of the Outreach Committee, thank you very much; it is an honor to do God's work with you!

The Outreach Committee consists of the following individuals:

Outreach Committee

Jennifer Winton	Genie Bryant
Jocelyn Labombarde	Molly Duffy
Bruce Eberhard	Melissa Yarbrough
Janice Eberhard	Sue Crumbo
Cheryl Baker	Nancy Hetherington
Carole Owen-Stelting	Sue Cappadona
Dick Opalka	Susanna Lemasters
Deacon Marilyn Robertson	Jenny Salomone
Gerald Butcher	Kassidy Twyford
Rick Hill	Kim Puterbaugh

Outreach Committee

Heather Sessing	Stephanie Jensen
Sharon Ellington	Tiffany Lindsey
Howard Conyers	Whitney Randell
Susan Conyers	John Martin
Todd Olberding	Cathy Metivier
Kendall Foster	Melody Metivier Jones
Carolyn Clifford	

Below is an outline of the projects that St Paul's Cathedral participated in during 2023:

January – Donated toiletries to Educare family supply closet. Also during January, we had our Emergency Cold Sheltering event where approximately 40 people were housed, fed, and had laundry washed during the extreme cold.

February – Clothing Drive with clothes delivered to Dress For Success and Our Sister's Closet.

March – Period Poverty Drive in collaboration with the Junior League of OKC where we collected over 1,000 period products for high school students and others in the city in need.

April – Shoe Drive – shoes went to OK End Homelessness to provide shoes for those getting around on foot and for those needing shoes for interviews.

May – Infant Crisis Center – three boxes of infant supplies for children in need.

June – Cleaning supplies for SISU.

July – School supply drive for Positive Tomorrows.

August – Sack lunch supplies for OK End Homelessness.

September – Pet food and supplies for City Care homeless shelter.

October – Regional Food Bank canned food drive.

November – YMCA Angel Tree and Watonga Angel tree for 30 children.

December – Collected supplies for Emergency Cold Shelter for our unhoused neighbors.

In 2023 we made 100 Blessing



Bags for parishioners to distribute. Also, the Outreach budget was used to make cash contributions to Magdalene House OKC, Palomar, and the Bishop's Appeal.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Sessing

Oakerhater Guild



The Oakerhater Guild was established following the ordination of David Pendleton Oakerhater to the Diaconate. The guild serves to establish a relationship with the indigenous parishioners both at St. Paul's and throughout the diocese of Oklahoma. The Oakerhater Honor Dance has been held annually around the Feast Day on the first Saturday in September which was been held at the Whirlwind Mission of the Holy Trinity in Watonga, OK. This powwow is open to all tribal nations and starts with afternoon gourd dancing, then a eucharist and dinner for all attending. Following the dinner, a powwow begins. Other activities include a vacation bible school, sponsorship of indigenous children at St. Crispin's summer camp and a Christmas Dinner and gifts for the children at Whirlwind Mission of the Holy Trinity. This year also saw the first collaboration between The Oakerhater Guild and the Naucratus Society. The Does and Bows outing was held to reduce the deer population per Oklahoma Wildlife suggestions at St. Crispin's. Per the guidance of the Reverend Sarah Smith the hunt yielded 12 does, and Mother Sarah prepared the meat to be given to the Seminole Nation on which land St. Crispin's resides.

Respectfully submitted,
Buzz McDonald, Oakerhater Guild member

Pastoral Care/Lay Eucharistic Visits Report

He himself granted that some are apostles, prophets, evangelists, and teachers to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ. Ephesians 4:11-12

The Pastoral Care Team embodies the presence of multiple ministers working for the benefit of those who are experiencing both the joys and challenges of life. The members of the team include both clergy and laity who answered the call to be present and prayerful during those times. During 2023, we have also provided multiple prayer shawls to comfort and remind recipients that our parish is committed to prayer and support for other pastoral needs.

Each week, except during the seasons of Lent and Advent, Debbie Blossom lovingly prepared multiple floral arrangements from altar flowers that were then transported to those who were experiencing illness, life-transitions, joyful occasions, or to mark an anniversary of a significant event. In addition to the flower delivery, our team members initiated a new ministry to be actively engaged in delivering loaves of bread as a reminder that we are called by *Christ to feed my sheep*.



During 2023, some of our faithful apostles embarked on another new ministry during Advent and Lent to accomplish card-writing for those who had experienced losses during the past year. We are reminded in this ministry to be the hands of God, for *“the Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.”* (Psalm 34: 18) Our faithful year-round card writers continue to send messages of hope, joy, love, and peace for

those who were facing difficult times, who were experiencing the joy of birth, or who had recently lost a loved one, including pets.

Our ministry team continued to provide Clergy and Lay Eucharistic visits to those who were hospitalized, home-bound, and to families experiencing both joy and sorrow. The average number of monthly visits was about 30 and the number of communicants per month was about 70.



Dean Katie Churchwell led a series of formation classes in the spring to address final affairs activities that can serve to assist parishioners in gathering information for funeral planning, estate planning, and a checklist for what to do when someone dies. This information is available to those who could not attend and can be requested by sending an e-mail to jhill@stpaulsokc.org. These resources contain a number of links to important documents that are also available.

The Caregiver Support Group was initiated in Spring 2023 and continues to be offered every other Monday from 4:45-5:45 p.m. in the Sun Dancer Library. Through a common bond of caring, those in attendance offered their hearts, their hands, and their stories during their journey.

During November of 2023, Rachel Kretchmar joined our team as a valuable resource for those who have experienced the loss of a child. We are grateful for her presence and the resources she can provide for this ministry.

The Pastoral Care Team is here to assist the members of the parish and the community. We are grateful for the many ways that we are able to connect with one another as we seek to serve Christ.

Respectfully submitted,
Jani Hill
Pastoral Care Coordinator

Prayer Shawl Ministry Report



The Prayer Shawl Guild began at St. Paul's in 2011 with 6 members, men, and women, who enjoyed crocheting and knitting. We are one of the thousands of chapters involved in this worldwide

ministry. Some members have left, others have joined us. We welcome new members any time.

The purpose of the Guild is to provide prayer shawls to individuals who are ill, celebrating joy, or grieving a loss. These colorful shawls, which have been lovingly and prayerfully constructed, are presented by a lay person or clergy. Prior to the presentation the shawls are blessed at the altar. If you know of someone who would like a prayer shawl, please contact Sally at (405) 413-2582.



We appreciate all of the friends who have contributed time and talent to our ministry, and we invite everyone to join us on the first and third

Wednesdays of the month at 1:00 p.m. in the Reception Area of the Educational building at St. Paul's. If you cannot join us at this time, you are still encouraged to crochet or knit a prayer shawl at your leisure and give it to us to be blessed. We invite and welcome all persons who knit or crochet to join us as we enjoy sharing warmth and camaraderie with each other, and in the process produce a gift that is long lasting and brings much comfort. Thanks to Kathy May, Cathy Opalka, Nancy Wallace, Elizabeth King, Mary Lu Jarvis, Van and Dianne Bielstein, and occasionally others

who contribute their time and talent. Our newest member is Deacon Tracy Anderson - Welcome!

Faithfully,
Sally Alworth, Chairperson and Founder

Ushers Guild Report



The members of the Ushers Guild at St. Paul's performed their usual duties this year – greeting parishioners, distributing service bulletins, collecting the offering, helping to ensure good order at communion, and accounting for monies collected. Ushers typically serve on a particular Sunday of each month and, there is a team leader for each group. Scheduling has improved greatly this year with the implementation of a scheduling software package (Ministry Scheduler Pro). As of this date, there are 40 ushers in the guild.

On 1/24/2023, members of the Ushers Guild attended usher training, which covered the Customary for Ushers in detail. In addition, plans are underway for training to be held on 1/31/2024 at St. Paul's.

Ushers serve at the 9:00 a.m., 11:15 a.m. Sunday services and at those 5:00 Sunday night services that include communion. In addition, ushers are needed for special services of various kinds, such as Easter and Christmas. St. Paul's is fortunate to have many experienced ushers who volunteer for these services. In 2024, we



increased our numbers from 35 to 40, but more ushers are needed.

Serving as an usher is a relatively low-stress path to involvement in liturgy. Many ushers serve with their team for years and form long-lasting friendships from their service. If you are interested in learning more about the Ushers Guild, please contact Madeline Benham at mtbenham@sbcglobal.net.

Your friendly local usher,
Madeline Benham

Verger Ministry Report



The role of the Verger at St. Paul's Cathedral is to assist the clergy in providing an organized, respectful, and welcoming service in keeping with our liturgical traditions. Our role varies from week to week from simply confirming

participants and ordering and leading processions to assisting with visitors at a special event who may not be familiar with our service. We are asked to greet and assist with visiting clergy, helping them to prepare for and navigate through our service. Vergers serve during regular services, weddings, funerals, ordinations, and baptisms.

We currently have nine Vergers actively serving. Four of our Vergers are members of the National Verger's Guild, having completed a nationally administered training course, and are recognized as Fellows of the Verger's Guild of the Episcopal Church (VGEC) with another Verger currently enrolled in the national training course. Our goal in 2024 is to further codify the Verger's role at St. Paul's by working hand in hand with our Canon Precentor to create standardization in our ministry. We expect that our role will continue to evolve, and we look forward to being of service to our clergy, parishioners, and visitors at St. Paul's Cathedral. This will be more important than ever

when St Paul's hosts the National Verger's Guild Annual Conference in 2025.

To learn more about Vergers and their role in the Episcopal Church, visit www.vergers.org.

Respectfully submitted,
Ian Bass

Welcome Team

The Welcome Team at St. Paul's Cathedral plays a crucial role in embodying the belief that hospitality is a precious gift to offer to guests and friends. The team's primary objective is to ensure that every guest, newcomer, and long-time member of St. Paul's feels and experiences the love of God through warm, friendly, and authentically gracious hospitality.

Our goals include:

- First Impressions: Volunteers on the Welcome Team serve as the first point of contact for individuals entering the Cathedral.
- Inclusivity and Hospitality: By actively engaging with newcomers, volunteers on the Welcome Team ensure that everyone feels valued and included.
- Information and Guidance: The team of volunteers provides essential information about Cathedral programs, events, and community activities.
- Help guests/newcomers find their way around and learn more about the Cathedral.
- Write notes of welcome to guests/newcomers.
- Help behind the scenes.

We have the greatest gratitude to our Welcome Team volunteers for their dedication to building a more inclusive and welcoming



Cathedral for all. But we are a small group.

In 2024 we hope to address the current shortage of Welcome Team volunteers thereby enhancing the team's ability to provide personalized attention to guests and contribute to the growth and vibrancy of our spiritual community.

We'd love for you to help us improve our welcome and hospitality efforts at St. Paul's. Please email amyfischer@oklahomacounsel.com if you'd like to be a part of the Welcome Team!

Kindest Regards,
Amy Fischer, Chair and The Rev. Omar Cisneros

Youth Ministry Report

2022 and 2023 has been a year of growth and consistency for our youth program at St. Paul's. In February, five Junior High and High School students attended the New Beginnings Junior High retreat as participants and staff. This past summer, we had 41 students from 1st-12th grade attend St. Crispin's Episcopal Summer Camp as participants.



Of those 41, nine were from high school, and 12 were from middle school. We had three high school students serve as CITs (counselor in training) this

summer. In November, four of our high school students attended the Ignite high school retreat at St. Crispin's. The students learned how to articulate their own faith stories and faith journey through the creation of spiritual autobiographies.

We have continued to meet weekly on Sundays for youth group and have shifted an hour earlier starting at 4 pm in hopes that parents dropping off their kids can participate in Sunday evening services or formation opportunities. We have an average of 10 students each Sunday evening. The youth have given their time to taking care of the grounds surrounding St. Paul's, volunteered with Cleats for Kids, and have provided great ideas for future service opportunities. Our junior high and high school Sunday School has been following along with the lectionary and will continue to do so



for the remainder of the school year. We have asked for feedback from students about what they want to learn and focus on through Sunday School. It has been great to have their input and feedback as to what is timely for their faith journeys.

I am so happy to have joined the youth in August of 2023, and I look forward to seeing how youth continues to grow and evolve in 2024!

Respectfully,
Page Jackson, Youth Minister

Good Night Yoga

Good Night Yoga met at 6:00 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of each month in Dean Willey Hall. The people who attend this service found it very meaningful: chanting, slow healing movement, silence, and prayers drawn from the New Zealand Prayer Book. Still, the service has not drawn in many participants. Although our best attended service had 9 in the congregation and 5 in the choir, many times just two or three gathered together. So, in spite of the enthusiasm of the few, and after a conversation with yoga instructor Anne Roberts and Dean Churchwell, it was decided that this service will end, the last being January 16th, 2024.

Sincerely,
Mary Reynolds



Our St. Paul's Family is Amazing



Thank You All for All You Do!



Necrology 2023

Karen Marie Resler

Star Cooper

Elizabeth Jane Ward Holcombe

William “Bill” Earl Johns

Thomas Saffa Stapleton

Frank Mahan

Melba Ann Rhinehart

Wesley Banks

Don Kilpatrick

Scott Nathaniel Barsky

Darby Dye

Samuel William Wallace III

Jeanette Grisham Lanier

John Roy Grisham

Cheryl Lynn Smith

Charles Bernard Herrin

James Ralph McCalmont

Carter Blue Clark

“Almighty God, with whom still live the spirits of those who die in the Lord, and with whom the souls of the faithful are in joy and felicity: We give you heartfelt thanks for the good examples of all your servants, who, having finished their course in faith, now find rest and refreshment. May we, with all who have died in the true faith of your holy Name, have perfect fulfillment and bliss in your eternal and everlasting glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord”. *Amen*