

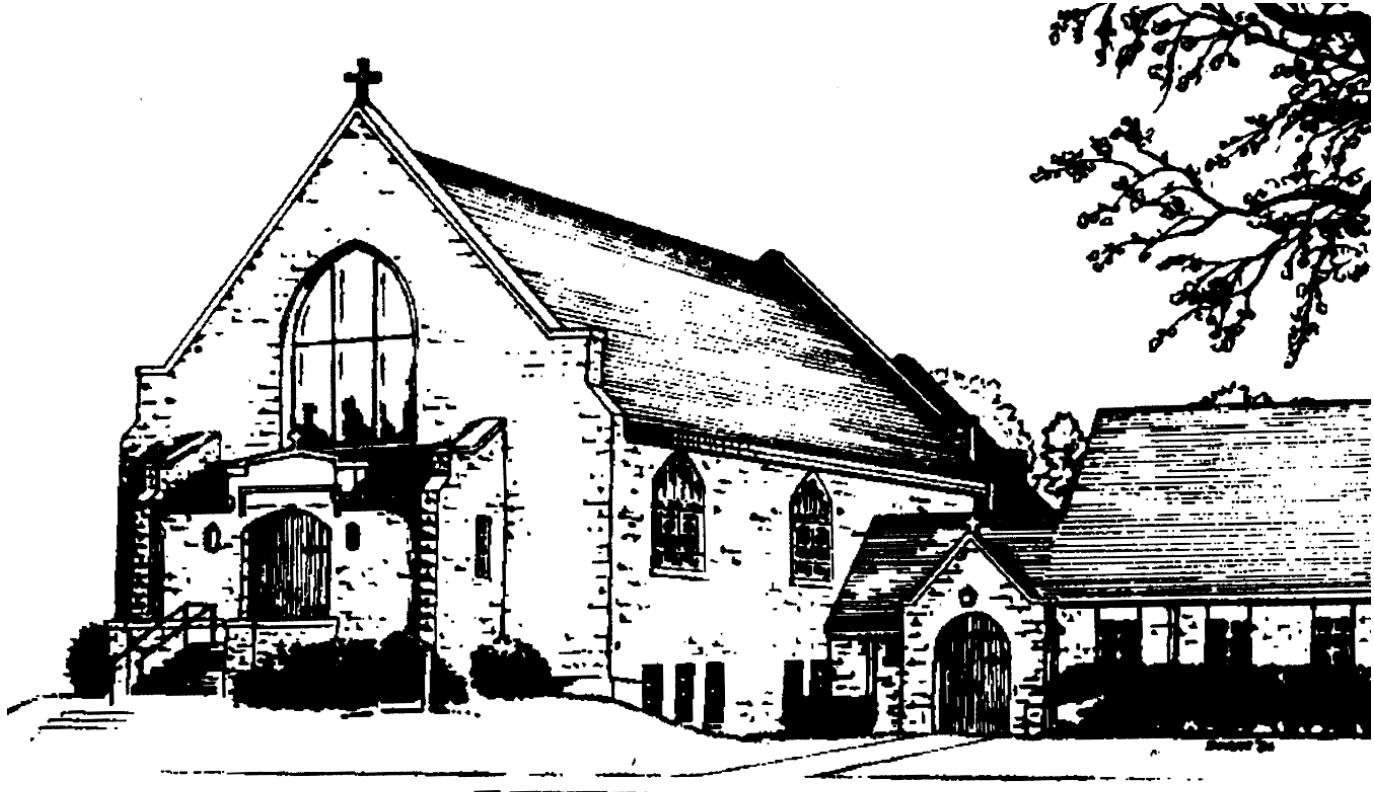
St. Paul's Episcopal Church

P.O. Box 2255

Batesville, Arkansas, 72503

Main Street at Fifth

870-793-2203



*The Mission of St. Paul's is to love God
and to love our neighbor,
sharing with gratitude and reverence the
Light of Christ.*

Parish Report for 2021

January 30, 2022

RECTOR'S REPORT

COVID, COVID, COVID. I looked back on my articles in *The Epistle*, our monthly newsletter, and that is what I wrote about over and over again. It has also infected many of the reports you will read in this report. The pandemic has made these past two years drag on and on with a number of ups and downs. At the beginning of 2021, we thought we were finally seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. We opened our church doors for Holy Week and members slowly began to return to in-person services. As the summer approached, there was even consideration of dropping the mask requirements. But then, there was a new variant, another surge, followed by a new variant, and yet another surge.

We continued to have in-person services while broadcasting online for those who either needed or wanted to quarantine. Attendance has been mixed as the majority shifted from online to in-person and back to online. What's missing for many is the strong sense of community we had before the pandemic. Still, we have done what we can and even managed to have a Garden Party and a Pot Luck before the year's end.

The Men's Group cooked and sold turkeys and the Episcopal Church Women helped meetings and started a new ministry, the Prayer Tree. And, the Community Meal teams continued to serve meals each Wednesday night. Our Morning Prayer group continues to meet by Zoom and is well attended. In addition, the Education for Ministry Group began a new year in the Fall with nine participants. Our children's ministry has suffered the most, but we did join forces with the Presbyterian Church for a weekly after school program on Wednesday evenings.

As you will read in the following reports, the pandemic has slowed us down considerably, but it has not killed our spirit. We have continued to gather for worship, study, fellowship, and service. It is particularly important that we do so today as our world and nation are filled with disease, conflict, and hatred. Our world is polarized and hope is in short supply. Our community needs us. It needs to hear our message of love and acceptance, and we need St. Paul's. St. Paul's is where we can find food for our souls and have our burdens lightened. With this in mind, I want to close with a prayer:

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly through; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* (a prayer "For the Human Family," p 815 in the *Book of Common Prayer*)

Blessings,

Jim+

SENIOR WARDEN

When Father Jim asked me to be his senior warden, I was somewhat surprised. I felt it was a privilege and an honor. I could not tell him no but wondered if I was qualified to serve.

St. Paul's is a great church with a lot of history. The people now are trying to maintain the buildings and property through a difficult time. Even though some of our members are reluctant to attend our live worship services due to COVID concerns, the financial support is holding up.

As senior warden, one of my goals was to be sure we were spending our money wisely. With that said, things don't fix themselves. The following is a short list of the projects we have completed during the past year: installed a new roof; painted the inside of the church; repaired masonry issues that were allowing water to leak

into the church; realized a way to save money by changing the HVAC maintenance plan and improved airflow in the nursery area to comply with health guidelines. Your pledges and extra giving have made possible the projects listed and are vital to keeping St. Paul's in good repair.

The year 2021 was not all bad for our parish and with your help, 2022 can be even better. May God Bless you and your families.

Fred Krug, Senior Warden

JUNIOR WARDEN REPORT

It has been a pleasure serving as your Jr. Warden this past year. Unlike all other years, we have been plagued with COVID and the Church has not been up to normal working order. I have also tried to keep up with things, but then again, I have been having to work a lot of hours at my full-time job.

The work in the inside of the church looks wonderful and maybe we can soon **all** be inside the church enjoying it. The bell tower is our next big project and that too will get done. We are a strong church and look forward to the day that we are all together again.

God Bless,
Brenda, Jr. Warden

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Church ended the year with a net loss of \$6,974.79 against a deficit budget of \$11,576.00. The deficit budget included the church's full pledge to the Episcopal Diocese of Arkansas which totals 10.5% of the previous year's income. For 2021, the pledge was \$25,533; however, in consultation with the Bishop, St. Paul's stopped making the monthly payments in September resulting in \$8,622.68 not being paid. St. Paul's has recently submitted year-end financials to the Diocese with the expectation the balance of the pledge will be forgiven.

As reported last year for the past four years, the Church has had formally approved deficit budgets. From this point forward, it will be difficult to approve a deficit budget without a plan to fund the shortfall. As the balance sheet reflects, the Church's operating account continues to borrow funds from other restricted accounts such as memorials, columbarium, and special building funds. The Church's endowment accounts have continued to perform well which allows us to make quarterly draws from the endowment fund to assist in covering operating expenses without going into the principal amount of the fund.

Like the last few years, receipt of 2022 pledges have been slower than in the past; therefore, a formalized budget will not be approved until as late as the February Vestry meeting. As we go to press with this report, \$222,277 in pledges have been received which represents an increase of \$7,823 from 2021. The finance committee has begun work to recommend a budget for Vestry approval that will continue as many programs and ministries as possible; however, a balanced budget is important for the long-term viability of the Church.

Last year, I reported the Church had worked with Welch, Couch & Company to assist us in rectifying payroll tax errors from several years ago, and we were awaiting an answer on whether the IRS would honor our request to waive penalties and interest charges. The IRS did waive some charges, and we were able to pay the final balance and put the situation behind us.

If you have a question on this report or at any time during the year, please let me know.

Respectfully submitted,
Dwight Ford, Treasurer

Please note the following reports have not been finalized:

Statement of Financial Position – as of 12/31/2021

Accounts	2021 Balance	2020 Balance	\$ Change
Assets			
Cash			
<i>First Community Bank-General Checking</i>			
100100 Operating	(30,894.35)	(24,637.22)	(6,257.13)
100101 General Designated	(512.58)	-	(512.58)
100102 Memorials	38,161.24	35,011.24	3,150.00
100103 Columbarium	7,922.13	5,922.13	2,000.00
100104 ECW Funds	1,187.60	645.60	542.00
100105 Special Building	15,109.64	79,406.07 *	(64,296.43)
100106 Funeral Funds	216.93	-	216.93
Total First Community Bank-General Checking	31,190.61	96,347.82	31,190.61
<i>FCB Non Operating</i>			-
100200 Men's Group Checking	10,264.75	11,281.91	(1,017.16)
100300 Boy Scouts Checking	701.32		701.32
100450 Discretionary Checking	487.88	1,683.59	(1,195.71)
Total FCB Non Operating	11,453.95	12,965.20	(1,511.25)
Total Cash	42,644.56	109,313.02	(66,668.46)
Endowments			-
100700 Craig Farm Endowment	124,341.57	121,385.69	2,955.88
100701 Craig Farm Adj to MV	13,474.99	11,416.46	2,058.53
100702 Craig Farm Cash/Cash Equivalents	4,522.04	4,330.19	191.85
100800 St Paul's Endowment	186,659.30	178,505.07	8,154.23
100801 St Paul's Endow-Adj to MV	57,067.81	53,428.20	3,639.61
100802 St Paul's Endowment Cash	8,287.39	7,911.75	375.64
Total Endowments	394,353.10	376,977.36	17,375.74
Total Assets	436,997.66	486,290.38	(49,292.72)

* *The balance in the Special Building Fund Year Ending 2020 included the grant to pay for the roof which was completed in 2021.*

****Note: The Roof Fund and the Special Building Fund were combined to address the causes of the leaks in the church (roof & mortar) and the inside work necessary to repair the damage from the leaks.**

Statement of Activities (Income/Expenses for the period 1/1/2021 – 12/31/2021)

Accounts	Jan - Dec	Budget	Over /Under
Revenues			
Pledge Offerings			
01-400100 Regular Pledge Offerings	211,154.00	222,517.00	11,363.00
01-400120 Non-Pledge Offerings	10,243.85	8,500.00	(1,743.85)
01-400130 Plate Offerings	2,205.37	1,500.00	(705.37)
Total Pledge Offerings	223,603.22	232,517.00	8,913.78
Other Income			
01-430300 Kennerly Trust Income	1,624.85	1,656.00	31.15
01-430310 End. Inc. Transferred In	18,853.45	18,136.00	(717.45)
Total Other Income	20,478.30	19,792.00	(686.30)
Interest Income			
01-410100 Checking Account Interest	14.68	-	(14.68)
Total Interest Income	14.68	-	(14.68)
Total Revenues	244,096.20	252,309.00	8,212.80
Expenses			
01-591145 Miscellaneous Exp	47.50	-	(47.50)
Outreach			
01-591110 Diocesan Pledge - Regular	16,910.32	25,533.00	8,622.68
Total Outreach	16,910.32	25,533.00	8,622.68
Congregational Programs			
Total Formation	465.00	400.00	(65.00)
Total Liturgy	983.44	950.00	(33.44)
Total Music	1,399.73	700.00	(699.73)
Total Congregational Programs	2,848.17	2,050.00	(798.17)
Administration			
Total Property Expense	70,825.87	70,791.00	(34.87)
Total General Office Expense	5,479.98	8,200.00	2,720.02
Total Fees & Subscriptions	4,711.56	2,100.00	(2,611.56)
Total Administration	81,017.41	81,091.00	73.59
Personnel			
Total Clergy	112,026.98	112,815.00	788.02
Total Church Administration	12,773.72	16,380.00	3,606.28
Total Nursery	-	500.00	500.00
Total Music	18,293.25	18,375.00	81.75
Total Family Ministries	2,350.00	3,900.00	1,550.00
Total Other Personnel Expenses	2,704.36	3,241.00	536.64
Total Personnel	148,148.31	155,211.00	7,062.69
Total Other IRS Settlement	2,099.28	-	(2,099.28)
Total Expenses	251,070.99	263,885.00	12,814.01
Net Total	(6,974.79)	(11,576.00)	(4,601.21)

CHOIR REPORT

Despite a later choir start fall season date, the choir has been gaining in attendance with a return of members and member additions. Continued rise in Omicron infections have been leading to lack of participation of choir members.

The Stinson Music Fund has contributed in supporting guest singers such as Lillie Hall, Charlie-Ann Wade, and Nick Czerwinski, and guest flautist Lidiana Keill. I recommend the retention of singer Nick Czerwinski as a regular paid voice section leader for the spring term, with understanding of limited budget.

I applaud the work and dedication of the choir participants, and especially give recognition to organist/accompanist Kristian Ameigh whose dedication, commitment, and work have been exemplary.

Michael Oriatti, Choir Director

FAMILY MINISTRIES

This year we decided to join First Presbyterian in their Wednesday afternoon kids program named SLAM, which stands for “Serving, Learning And Maturing”. The kids play some, have music with Ms. Suzanne, and then we have a lesson and snacks! Some lessons have games, some have crafts. Others are in the form of a skit! We’ve even had some *Escape Room* bible lessons where the kids have to use the Bible passages from the lesson to get the clues!

I have had an awesome time each week with these kids! We started with about 7-8 kids and now we’re averaging 10-13 between both congregations. We would love to grow this with even more St. Paul’s kids!

In Christ,
Nikki Bittle

SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR-END REPORT 2021

Father Jim, Nikki Bittle, Julie Dozier and I had tried very hard to connect with our kids through Zoom Sunday school in the winter and spring of 2021, but found that most kids were “zoomed out.” We continued with the Mardi Gras medallions, sending home the shrinky dink material with instructions, as we had for several other projects. Nikki and Julie also worked on the Mother’s Day flowers and they delivered these. We were able to hold a big Easter Egg hunt, as it was outside, but the attendance was pretty small – so kids racked up in eggs! We had no Sunday school celebration, but certainly recognized our most faithful in attendance, Karis, in late May.

Sunday school started off well in the fall of 2021, with 2 new volunteers, Ryan Mulick and Sophia Stalker, in addition to Nikki, Julie, and me. We have returned to the “Weaving God’s Promises” curriculum in Year II. This curriculum follows the Church lectionary readings, and is very versatile with many activities for every lesson.

We have continued with music, puppet shows, lessons, snacks, and crafts – but adjusted the start time to 10:30 to accommodate parents attending church. This time restriction will hopefully lift if life ever gets close to normal. We were delighted to have the Sullins family and the Krug girls join Sunday school this fall, and also to have Karis do the music a few times, including playing for Christmas eve family service.

We look forward to your children and grandchildren coming back to Sunday school. We are thankful for the support of the Men’s group in helping to give our space a facelift, and, we are still here to share the love and light of Christ with the future of our church.

-Suzanne Magouyrk

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY (EfM)

EfM is a four-year program of study offered by the University of the South at Sewanee. In addition to studying the Old Testament, New Testament, Church History, and Theology, it builds community. St. Paul's EfM is now in its third year. It ended the Spring Semester meeting via Zoom with three first-year and five second-year participants. In the Fall Term, it began with a combined in-person and Zoom meeting on Monday nights. There are three first-year, three second-year, and three third-year participants. Zoom has made it possible for members to participate when out of town or when quarantined. In the fall, we anticipate having members of our group studying each of the four-years of study. This past Christmas, members of the group turned its attention to mission by supporting the Angel Tree ministry and purchasing gifts for ten children. Some have found it be a "life saver" during the pandemic.

Fr. Jim

ALTAR GUILD

Members of the Altar Guild have adapted to preparing for online services then back to in person services. The same amount of work goes into preparation regardless of how many or few people are in the congregation.

I've read of other guilds who have six or fewer people for the entire year and I am so grateful for our twenty or so devoted volunteers who know when their turns come without being asked.

We brought back the full festive Christmas decorations with poinsettias and lit tree. It really felt good. Christmas memorials and thank offerings helped pay for the added flowers and greenery.

The largest expense for altar supplies is the candle oil which has been consistent.

Once again, thanks to our guild members for their dedicated service. To volunteer to work on the altar for a month, call Jo Cargill-Krug at 870-613-6981.

Jo Cargill-Krug

THE EPISTLE

The monthly newsletter has been published for over three years closer to four years. As editor, I need to give credit to the church secretaries who assemble the articles and supply part of the information. I couldn't do it without the layout and design person.

I've thoroughly enjoyed doing the member profiles. I feel as if I've made a new friend each time I interview a member. Thanks to all who have allowed me to feature them.

I would love to have submissions of information and/or pictures for our publication. Send to jo33car@gmail.com. The Epistle is sent out via email or through snail mail on or near the first of each month. If you know of someone who isn't receiving it, please contact the church office with their correct email address.

Jo Cargill-Krug

LAY MINISTERS

Last year was a year of transition for us. Each time we have tried to "return to normal" the pandemic has forced us to take a step back. To allow for distancing and minimize risks of exposure, we have limited the number of laity serving at the front of the church to one person who serves as our acolyte, reader, and Eucharistic Minister. Not all of our laity who have served before the pandemic are willing to do so now - so all the scheduling (including for ushers) is being done in the office.

I will be forever grateful to Paul Hance for his leadership with the ushers and his ongoing support. He has elected not to continue to serve as our coordinator for our ushers and this leaves a void that I hope to fill in the near future. Our ushers: Nikki & Brenda Bittle, Pam Baxter, Fuller Bumpers, Lee Conditt, Tim Dunlap, Paul Hance, Fred Krug, Pat Mulick, Mike & Rhonda Mundy, Ardis & Cameron Gillespie, and Casey Castleberry (until his family moved to Little Rock) have served us well in this most challenging time. We could always use some more if you would be willing to help. Our ushers perform a significant ministry in our church, are the first to greet visitors and make them feel welcome.

The ministry of our Lay Eucharistic Ministers also contributes greatly to our service. I am grateful to all who have served: Danell Hetrick, Gary Perkey, Mike Schmidt, Brenda Bittle, Paul Hance, Laura Hance, Ardis Gillespie, Cameron Gillespie, Nikki Bittle, Steve Massey (as of December), Dave Allen, and Cathy McDonald (who fills in upon occasion).

Blessings,

Jim+

MEN'S GROUP

2021 was another year affected by COVID. We usually have a monthly meeting to set up and organize our community fundraisers, but we were not able to have these. We also usually have four fundraisers (Mardi Gras party, shrimp dinner, Oktoberfest celebration and the turkey sale) that allow us to contribute to multiple community services. This year we were only able to have the turkey sale for our fundraisers.

With that being said we were still able to sponsor five different community services. We did sponsor the retirement party for Russell Stinson, COVID-19 community vaccine shot and the church garden party. We also sponsored the Sulphur Rock Success Program and the BJHS Backpack Program.

Hopefully this COVID virus will get better and we can all get back and enjoy the church functions that bring us all together.

Thanks,

Scott McSpadden

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW)

During the past year, St. Paul's Episcopal Church Women have continued to meet (almost) monthly. We were thrilled to resume meeting in person and to fellowship in one another's homes once again!

This year we are using the book Surprise the World: The Five Habits of Highly Missional People by Michael Frost to help us carry our personal faith outside the church doors and into the world to share with others. Each month we focus on one of the five habits (blessing, eating, listening, learning, sending) and how we can incorporate that habit into our daily lives. One project we completed this year was the installation of the Prayer Tree area on the church's front lawn. It is accessible to church members and the public to add prayers or to sit quietly. In addition, we took over the *Little Free Library* ministry and Martha Healey is now keeping it stocked with books. Other ECW activities included a United Thank Offering ingathering, selling greenery, and participating in diocesan ECW activities both in person and online. We offer our sincere thanks to Inga Grahn for donating another gorgeous gingerbread house and Kristian Ameigh for auctioning said house amidst much laughter and enthusiasm. As the calendar page turns once again, we look forward to another year of learning, praying, and strengthening one another and our community.

All women who attend the Episcopal Church are considered Episcopal Church Women. Please join us as we gather the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully,
Terri Crawford

COMMUNITY MEALS

This has been another different year for the community meal teams. We briefly reopened the doors to the Parish Hall and served meals inside, but the Delta Variant necessitated our return to take out only. During the time we served people inside, our numbers began increasing. The numbers quickly declined, again, once we returned to carry out only. What's missing is the sense of community that many value as much as the meal. Still, our teams continue to faithfully serve whoever does come, and the meals are appreciated.

God bless you all,

Brenda Bittle