



SAINT PAUL'S  
EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

ANNUAL REPORT  
JANUARY 31, 2021

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

On our patronal feast day — my first here at St. Paul's — I cannot help but reflect on the beginning of our ministry together. It goes back beyond this past August, when I first arrived in Oklahoma City. It goes back beyond August 2019, when I was first contacted by then Canon to the Ordinary Michael Durning to consider adding my name to the list of candidates for Dean. It goes back beyond all of our time and existence as a community.

Our time together began as Saul, not quite Paul, journeyed down the road to Damascus and encountered the Risen Christ. We celebrate that moment now, in 2021, that the Risen Christ continues to seek us out, lift us up, and call us higher as He did for Paul.

2020 was a year of promise and despair. It was a blessing and a curse. Countless challenges have come our way and while we encountered most head on, we still have areas of growth and I am grateful that we can all work together to make St. Paul's stronger as a cathedral and parish family, stronger as a pillar in our community, and stronger in our love of God and neighbor.

I thank Canon Susan for her work as Priest in Charge. She received more than she signed on for, and she excelled in leading St. Paul's through the first months of Coronavirus. There are no classes on how to priest in a pandemic at seminary--but she could teach one now.

Additionally, I have to thank Senior Warden Susan Urbach and Junior Warden Mike Murphy for going above and beyond in their roles. With Dian Everett our Clerk and Ann Bonsteel as Treasurer, plus the entire Vestry, I walked into a joyful and vibrant cathedral that was financially healthy and, while exhausted, excited for new opportunities. This Vestry has done St. Paul's proud, and joins an illustrious legacy of seeing this community through good times and bad. I thank you.

Lastly, I thank the clergy and staff of St. Paul's for their hard work, dedication to God, and the people they serve. They willingly meet the growing list of challenges with an attitude that can only be described as unfailing. Canon Musician Scott Raab and our Schola Cantorum singers make our worship beauti-

ful with music that must surely be Heaven-sent. Our Deacons engage with the world and our community. Canon Tim Sean enriched us with weekly devotions during the pandemic and has moved into a new role as our Canon for Youth and Families. Ashley Ozan made a leap of joy to paid staff for Children and Families, and we have been blessed to see those ministries already grow. I am grateful to David Bradley for his continued devotion to the care and cleanliness of our campus, and to Debbie Blossom who helped to get us through such a difficult year.

I see 2021 as a time for us to continue to come to know and trust each other. While in some ways it feels like coming home, I am mindful that I have only been at St. Paul's for such short time--under less than ideal circumstances--and our opportunities for connection were limited. I cherish every opportunity that I have to meet, speak, and grow in love with you. I look forward to more.

Our stewardship season isn't over yet. We still have need for pledges to meet our established goals for 2021, especially when we take into account that the other sources of revenue the Cathedral once relied upon are not currently available. Recognizing the strangeness of this past year and the difficulties of remaining connected, I trust in God and the history of St. Paul's to know that we will meet our vision for this new year.

In my time here, I have spent most of it listening. I have heard from many of you about what you love about St. Paul's and where you hope it will flourish and grow. Increased outreach opportunities, varied and robust Adult Formation, vibrant and engaging Children and Youth Formation, and continuing to grow in welcome, invitation, and hospitality as we share the love of God with others in OKC are just a few topping the list. We wasted no time in putting plans to motion, even while we listen and pray about where God is calling us next.

I am proud that within a few short months, we were able to bring St. Paul's into the 21st Century with live-stream services and in turn allowed for in-person worship. It was important to me that we remain united as a congregation, regardless of worship location.

We will continue to grow in our technical skills. Mary Reynolds and Caroline Dennis are amazing, adept, and fantastically creative from producing the pre-recorded videos early on to our transition to live-streaming. Our return to in-person worship meant many hours of painstakingly minute and detail-oriented thinking about pursuing safety without that perfect guarantee. All of these efforts allow for cathedral members to make personal decisions for their worship preferences.

I am excited for what lays ahead because I am excited about what is already happening. New families have already joined St. Paul's and the modified worship schedule creates a variety of options for members to engage. I am excited by the number of opportunities that exist within our City for Kingdom building partnerships and for the ways in which we have already engaged in deepening our relationship with community organizations like Palomar Family Justice Center.

One of the most fascinating surprise blessings brought by the pandemic was the ability for people to seek out faith communities beyond their old geographic limits and the traditional Sunday schedule. St. Paul's is no different. In the past month, we had more than 8,000 people engage with our Facebook page. Roughly 110 hours of worship footage and other video content have been watched in that period on the platform. On YouTube, we earned another 640 viewers. Our updated website drew more than 680 new visitors from Oklahoma, Texas, Minnesota, South Dakota, Michigan, and Florida to name a few. Seekers from 30 states joined us in online worship.

And with our reach extending far beyond our zip code, since August, 17 new people joined the church, and many more have come back after time away.

We continue to cherish and hold up the traditions that define St. Paul's. Rite I and Rite II Holy Eucharist Services and Choral Evensong continue to be a part of our worshipping life together. We added services such as our varying Compline services (remember our Blue Christmas Compline and the prayers we offered the community during election season?) and the contemplative service on the 5th Sunday of each month. Americana Vespers with Lesser Feast and Mary

Reynolds was a beautiful blend of traditional evening prayers and American folk music.

I long for the freedom to build a more robust service schedule with you. We are beginning to do that now, as we are adding a noonday Outdoor Holy Eucharist Service on Wednesdays beginning in Lent. Also, know this: there will always be Rite I at St. Paul's.

“Those days are gone” and “Covid put an end to that” are phrases we have all heard and probably said about a variety of things this past year—church included. As tempting as it has been to give in to despair during this time, a wonderful challenge is now laid before us. We could opt to keep a sorrowful inventory of all the things taken from our “normal” lives and sink into anxieties for the future. But as your Dean, I choose another path: one that carefully rebuilds and simultaneously works to expand the definitions of what it means to be the church.

We have had a difficult 2020. And 2021, while bringing with it hope, will still have its challenges. Connection is hard. Engagement is difficult. And we are all tired.

But I urge you to stick with us; I urge us as a community to stay committed.

What we do now, what we give of ourselves now, will determine what we have “when things are back to normal.”

We are bringing back what we have temporarily lost and will be stronger as a community for it. Our recipe is nothing new: commitment to being a house of worship and prayer for all people; commitment to acceptance and equity; and commitment to mercy and justice. We will balance our traditionally close relationships with a radical hospitality that extends beyond our doors.

And so, St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral steps into 2021 a leader in our diocese and a voice for love and mutuality within our city. We are taking where we have been and are applying it now to where we must go: forward in love. I am honored to walk alongside you as we move into a new world with new challenges and new opportunities.

Dean Churchwell

## CANON'S REPORT

Dear People of St. Paul's,

The Feast Day of the Conversion of St. Paul will mark my 29th St. Paul's Annual Meeting. As I reflect on these many years of service alongside you, gratitude fills my heart. Thank you for allowing me to be a Priest in our community for almost 3 decades and for continuing to be a spiritual home for Larry and me.

This past year has been a challenging one for all of us. Yet the people of St. Paul's have always shown courage in facing whatever challenge is the current one. Strength and resilience has been the watchword for our community through the Great Depression, the flight to the suburbs and the bombing of Oklahoma City in 1995. In January, 2020, we began hearing of Coronavirus. And we could not have imagined the great challenge ahead for us personally and for our community as a whole.

And yet once again you have abided faithfully. You have shown an extraordinary strength in making the effort to stay connected to community even when the virus overwhelming the world has been doing everything it can to keep us apart.

2020 has brought significant highlights for us, despite the threat of the virus. In August, our Search Committee and Vestry called the Very Rev. Katie Churchwell to be our new dean. She is a bright light and her leadership is already creating excitement and forward vision even with the virus continuing to create havoc and despair.

We are fortunate to have Dean Churchwell among us as one who embodies for us a way of being that will call forth our own strengths to be used for the good of the whole. Let us, as one body, respond to her visionary leadership, that we might grow into becoming what God has intended for us to be.

I wish to say a word, also, about what is coming up for me. On July 1, 2021, I will have served at the Cathedral as clergy for 30 years. You have influenced me, shaped me, given and received love from me, challenged and supported me through so much life as it has unfolded. To have been part of this community has strengthened me to move into deeper connections

with God. Much of this has developed through the pastoral connections we have had with one another. The longing of my heart and soul has grown as an urge to travel more deeply into those areas of God-connection to understand more fully how those connections evolve.

This curiosity has led me into an adventure of the interior life, which was expanded through my work with Contemplative practices, especially the Ignatian Exercises, beginning in 2005. Through many twists and turns, the Diocese has now given me an opening and support to found a School of Spiritual Direction for our Diocese. The School has already begun and our vision of it is that it will grow and expand and as the Dean of the School, more of my attention and dedication to it will be required.

Because of this, 2021 will be my final year as full time Priest at St. Paul's. Although the great and wonderful gift of this is that I get to stay with you! We have had a long standing tradition of our elder Priests and Deacons staying with community to serve, although at a level that is age appropriate. My thanks to the Dean, the Bishop, the Vestry and all of you for opening this door so that my own adventure with God may continue to evolve so that I may continue to serve you in the name of God.

Faithfully submitted,  
Canon Susan Colley Joplin+

## FR. TIM SEAN YOUMANS+ REPORT

Vicar, St. Edward the Confessor Chapel, Chair of the Religion Dept, Casady School  
Instructor, Iona School of Ministry, Diocese of Oklahoma  
Canon for Youth and Family, St. Paul's Cathedral

I am now in my third year serving as the Vicar and Head Chaplain at Casady School. I generally put in around 50 hours a week at Casady with an additional 4 to six hours at St. Paul's on Sundays. I am also away from St. Paul's one Sunday a month to teach at our Iona School of Ministry at St. Crispin's where I also serve as their go-to Eucharistic Minister.

My primary function at St. Paul's this past year started in typical fashion, primarily as part of the liturgical and preaching rotation. I am approaching my 9th year with SPC and my role here has been as a utility player, able to fill a variety of roles when needed. This past year it was primarily with adults.

The Bible Project, an adult Bible reading group that I facilitated on Sunday afternoons, completed it's two year journey reading and talking through the Bible. When COVID hit we did that study via Zoom. We ended on Labor Day Weekend, two years from the weekend we began. When that ended we did a Zoom series watching The Chosen, a TV drama based on the life of Jesus.

It was also during COVID that I began to film weekly devotionals that aired on Saturday mornings. I stopped filming those a month or so after school got started and my schedule began to fill up.

When Dean Churchwell began her ministry she and I strategized about my role at St. Paul's and how my available time might best be used. We both agreed that our Youth Ministry was going to need leadership in the wake of Lance Schmitz being priested and sent to another congregation. Jordan and Laura Rousseau, Emily McDonald, Caden Wells, Bianca Caves and I are forming a Youth Ministry Team. Junior High and High School Groups currently each meet twice a month in a hybrid model (in-person and Zoom).

Lesser Feast is a musical folk group started by me and Nathan Guilford. We performed a East Garden concert in October and last week hosted an Americana Vespers with the help of Mary Reynolds. It is our hope that Lesser Feast be an "rotating door platform" for musicians (like the Wu Tang Clan) to share their gifts in various ways in the coming years.

I was scheduled this past summer, along with my Casady colleague Mtr. Kirsten Baer, to be Dean for the first session of pre-teens at St. Crispin's. Camp was canceled. We are currently enlisted to serve at the second session (in July) for pre-teens this coming summer. Camp dates are scheduled to be publicized in early February.

## **DEACON/PARISH NURSE MARILYN ROBERTSON'S REPORT**

This past year has been filled with many changes, challenges and opportunities to grow spiritually. Our church family continues to share God's love and presence with others...in the parish and in the community around us.

Right on the verge of the Covid shutdown, we hosted a shrimp boil to raise funds for Hope for the future. We were graced with music from Mary and Louise. This was a great success. The St. Paul's family learned more about Clotiel's ministry of helping children in foster care. Thank you all so much for your support. Now St. Paul's Outreach continues to work with Clotiel to help with sharing God's love with those in foster care.

The Health Fair consisted in providing flu shots in a safe distance and clean environment. We were able to provide approx. 30 flu and other shots for those who needed them. The Health Team also helped throughout the year in providing guidance and guidelines for worship during the Covid pandemic.

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 who 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!

I continue to stand in awe as I witness the love of God living and working in this community. I am so blessed to be your deacon. I appreciate the St. Paul's family and look forward to serving Christ with you for many more years.

Faithfully,  
Marilyn Robertson, MR  
Deacon/Parish Nurse

## **DEACON GERALD BUTCHER**

Beloved family of St Paul's,

This has been a strange year for everyone. When COVID-19 hit, many things changed for all of us. For example, what normally goes in annual reports will be different this year because 2020 has caused so much change. What I plan to discuss is what was intended in 2020 or planned in 2021.

Attending worship was 100% virtual for a while, which is still an option and in person worship is optional. With the advice of family members in the medical field, I am not participating in In-Person worship until the COVID-19 numbers drop. This is quite a change because since my ordination 18 years ago, I have always served at the altar every week.

The prison ministry that I am involved with has taken a hit. Prison visitors like Jim Henry and I do not visit the prison (Joseph Harp Correctional Center) as we have done in the past. Visitors are not allowed in the prison now. I have had done some correspondence with inmates so I hope to pick up where we left off when we can re-enter the prison. These meeting will include communion and Lectio Divine which was being done before we left.

The after-school program that we do for children of inmates at Mark Twain Elementary has stopped until In-School classes resume. There are about ten volunteers from St Paul's that participate. It will be exciting to start up again.

In 2021, I will start a new adventure. I was asked to participate in the first Iona School for Spiritual Direction in our diocese. Lay people and clergy will be students in this new program. It is a two-year program. Mother Susan Joplin is the dean of this new program so you know how good the program will be. I hope to put this training to good use at St Paul's and the prison.

In 2021, you will see more things from the Outreach Committee which I am involved with. Dick Opalka is the chairman and is doing a great job! He and Dean Churchwell have some great ideas planned.

I will continue to be involved with Lectio Divina group on Wednesday. I have been involved Mindfulness group in 2020 which I plan to continue.

Contact me if you have questions about any of these things at 405-249-5440 or [deaconbutcher@stpaul-sokc.org](mailto:deaconbutcher@stpaul-sokc.org)

Stay safe and healthy!

Sincerely,  
Deacon Gerald Butcher

## **SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT**

It is good to be with you with and share the current view from the Senior Warden. My entire tenure as Sr. Warden seems to be one of walking with all of you through transitions of many sorts!

So much has happened (and not happened) since the world literally took a stop last March. It is hard to believe that at this very time last year, the Search Committee was in process with Zoom interviews of our semi-finalists of Dean Candidates. At this time last year, our Diocese had recently elected The Rev. Poulson Reed as our Bishop-Elect.

When the world took a pause in March for pandemic, we took a pause in our Search process. And by faith and with great care, we were able to safely reschedule, and by God's grace called our new Dean, the Very Reverend Katie Churchwell. Thank you to Robert Dennis, chair of the Search Committee for heading up this very important process and leading their effort.

One of my life philosophies is that there are always two sides of a coin, and they always come together. In the midst of the hard times, there are also joyful times. It has been a great joy to welcome and work with our new Dean. I look forward to how her ministry here continues to unfolds. It's been a joy that our new Bishop, Dean and Canon to the Ordinary Eric Cooter all started together, around the same time. It's a joy to see Canon Tim Sean Youmans engaging even more with us as Canon for Youth and Families. It's been a joy to know how successfully and selflessly our dear Canon Susan Joplin led us through this interim time as Priest In Charge, and there is a wonderful path forward for her over the next few years as her ministry is further fulfilled as Dean of the School of Iona, but not leaving us completely here at the Cathedral.

It has been a joy to know that all the hard work we had been doing with rethinking our financial manage-

ment helped us get through this year, including replacing the chiller. We are continuing to work closely with the Diocese on the next level up of financial health and transparency by addressing some issues and practices that have prevented us from coming into a higher audit standard that would be appropriate for our size. My aspiration is for all this to be in place by this time next year.

As always, it has been my joy and privilege to be your Senior Warden. St. Paul's is an amazing place, full of wonderful people, and I believe we are in for exciting times ahead!

Susan Urbach  
Senior Warden

## JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Greetings,

This has been a particularly busy year for SPC regarding our campus. One reason we have been able to accomplish so many tasks is due to the help from our sexton, David Bradley. Many others contributed their time and talents to several of our bigger projects.

The maintenance and repair budget is \$75,000 and we spent every bit of it plus some non-budget items which were financed by discretionary funds.

The big items were:

**Chiller** - Replaced our old chiller that finally give out in April. The cost of \$170,000 was, by far, our biggest expense. Fortunately, we had the money to get it done.



**Audio Video** – We began the process of upgrading our capabilities so that we are now able to live stream from the Cathedral. It was a bit kludgy at first, but with Mary Reynolds, Jack, and Caroline Dennis we were able to record, edit, and produce recorded services for online viewing. Now, we live-stream with much improved equipment and capabilities. Still more to come.



**Gas Leak** – while the church was closed, we experience a gas leak that required what seemed like endless hours as the plumbers poked and prodded to find the sources.

**Columbarium** – With John Turman's help we are in the process of softening the columbarium look and feel. We've added three large pots and some smaller metal flower vases. Outdoor furniture has been ordered and should be here shortly.



**Ice Storm** – many trees on our campus received extensive damage because of the storm. Charles Ozan, Robbie Highsaw and Miles Tolbert all pitched in and removed most of the broken limbs. We hired a professional to get things that they could not reach and will bring in an arborist to remove the broken limbs that require climbing.



**Dean Willey Hall Floor** – The floor in DWH was damaged due to a water leak caused by freeze thaw. Insurance paid most of the cost, but we did have to cover the \$2,000 deductible. The entire floor was refinished with a lighter colored stain. It looks great.

**Landscaping** – You may have seen that we moved the cypress trees from the Courtyard to flank the stairs leading to the red doors at our main entrance. Of the three in the Courtyard, only one broke, but that left us

with a decision regarding the other two. This decision and an old picture of St. Paul's from the early 1950s has motivated an effort to landscape the south and west sides of the Cathedral. More landscaping will be completed this year, for sure.



**Repainting & Decorating** – Here is just one example of the work accomplished under the direction of Ashley Ozan. She recruited help and improved the look of the Child Care Room, painted the Dean's office and many other things.



**Christmas decorations** – Great job by Charles Ozan, the Dean, Logan Churchwell, and David, John and Jack who were able plan, acquire and install our decorations in record time. We anticipate a big step up in exterior decorations next year and we will have the landscaping to allow for it.



In addition to the above items, include the following:

- Replaced a dozen or so fogged windows
- Keypad access control into the Reception Area
- Added a new digital phone system
- Created a church-wide safety plan – MaryAnn Sonntag and Dan Morgan, etc.
- Many smaller repair and preventative maintenance tasks

There are still much to do, large and small, but that is the nature of keeping up with and improving older buildings.

Many thanks to everyone who selflessly helped this year. I apologize to those I missed.

I am sure the new Jr. Warden, Sarah Musler, will have no problem recruiting helping hands.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mike Murphy, Junior Warden

## **TREASURER REPORT**

St. Paul's Cathedral faced a number of unexpected challenges in 2020. However, with the help and support of our church family we ended the year in a very strong financial position.

As stewards of the Cathedral resources the Vestry views the financial status from a number of different perspectives. The first is the net income, e.g. total revenue less total expenses, for the year. Our net income for the year was \$328,798. Of that amount, \$84,510 were COVID/PPP proceeds. Even without the COVID/PPP proceeds the net income of \$244,288 was very strong as compared with both the 2020 budget (\$20,281) and the prior periods. This illustrated how our church family stepped up and provided their support even when the ability for in-person participation was limited.

A second perspective that is particularly relevant to the Cathedral is our commitment to reimburse the endowment and the emergency funds for the draw-downs when we were having some financial issues. It is great to report that the endowment fund has been completely reimbursed. The Vestry put in place a

commitment to repay the emergency fund over a period of time. The initial outstanding balance has been reduced substantially and will be completely funded consistent with the schedule established by the Vestry.

The third perspective is our general cash position. The Vestry and the Dean are committed to the notion of continually monitoring both our current expenses and our future expenses in terms of our cash balances. We need to be in the position of self-financing our cash requirements. The 12/31/2020 cash balance satisfied the objectives defined by the Vestry. The task is to maintain the balances in 2021.

From these perspectives, we ended 2020 in a very good financial position thanks to all of you. The next challenge is dealing with 2021 and the associated uncertainties. The Vestry has approved a 2021 Budget that allows us to maintain our financial objectives while implementing many of the aspirations that the Dean will be describing to you. The 2021 Budget net income is a slight surplus of approximately \$6,000—not much. The 2021 Budget assumes Pledge Revenue of \$1.0 million. The last time I checked with Robert the pledge revenue was approaching \$800,000. Clearly, we have a gap in terms of the resources pledged vs. resources needed to move the Cathedral forward in terms of the vision that the Dean has outlined to you.

The current Vestry thinking is to proceed with the 2021 Budget as currently drafted with the confidence that the Pledge Revenue target of \$1.0 million can be realized. We will continually monitor the finances to determine if adjustments are needed. The vision is exciting and knowing our church family we think we can make it happen. We ask for your support to whatever degree you are able.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carl Stover

## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Dean Churchwell and members of the St. Paul's community:

This Stewardship Committee report was updated on Wednesday, January 27, 2021. As of that date 187 pledges had been received during this extended stewardship campaign totaling \$841,403. Typically St. Paul's receives about 230 pledges and the last two years those pledges have averaged \$940,000. I need not remind anyone that there has been nothing typical about 2020 including our stewardship effort.

Our committee set a goal of one million dollars. This was not an arbitrary number but rather what was needed to address most of the ministries and their missions, our personnel expenses, our building and maintenance expenses and our Diocesan obligations. Due to the barriers presented by the coronavirus, most of the information regarding stewardship has been in the form of videos, e-mails and letters updating members as to where we stood and encouraging those who have not pledged and have the means to make a pledge to act as quickly as they can.

During the last ten months, many of us have felt every imaginable emotion from despair to hopefulness and all that lies between. Our church, our St. Paul's Cathedral clergy and staff have been by our side through this entire journey and have provided us with variety of ministries designed to comfort us and strengthen our faith and our resolve. Many members of our community have volunteered to support these ministries with their time and treasure.

So once again the Stewardship Committee comes forth to say, if you have the means to make a pledge or increase your current pledge please consider doing that as quickly as possible.

Samonia Byford

Susan Urbach

Rick Hill

Robert Dennis

## ALTAR GUILD ANNUAL REPORT

The Altar Guild at St. Paul's Cathedral is responsible for preparing the church for all services. The Guild is composed of about 30 members who are assigned to four teams.

The Altar Guild is also responsible for arranging flowers on the altar for Sunday services, weddings and funerals.

During the first two months of 2020 the Guild continued to conduct its normal duties, which ceased when in-person church services were temporarily discontinued. When virtual services resumed Altar Guild duties began with a "skeleton crew." This was to limit the number of people coming into contact with each other and to maintain social distancing.

In May the Cathedral was cleaned and prepared for the Consecration of Poulson Reed as Bishop of the Diocese of Oklahoma. Instead of about 2,000 participants this service was limited to less than 20 people in attendance. The service was live-streamed online.

Since then Bishop Poulson was seated in the Cathedral, Dean Katie Churchwell was installed as our new Dean, and the Oakerhater celebration was videotaped for presentation to the Diocese in September.

At the beginning of Advent in-person services resumed, limiting attendance to 50 people per service. At that time the rotation of Altar Guild teams also started again. Participation of the members on each team was voluntary, as some members don't yet feel comfortable being around many others. At this time no more than two Guild team members work at the same time. Some only come during the week to accomplish the behind-the-scene duties.

When unlimited worship resumes, the Altar Guild teams will also resume our weekly duties.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Lou Jarvis, Altar Guild Director

## ACOLYTE ANNUAL 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 has nurtured and supported the Acolytes and affords leadership opportunities for older Acolytes. In mid-March 2020, our program was interrupted when the COVID-19 pandemic forced an unprecedented cancellation of all worship services and a lockdown of most commercial and social activity.

At the time, we thought the pandemic might pass quickly. Perhaps we could return to worship at Easter. Such expectations were clearly naïve. It would be some time before in-person worship would resume. Through September, a service was video-taped during the week and broadcast on Sunday morning. An adult volunteer handed the few acolyte duties – lighting the candles and acting as crucifer. In October, we began live-streaming a Sunday morning Eucharist with a single acolyte. In November, we opened the nave to limited, in-person worship, which was soon cancelled for two weeks upon a spike in the community COVID-19 numbers. We resumed the limited, in-person worship in December and have continued without known spreads of the virus. With COVID protocols – masks and social distancing – the services have been sparse. The typically large sanctuary party is minimalized. Most services are handled by a single acolyte. The celebrant sets the table without assistance.

These unique times have required adaptable acolytes and we can readily say that the handful of volunteers have risen to the demands. We even provided thurifers at two Christmas Eve services with the Bishop celebrating.

It is now nearing a year since the pandemic struck. Vaccines are available and we can see an end. We anxiously await. We want to experience the large processions with acolytes of all ages carrying crosses and torches and banners. With acolytes assisting at the Altar and receiving the Offertory. With acolytes showing their best for our new Dean, the Very Reverend Katherine Churchwell.

When we return to normal, 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 broad participation and 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 Fran Derrick (fran.derrick@me.com) or Gary Derrick (derrick@derrickandbriggs.com).

Yours in Christ,

Fran Derrick

Gary Derrick

## ARCHIVES REPORT

Archives have two main functions: to preserve and to make available materials of historical value. This purpose was maintained in 2020; even though less time had been spent in the Archives due to the Covid-19 Pandemic restrictions.

I. Records Management: continued to sort, to organize, and to process church record and donated materials.

II. Preservation & Protection: Temperature and humidity continue to be recorded upon entering and leaving.

A. The temperature has ranged between 62-82 degrees depending upon the season. This is consistent with previous years.( Different materials in the Archives have different ideal temperatures.)

B. Humidity fluctuated 52-82% (ideal being 45-60% depending on materials). Highest readings occurred when water found on floor after rain storms. A new dehumidifier and collection bucket were provided by the Jr. Warden the beginning of summer. The Church Sexton routinely checks the water level now. Thank you both for helping stabilize humidity.

III. Acquisitions: included church bulletins and mixed paper materials. In early February a wooden museum cabinet was acquired from Hobby Lobby's Museum of the Bible. Casters were attached to this Donation. It has become a portable altar for the Spirituality Committee's use( labyrinth walks).

IV. Deaccessions: None from the Archives.

V. Archival Requests : information for Murrah Building Bombing Anniversary Program presentation;

Information: for baptisms and weddings; on previous clergy; legal records for church vestry; historical materials for Diocesan Archivist.

VI. Other: Display case in Dean Willey Hall changed periodically.

Keys were made in September to be able to open old file cabinets (3) containing church legal documents and other materials. Keys kept in Archives.

VII. Goals: continue to process materials; be reference resource; work with Diocesan Archivist to digitize old letters from 1800's.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Meites

## **BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW**

As noted in prior annual reports, the Brotherhood of St. Andrew held its first meeting in Chicago, Illinois in 1883 at St. James Episcopal Church. Twelve young men attended the first meeting, and took it upon themselves to bring in men from rooming houses and from the streets and saloons to pray with them and to join them in their study of the Bible. From the very beginning this group has had three important elements: prayer, study, and service.

The St. Paul's Chapter of the Brotherhood met in-person in January and February to cook breakfast together, pray together, and study together until the coronavirus pandemic forced the cancellation of our regularly scheduled in-person meetings. Thereafter, the Brotherhood followed the lead of other groups at St. Paul's and migrated to Zoom to hold its meetings virtually. Beginning in April through the end of 2020, the Brotherhood met every second and fourth Saturday of the month via Zoom to pray and study together.

During 2020, we read and discussed the Gospel According to Mark using N.T. Wright's The Bible for Everyone as a commentary during the first half of the year, White Fragility by Robin DiAngelo in the wake of the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, and Paul's Letter to the Romans towards to close the year out. Through our many discussions of the vari-

ous readings and books we learned from one another, shared thoughts and perspectives, supported one another and kept in touch, and also reflected upon the deep racial, economic, and healthcare disparities laid bare by the pandemic and the events of 2020.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic the Brotherhood's service activities were more curtailed than in the past, but members still found individual opportunities to safely serve others such as assisting with clean-up in the aftermath of the October ice storm, bringing books to one another, or checking in on and providing assistance to some of the more vulnerable members of our community.

Going forward, it is our hope and dream that sometime in 2021 we will be able to safely resume in-person prayer and study in Dean Willey Hall, embark upon group service projects around St. Paul's and within the community, and also once again enjoy the fellowship and company of one another in the flesh. Until such time, we'll be meeting via Zoom every second and fourth Saturday of the month for prayer, study, and fellowship.

Robbie Highsaw

## **CHILDREN'S FORMATION**

2020 started out great with me taking over for Sandra Opalka as the lead undercroft volunteer. We had a small, but growing group each Sunday attending Church school. We had a wonderful group of faithful volunteers leading each Sunday.

We started out Lent with the Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner where the children assisted with draping the cross. Thankfully, take home activities to commemorate each week during Lent. Then COVID-19 happened and we were all stopped in our tracks.

Throughout Lent virtual activities and ideas were sent to families to try and make this very strange Lent/Holy week as special as possible. During Holy Week, Deacon Lance Schmitz led the families on a virtual Good Friday service.

Summer sadly was pretty quiet. Camp was cancelled and church was still in shut down. Children's moments were still incorporated in each Sunday service. Sandra Opalka and Rick Hill faithfully had a weekly Godly play lessons up through fall.

The new Dean started and we finally were able to get back on track. Families had an outdoor movie night in October which kicked off a restart to our formation. The first Sunday of Advent I took over as the Children and Families Minister. Virtual Church School has begun and meets each Sunday via zoom. There are two sessions for ages 3 through 5th grade.

The advent event turned into a drive-by event. Families received their home Advent devotions, pageant costumes and materials to make their advent wreath and other crafts. Under the wonderful direction of Mary Reynolds, she created one of the best pageants possible during these unusual times.

The Sunday before Christmas we had a Christmas Eve drive by complete with our very own St. Nicholas, treats and fun inflatables. Parishioners who weren't comfortable attending in person drove by to get everything they needed to make a memorable at home Christmas Eve service.

The nursery is in process of getting a new look. A volunteer group began painting the end of February and I completed it finally in July. We were able to purchase a new rug, too. With the generosity of many parishioners, we even got some new toys. Once we are able to use the nursery safely again the children will be met with an almost new nursery.

I'm very excited about serving as your Children and Families Minister along side Fr. Tim Sean Youmans. This year brings so much hope and growth potential under the direction of the new Dean. Thank you for trusting us to help guide the spiritual growth of your families and children.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ashley Ozan, Children and Families Minister

## **FOYER GROUPS REPORT**

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, the group decides how it would like to meet. The groups usually consist of 8 people, couples and singles. Groups change every six months, giving each member a chance to plan one of the gatherings. Foyer groups

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 a part of our groups. The point is to establish relationships with people we may not otherwise have a chance to get to know. Because of Covid 19 we did not form any groups in 2020. But moving forward with vaccines, I am hopeful than Foyer groups can start up again in 2021, and that having been apart for an entire year our church family will be eager to engage in fellowship activities again, and Foyer Groups will continue to grow.

Respectfully, Julie Mills

## **EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN**

The Cake Boss Auction at our Annual Meeting was its usual success and great fun; John Koons' entry was the winner and John was the St. Paul's Cake Boss for 2020.

Wine. Chocolate. Jazz. was held once again at the Hampton's home. I am thankful everyone enjoyed that evening as it turned out to be the last ECW social event of the year!

St. Paul's ECW along with everything else was affected by the pandemic but we tried to continue our goal of helping other guilds and groups with their efforts. The Garden Guild managed to have two plant sales in 2020 and probably did more to brighten this difficult time than they realize. ECW matched the total sales from both events.

Prior to the pandemic shutdown ECW members did a complete cleaning, purging, and reorganizing of the kitchen. The results encouraged ECW to make the same effort in the attic above the kitchen.

During 2020 St. Paul's ECW and The St. Nicholas Guild met on Zoom to plan a merge of our groups. Our efforts often overlap and we would like to combine our resources to better serve our St. Paul's community. We are hoping to offer more social events and activities for everyone once it is safe to gather together.

With wishes for a crowded, loud, joyous 2022 Annual Meeting!

Joann Speers

## **HOSTS/GREETERS' GUILD REPORT**

The Cathedral Hosts and Greeters served faithfully at the morning services until mid-March, 2020 until in-person worship ceased for a time during the pandemic. This is a ministry that will be re-imagined in this next year as we learn to live with a blended practice.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jane Magrath

## **LECTORS AND LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS REPORT**

The presentation of the Liturgy of the Word looked and sounded extremely different during 2020, adapting to virtual presence in the midst of a pandemic, and during a gradual reintegration of a limited number of servers inside the Cathedral. The readers learned that their recorded presence brought a sense of community, joy, and varied voices, to many who missed hearing and seeing Cathedral communicants. The readers' schedule remained about 20% of its previous presence at the end of the year, but the interest in continuing to serve when the new normal arrives, kept people connected. Leadership for this ministry has now been transferred to the very capable hands of Dick Opalka and James Collins. I am grateful to have guided this ministry and its dedicated servants.

Respectfully submitted  
Jani Hill

## **MOBILE MEALS REPORT**

Meals on Wheels, a Division of Ending Hunger ,OKC (Known To most as St.Paul's Mobile Meals)

Well to say the least, this has been a year. My team of volunteers never faltered. We never caved in to COVID19. Despite a few close contacts and last minute change ups we didn't miss a single month of deliveries to those we serve in our community!

Bravo! Bravo! Bravo! to all of you! I certainly don't want to leave anyone out, however, an extra special Thank You to all of my cooks that volunteered to prepare their meals in their homes and brought them

down to the Cathedral parking lot to get them into our delivery drivers' cars to get them to our client's homes! WOW!

And To my dear friend Carolyn Clifford who volunteered her home kitchen on oftentimes more than one Wednesday a month to help get these vital meals out.

Numbers: Our client list varied anywhere from 27 and up to our current count of 35 per week. In November we added a "blizzard meal" to our delivery route when a winter storm was predicted to try and ensure our seniors/clients would have a meal during the storm. In the month of December, our team prepared and delivered 227 meals to our clients with masks and gloves and smiles!

We are looking for a team or someone that might be available to help with meal preparation for the first week of the month! If anyone might be interested, please contact myself or the Cathedral office so we can work with you to answer any questions you might have!

We have added 3 new delivery drivers to rotate in when needed and we welcome you! Thanks!

It has been my honor to serve as Mobile Meals Coordinator over the past year. My predecessors set excellent examples of "how to get 'er done" making my work much easier!

One last request, as we hope to move gradually back into the kitchen in Dean Willey Hall, we would like to consider having a "Blizzard Meal Pantry" stocked. This would enable us to quickly fill a sack meal for a storm prediction without having to make a 'midnight run' to put a meal together. If anyone feels they would like to sponsor such, please contact me so we can discuss the details!

Yours in Hope,  
Respectfully Submitted,  
Sharon H Ellington  
Mobile Meals Coordinator

## MUSIC DEPARTMENT REPORT

The music of St. Paul's Cathedral has continued without interruption throughout the annus horribilis of 2020. Right up to the third Sunday in Lent (March 15 - "Beware the Ides of March"), we were singing and making music to the glory of God with our full resources at the time: three full choirs and two recital series. As we all know, that came to an end with the arrival of the pandemic. The services with organ and choral music have continued either through pre-recorded tapings or in-person worship. This would not have been possible without the commitment of the Cathedral Schola Cantorum: Leah McDonald, Jeanise Wynn, Dustin Morningstar, and Richard Jobe. My sincere thanks goes to each of them! A schola is a smaller group within a larger group which acts on the behalf of the full group. It is composed of those who are highly skilled in singing. This work has been ably achieved by the above mentioned singers. They are a joy to work with.

With the arrival of Dean Churchwell (Hallelujah!), we have returned to services of Choral Evensong, Compline and Advent Lessons and Carols. None of this would have been possible without funding from both the Cathedral's operating budget and St. Paul's Music Society.

I also appreciate the support of St. Paul's clergy and staff for the "behind-the-scenes" help that is required to allow all of this to happen. I also extend my thanks to you, the St. Paul's community, for your support of our efforts.

Respectfully submitted,  
H. Scott Raab  
Canon Musician

## MUSIC SOCIETY

### Financial Report 2020

Ending Bank Balance 12/31/19	29,884.60
2020 Income from St. Paul's	<u>19,756.63</u>
	49,641.23
2020 Expenses	
Hospitality	175.75
Cont. Ed	0.00
Instrument Maintenance	2905.60
Payroll (singers, harp, cello)	24920.00
Contract Musicians	1150.00
New Music	275.54
Misc.	848.08
(big items: postage	165
OneLicense	380
singers masks	200
subscriptions and Dues	674.00
Transferred ending balance to main account	49,641.23

## NIRA SMITH BOOKSTORE CATHEDRAL BOOKS & GIFTS REPORT

This has been a difficult year for all and the Bookstore is glad to be open again to make our offerings to you. We enjoy helping you find something to put a smile on your face.

We are thankful for the volunteers that helped during our open months and anticipate the need for new volunteers for 2021. Unfortunately, our sales total was 25% of a normal year due to only being open four months in 2020. Thank you covid-19!

A bright time for us was having Dean Churchwell find her new home at St. Paul's. She has many new, wonderful ideas to help keep the Bookstore viable through 2021. This helps us remain positive for the coming year.

Our goals for 2021 include:

- ~ offer our books, cards and gifts to customers while maintaining covid safety
- ~ increase shopping times from twice per week (Sunday 10-12, Wednesday 10-12)
- ~ encourage use of personal shoppers, utilizing technology with texting and photos
- ~ encourage scheduling of 1-on-1 appointments
- ~ encourage communication of needs by using email at cathedralbooks@yahoo.com

Respectfully submitted,

Board of Directors

Nira Smith Bookstore/Cathedral Books & Gifts

## **OBLATIONER REPORT**

Webster's Dictionary defines an oblationer as "one who makes an offering as an act of worship or reverence". This is usually in the form of bread and wine, while some churches also include food or other offerings to charity. At St. Paul's, lay members bring offerings of bread and wine (Eucharist) to the altar. After the announcements, the wine carafe (cruet) and bread container (ciborium) are carried to the altar steps and handed to an acolyte. Oblationers may come to the altar with their entire family, another parishioner, or by themselves. Most choose to serve with one other person.

Those who fund the purchase of communion, may request to serve as oblationers on the Sunday they provide the bread and wine.

As a precaution, the offering of oblations is on hold until the covid virus is no longer the health concern it is now. St. Paul's has a good, faithful group of oblationers, and I look forward to the day we may resume this very important part of Sunday worship.

Respectfully,

Jana Plowman

## **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. It is one of the thousands of chapters involved in this worldwide ministry.

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 one or more of the guild members. Prior to the presentation the shawls have been blessed at the altar. Since the beginning, there have been 354 shawls given away. Recipients do not have to be members of St. Paul's to receive a prayer shawl. At times we have shipped shawl packages to areas of national disasters. Also, we received gift shawl packages during the Moore tornadoes from other states.

We appreciate all of the friends who have contributed gifts to our ministry such as yarn or cash, and we invite everyone to join us on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 1 pm in the Parlor 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.

All persons who knit or crochet are welcome 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. Many thanks to those who participated this year.

Faithfully,

Sally Alworth

Chairperson and Founder



## USHER GUILD

The Usher program at St. Paul's Cathedral provides an opportunity for our congregation to welcome everyone into the church. The ushers are the first point of contact someone might have with the church. At the beginning of 2020 we had full usher teams at all of our services which was one of the goals going from 2019 to 2020. We were set to have a wonderful 2020, then Covid-19 reared its ugly head. The Ushers are one of the first lines of defense for the safety of our congregation. Our Ushers take the temperature of everyone that attends a service, checks off people from the sign up list and confirms that we have the appropriate number of people at each service. Due to Covid-19 we have many ushers waiting to come back to in person services. If you are interested in becoming an usher please contact me. I enjoy welcoming new ushers at any point in time during the year.

The Ushers serve at 9am & 5pm Sunday services. We are also called upon for funerals and special services such as Christmas and Easter. We were able to fill all the services that requested ushers. Thank you to our wonderful volunteers.

I look forward to welcoming all our ushers back when they feel safe and comfortable.

Ashley Wells

## TAIZÉ CHOIR REPORT

At the beginning of 2020, the Taize choir was looking forward to maybe our best year ever. Service attendance was growing, a new member joined, and we had a great program scheduled for Lent and Easter. In spite of terrible weather we rehearsed and sang a wonderful service on March 1st.

And then the Pandemic Curtain came down.

I have kept in touch with the members as well as I could during this time of rapid change. There is still great enthusiasm for our next steps, which will involve a different and varied schedule, new directions in the services we are asked to do, and new and more wonderful music for service to the congregation and the community.

Mary Reynolds

## VERGER GUILD REPORT

The office of Verger dates back to the 16th Century in the Church of England and is rapidly growing throughout the Anglican Communion today. There are currently over 1400 Vergers throughout the Episcopal Church in the United States. From the website ([vergers.org](http://vergers.org)):

*The role of the verger has its roots in the earliest days of the Church's history. It shares certain similarities with the former minor orders of "porter" and "acolyte." Generally speaking, in the olden days, vergers were responsible for the order and upkeep of the house of worship, including preparations for the liturgy, the conduct of the laity, and grave-digging.*

The purpose of the Verger at St. Paul's is to assist with the successful implementation of each service adding to the effectiveness of the Clergy while assisting to provide the congregation with a respectful and meaningful service. Throughout the year, our Vergers participated in regularly scheduled services, weddings, funerals and special events. We now have 8 trained individuals serving as Vergers.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeff Erwin, FVGEC

## YWCA GUILD REPORT

The YWCA creates an outreach program to help women and children who are abused. They provide the only shelter for battered women and children in Oklahoma County

40 Bags in 40 Days is a project that was conducted in the spring in conjunction with ECW. The congregation members were asked to bring items from their respective homes to donate to Our Sister's Closet. These items are then made available to women who have left their homes to seek shelter from abusive situations. Items not chosen are either sold in the store, Our Sister's Closet, or sold to a vendor to make money for the shelter. This is always a very successful project.

Books in the Library (in the Parlor) can either be kept or returned to the library. The topics of the books range from fiction, religious, historical, non-fiction, craft, etc. People from the congregation donate the

books and are recycled every six months. When the books are recycled, the books that are removed are given to Our Sister's Closet that are then sold. The library seems to be a popular site for people to discover reading materials. This year, however, due to the Covid virus, the books have not been rotated but remain on the shelves for people to check out. A request has not gone out to the congregation to replenish the existing books.

In December, Our Sister's Closet was delighted to receive an outpouring of "gifts" consisting of winter clothes and other items. They had been receiving fewer donations so this was greatly appreciated.

During the Christmas week, mothers who are abused, will leave their homes with their children, leaving presents behind. This means any toys which the children may have received are left behind. The toys given to the YWCA were used to replace those toys and also to be used for birthdays during the year. The donated food will be used by the shelter kitchen in preparing food for meals. Also, the snacks will be placed in the "pantry" which the mothers and children can access.

The St. Paul's congregation is looked upon kindly by the staff at the YWCA. They were so pleased by all of the contributions that they received.

Respectively submitted,  
Carole Owen