

PARISH OF ST. PAUL



ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

January 26, 2025

1135 Walnut Street, Newton Highlands, MA 02461

www.parishofstpaul.org

AGENDA

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WARRANT OF ANNUAL MEETING

TO BE HELD *IN-PERSON AND REMOTE/VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING* ON

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2025

(IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING OUR 10:30AM WORSHIP SERVICE)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 2025 Annual Meeting of the Episcopal Parish of St. Paul, Newton Highlands (the "Parish") will be held in accordance with Section 7.1 of the Parish By-Laws on the date and time and at the locations set forth in this Warrant for the purposes of:

- (a) Acting upon the report of the Nominating Committee which is attached hereto;
- (b) Reviewing and discussing the reports of the Priest in charge, Co-Wardens, Treasurer, Parish Committees and Ministries to be distributed at or before the Annual Meeting; and
- (c) Any other matters that may properly come before the Annual Meeting.

The Vestry encourages all Members of the Parish to participate in our Annual Meeting. Article 3 of our By-Laws provides that all baptized persons, sixteen years of age or older, who acknowledge the authority of the By-laws of the Parish and who declare an intention to support the Parish by regular attendance at public worship and by financial support, shall be considered Members of the Parish entitled to vote in its affairs. Without limitation of the foregoing, submission of a signed annual pledge card is deemed presumptive evidence of any such person's necessary declaration of intent.

To attend the Annual Meeting in person, please join us in the church sanctuary at 1135 Walnut Street, Newton Highlands.

To join us from your computer, please visit our website: www.parishofstpaul.org for appropriate link information. Alternatively, you may call in to our meeting from any telephone. If you do not already have a Zoom passcode, or need phone dial-in information, please contact our Parish Administrator Lise (at office@parishofstpaul.org or by phone to (617) 527-6642) no later than 1:00pm on Wednesday, January 22, 2025 to request the necessary link or access codes.

THE VESTRY

Rev. Dr. Meghan T. Sweeney, Priest-in-Charge	Kim Koger, Co-Warden
David Montgomery, Co-Warden	Richard Pearce, Treasurer
Bernice Cramer, Clerk	Kathryn Anderson
Christopher Gruener	Margaret Hummel
	Dustin Ledgard

Posted on January 12, 2025 by:



David P. Montgomery, Co-Warden

Parish of St Paul
Annual Meeting Minutes
January 28, 2024

The Annual Meeting was opened by David Montgomery and Kim Koger at 12pm, in the Sanctuary.

There were 12 people in attendance in person, and 2 people online. In person were Phil Whitbeck, Eliza Blay, Brenda Carter, Tricia Tyler, Kathryn and Ken Anderson, Margaret Hummel, Lee Hatfield, Chris Gruener, Richard Pearce, David Montgomery, Kim Koger. Online were Bernice Cramer and Toney Hopkins.

Kim opened with a prayer for a meeting of the parish, from the BCP. We started the meeting with a word of appreciation for the life of our parishioner and friend, Betty Murray, with her dedication to hospitality, her guidance of the establishment of the meditation garden, and her gift of property which will help support the life of the parish.

Kim proposed that we open the meeting, and declared that we are in open session. The vestry also approved a resolution that we include those participating virtually in the meeting.

Phil asked whether we had a quorum. A quorum is defined as 40% of the attendance on an average Sunday. Our average has been 20 people, and we have 14 in attendance, so we have a quorum.

Minutes

Margaret moved that we approve last year's minutes, Tricia seconded. Unanimously approved.

Nominations

Our newest vestry member is proposed to be Dustin Ledgard, who is working today and unable to attend this meeting. Dustin is proposed for a two-year term. Margaret will be filling the second year of John McDargh's term, as she is eligible for one more year on the vestry.

The parish offered its heartfelt thanks to John McDargh for his work on the vestry and in the many other ways he has participated in the life of the parish.

Phil has offered to serve as one of our Convention delegates. Tricia also offered to be an alternate. There will be two conventions this year in May and November.

Lee moved to approve, Tricia seconded the Nomination slate.

Wardens' Report highlights from the past year:

- The conclusion of our relationship with Cara
- The loss of our longtime parishioner and friend Betty Murray
- The advent of new supply priests who have helped us open a new chapter
- The start of a mutually beneficial relationship with New City
- The continuation of our priest search process with new Canon Greg Perez, including the completion of our parish profile so that we can start seeing what candidates might be available. The plan is to have the profile completed by Feb 10 at the vestry meeting, including much input from parishioners.

Worship:

The committee no longer meets as a committee, but is a group who influences our worship in many ways. On a weekly basis, we look at the draft bulletin and suggest changes, including using inclusive language. We want our liturgy to feel welcoming, and we work on the liturgy to reinforce that precept.

Margaret offered a word of special thanks to David for his work and care with the readings and the bulletin.

We offer our thanks to the parish musicians, whose work is central to our celebration of worship.

Altar guild:

We so appreciate the work that goes into the altar guild's work, including the constant supply of home-baked wafers.

Pastoral care:

The pastoral care committee started a new way of working this year, including having members reach out to members of the parish to see how things are going, and whether there is any way we can support them.

Creation care:

We had several parish meetings this year using the Pachamama Alliance materials. That material will start up again sometime later this year.

Global Village Children's Project:

Thanks to everyone who has supported the GVCP this year, including support of Anne during her medical needs, and support of the project and children in Uganda. Anne will need to come back to Boston for checkups this year and we are looking for someone who might be able to host her at that time.

Thanks especially to Mary Lou for bringing in a grant to support GVCP.

Project Plenty:

Thank you for all your bottles and cans as well as cash donations—we met our commitment to send \$600 per year. These funds have a big impact to the children in southern Belize.

Centre Street Food Pantry:

They are now serving 1,400 families—huge growth since we started it. We are looking for more ways to support them. A very worthwhile endeavor.

Hospitality:

We deeply miss Betty Murray's stewardship of the hospitality function. Anyone who would like to host coffee hour should raise their hand and choose a date. We have had quite a number of events in the last year, and plan more of them, including an inauguration of the new rainbow chairs.

Communications:

Our website really needs to be updated. It's running but needs to be modernized. This will be very important when we are in the search process. We do have a technical advisor who can help put things up on the web, but we need people to suggest content.

Tricia moved to approve all these reports, and Kathryn seconded.

Treasurer's report:

Cash holdings stayed the same over the year. The stock market holdings that had fallen in 2022 turned around and rose in 2023, bringing us back to the point we had been. Our net resources rose by 16% during the period (stocks and cash).

We plan to budget for a 50% time priest, as we did last year. We realize that there is no priest in residence now, but this budget shows what a run rate budget would look like. We plan to show a slight surplus in 2024, due to two factors: 1) our new relationship with New City as our tenant and 2) Betty Murray's bequest of a rental property.

Finances now look very much better than they did in 2022.

Our pledge income will be down about 10% this year. We have not lost any pledging units, other than Betty, but some people reduced their pledges. We expect our rental income (including the rectory, the rectory apartment, New City, Betty's bequest, the theater group, AA, and a few other hall rentals) to exceed our pledge income this year.

Our investment draw from the endowment in 2023 was set at the standard 4%.

On the expense side, we plan for a 50% time priest, few capital projects, and minimal change in operating expenses.

We ended 2023 in a break-even situation, better than expected. The main reason for this was salary savings after Cara's departure and minimal property repairs.

The Diocesan Assessment went down significantly in 2023, and will be up a slight amount in 2024. It is based on a 2-year look back at revenue. Because the assessment is now looking at Covid days, it's reflecting a significantly lower level of activity. Liquid assets increased in 2023, reflecting a good year in the stock market.

We are still repaying the loan for the new heating system. The loan is very low interest.

The Diocesan Audit was passed, but going forward they asked for a total financial picture including property value as well as liquid assets.

Margaret moved that we accept the Treasurer's report, and it was seconded by Tricia.

The parish expressed its appreciation for Richard's unflagging work in keeping our paperwork and our finances in line. The parish also expressed thanks to Olive, who is assiduous in making sure that we have everything in order.

Phil commented that we should make sure to recognize Olive's hard work with financial appreciation in addition to our thanks.

Kathryn commented that so many people contribute to the work of the parish on a daily basis, and we expressed thanks especially to the co-wardens for their incredible work on behalf of the church.

Kathryn moved that we adjourn, and Lee seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Bernice Cramer, Clerk

EPISCOPAL PARISH OF ST. PAUL
JANUARY 2025
REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The following slate of nominees is presented to the Parish at its Annual Meeting for approval. The term for each position shall commence on January 26, 2025 immediately following the Annual Meeting of the Parish. Under our Parish By-laws, officers serve one-year terms and non-officer Vestrypersons serve two-year terms (unless specifically elected for a shorter term). All officers and Vestrypersons are limited to a maximum of six years continuous service in such position.

<u>POSITION</u>	<u>NAME</u>
Co-Wardens ¹ :	Kim Koger David Montgomery
Treasurer ² :	Richard Pearce
Clerk ³ :	Bernice Cramer
Vestrypersons ⁴ :	Kathryn Anderson (1 past year and 1 more year) Chris Gruener (2 years) Open – and waiting for you to raise your hand! (2 years)
Diocesan Convention Delegates:	Open – and waiting for you to raise your hand! (two delegates and one alternate)
Deanery Delegates:	Mary Lou Pierron David Montgomery

Abundant thanks to Margaret Hummel who is completing a six-year tenure as Vestryperson at this year's Annual Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dr. Meghan T. Sweeney, Priest-in-Charge
Kim Koger, Co-Warden
David Montgomery, Co-Warden
Richard Pearce, Treasurer
Bernice Cramer, Clerk

¹ Kim has served as our Co-Warden for the past three years and David has served for the past two years. Both are nominated for an additional one-year term as Co-Warden.

² Richard has served for three years as our Treasurer and is nominated for an additional one-year term. Under our Parish By-laws, our Assistant Treasurer (if any) is appointed by the Vestry rather than elected by the Parish.

³ Bernice has served for two years as our Clerk and is nominated for an additional one-year term.

⁴ Margaret Hummel has just completed a one-year term as a Vestryperson (having served continuously in such position for six years). Through an administrative oversight during the period around our 2024 annual meeting, we mistakenly believed then that Kathryn Anderson had one year remaining in her two-year term, whereas her term concluded at that Annual Meeting. To fix that unintentional oversight, we are asking the parish this year (i) to elect Kathryn now for a two-year term with an effective start date of the 2024 Annual Meeting and expiring at the 2026 Annual Meeting and (ii) to ratify and approve all actions of the Vestry taken since that time up to this year's Annual Meeting with Kathryn's consistent involvement and participation in same. Chris Gruener has just completed a two-year term as Vestryperson and is presently nominated for an additional two-year term. As of the posting of the Warrant for the 2025 Annual Meeting on January 12, 2025, one slot for a two-year term as Vestryperson remains open and expressions of interest in so serving from members of the parish are most welcome. If this position is not filled during this year's Annual Meeting, our Bylaws provide that the Vestry may appoint someone to serve in such capacity until the parish's next Annual Meeting. Dustin Ledgard continues to serve as a Vestryperson pursuant to his election at the 2024 Annual Meeting (with his term expiring at the 2026 Annual Meeting).

Episcopal Parish of St. Paul

Co-Wardens' Report 2024

Our parish work in 2024 focused primarily on (i) keeping our weekly worship services vibrant in the absence of our own sitting priest, and (ii) stewarding POSP through the diocesan-run process of calling a new Priest-in-Charge with the help of our new Regional Canon, Rev. Gregory Perez. It is a blessing and a relief to round up this church year secure in the knowledge that with the generous helping hands of numerous parishioners wearing many hats, we have largely succeeded in these two efforts.

Vestry spent many months studying the parish profiles of other parishes from around the country and painstakingly putting together our own. Kathryn Murphy Anderson and Bernice Cramer were especially hands-on in producing the final product, which graced the diomass.org website while Canon Greg+ received names of priest-in-charge candidates for us. Our profile can still be read and enjoyed on the landing page of the parishofstpaul.org website to this day. We tried hard to capture the best of ourselves, our past, and our dreams without misrepresenting the amount of time and energy, and openness to taking on additional leadership roles that we may currently possess within our congregation.

During the several months of preparing our search documents, we were increasingly challenged at keeping our Sundays supplied with clergy preachers and celebrants. We had a generous level of special help from our dear parish friend Rev. Ed Cardoza before he left the Diocese of Massachusetts to become Priest-in-Charge at Grace Church in Manchester, New Hampshire. Our frequent summer regular, Rev. Isabel Geller, was working as a school chaplain in New York City, but she did provide supply for us on several occasions when she happened to be in state. Working Sunday by Sunday, we made it through the summer, with occasional field trips to neighboring parishes: multiple times to the Sunday evening Celtic Eucharist at Good Shepherd, Waban, as well as St. John's, Grace, and Trinity. We did a joint service under our own roof with NewCity Church, led by good friends Rev. Rita Powell and Pastor Devlin Scott. Canon Rev. Gregory Perez visited twice in April—celebrating with and for us on Palm Sunday—and also on April 21 as we were putting the finishing touches on our parish profile. Meanwhile, the Diocese was preparing to elect a new diocesan bishop at Convention in May. On Sunday, April 28, Rev. Meghan Sweeney celebrated at POSP for the first time, and she was with us again on Sunday, June 16 when we hosted the church debut of Dustin Ledgard's inspiring and masterful Wild Geese composition. In the whole year, we had only one Sunday in our own building without a priest, a lovely morning prayer service in June led by Margaret Hummel, after which we celebrated the launch of our rainbow chairs, including a party with music led by Kathryn Murphy Anderson and David Montgomery on the front lawn.

Several parishioners expressed their wish that Rev. Meghan might be able to serve as our priest, so it was a joy to hear from Canon Greg+ that she had expressed interest in our position. Much of the summer was spent with Vestry members interviewing Meghan+ in

pairs to get to know each other and discern if the parish fit seemed right—which it did. There were additional weeks of preparing the official covenant of ministry documentation.

We were fortunate to have our finances in good order with extra rental income from a special Down Under Yoga program and our ongoing relationship with NewCity Church. We were able to express with confidence and integrity our ability to call Rev Meghan as a half-time priest, as we had been advised to do by our diocesan consultants.

The end of the summer brought the disappointment of accepting the resignation of crackerjack parish administrator, Olive Woodward, followed by the joy of hearing that Olive was able to connect us to an equally amazing colleague, Lise Brody, who was interested in the job. Olive left our parish affairs in much better shape than she found them, and she was thorough and generous in sharing with Lise much guidance about how to succeed in such a multi-dimensional position. Having Lise as our parish administrator has made “all things possible” in our happy transition to being a parish with a priest—as she has seamlessly taken over the production of the weekly bulletins, paying the bills, keeping the accounts, and making appointments to maintain our property and do repairs and improvement as needed—along with a variety of other tasks that regularly come across her desk in consultation with Rev. Meghan.

Three other important events of note that occurred this year include (i) the passing in March of our dear friend and fellow parishioner, Toney Hopkins, whose life we celebrated in April; (ii) the retirement of Bishop Alan Gates and the ordination and consecration of the Rt Rev. Julia Whitworth as our new Bishop Diocesan in October; and (ii) the ordination to the priesthood of our beloved friend and former parishioner, Mandi Rice, in early December.

It has been a slow and deliberate joy to welcome Rev. Meghan to POSP and to commence the process of helping her to feel at home among us. Over the last months, Meghan has delved into the details of the everyday workings of the parish - worship, finances, property, and people - building a knowledge base that will empower us to zoom out to the wider, more spiritual questions of who we are, how we want to go forward as a parish, and what our immediate goals should be. We look forward to the weekend of March 8 and 9, when Canon Greg+ will lead Vestry in a Mutual Ministry Review and goal setting exercise with our Priest-in-Charge on Saturday--and then come back the next day for a Sunday Eucharist to celebrate Meghan+'s new ministry with us.

We enter this new parish year with thanksgiving and hope.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Koger and David Montgomery



Episcopal Parish of St. Paul

Report from the Priest-in-Charge 2024

Dear Friends in Christ,

What a whirlwind four months it's been for me since I began at St. Paul's in mid-September (the timing of the program and liturgical year was sort of like merging into heavy traffic during rush hour). In these brief four months, we've had a few significant events in the life of our parish and our diocese: a parish Evensong with the Jubilate Chamber Choir; the ordination and consecration of our new bishop diocesan, the Rt. Rev. Julia Whitworth, for which I served as a moderator for a candidate Meet and Greet and on the Elections Committee in the spring, and on the Consecration Committee this past fall; our annual Diocesan Convention, for which I serve as chair of the Resolutions Committee; and the special liturgical and musical events of Advent and Christmas, including shared Lessons and Carols with Grace and St. John's Churches, our own service of Solace and Strength, and our Ugly Sweater Sing-a-Long.

These past few months have also been a time of getting to know the ins and outs of this campus. It's been a crash course in beginning to come to understand the building and who does what, who our tenants are, what the physical plant needs, challenges, and opportunities are, and how we as a parish want to think about our building use, an asset for mission that we have been gifted to steward. There is still so much for me to learn and understand, not the least of which are basic things like how to turn on certain lights!

The best part of my time with you has been, of course, YOU! I have so enjoyed getting to know you: individually in coffee hour and pastoral conversations, and corporately through liturgical practices, and outreach, pastoral, and mission commitments. I very much look forward to getting to know you better and deepening in relationship.

The challenge of being part-time is – and yes, this is obvious, but it's worth saying – that my time and bandwidth are limited. While this can be a frustration for you and for me (my own preference and personality is always to get in and get something done as quickly as possible!), I am trying to think of this time and mental bandwidth limitation as an invitation to move at a marathon pace (note: *not* a snail's pace), not a sprint pace, and in collaboration with all of you. The invitation to a parish with a part-time clergyperson, something you came to be familiar with during your time without a priest, is to recognize that ministry is fundamentally shared – the priesthood of all believers – and that while the clergyperson plays a significant role, especially in our liturgical and sacramental tradition, each of us is called through our baptism to be leaven in the parish and in the world.

As a parish, we certainly have our challenges, which in their own ways are mission and evangelism opportunities. We all see that we are few in number. And while it would be nice to have more people to serve in the various roles in the parish, my sense is that our starting place for discernment needs to be to come to better understand the needs of our local community and begin to address these needs in ways that feel core to St. Paul's as a parish community in the Episcopal tradition. We read almost every day now about the epidemic of loneliness, which has been exacerbated since the pandemic. I believe there is a deep hunger for connection through transcendence and community, and I also sense that, paradoxically, people may be commitment-averse and relationship-averse. We will need to find ways to connect with others – connections we may not ever know about! – to live into our baptismal promise to seek and serve Christ in all people, loving our neighbors as ourselves. In this regard, I think this community of St. Paul's has much to offer and is well poised to do so. And we are blessed that we are in a good position financially.

Finally, I want to offer my deep thanks to all of you for your warm welcome and support not just of me, but also of my spouse Margaret and five-year-old Elliot. I am so appreciative of your commitment to this parish and the hope you have. I express my gratitude as well to Brenda Carter and Dustin Ledgard, our keyboardists, to Wilson Santana, our groundskeeper, and to Lise Brody, our new parish administrator. And, I want to especially thank our wardens, Kim Koger and David Montgomery. The three of us have met almost every week since I began, to share with me about the parish and to help me learn. Most especially, I have found in them patient and thoughtful listeners and problem solvers, and I am grateful for their abiding commitment to me *and* to you, the parish. I am grateful that both are willing to continue to serve as wardens for this upcoming year as I continue to learn about and better understand St. Paul's.

Someone asked me a few weeks ago about why our closing hymn at the end of a liturgy is titled "ProceSSIONal Hymn" and not "Recessional Hymn." The reason for this is that we process out into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit, to love and serve God and God's people. My prayer for St. Paul's for this coming year is that we deepen in faith, and process out into the world to answer God's invitation to us to love and serve.

Please continue to pray for me as I pray for you.

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Meghan T. Sweeney', followed by a plus sign.

The Rev. Dr. Meghan T. Sweeney, Priest-in-Charge
January 2025



Episcopal Parish of St. Paul Altar Guild 2024

The Altar Guild continues to prepare for Sunday Services by setting the communion table and caring for the linens and vessels used for communion. Altar Guild members are Margaret Hummel, Amy Jensen-Trueblood, Marylou Pierron, Ellie Pandorf, and Jack Blay.

We are especially fortunate to have the artistic talents of Amy Jensen-Trueblood, who so beautifully decorated the church and altar for Advent and Christmas.

New members are always welcome to join us.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellie Pandorf



Episcopal Parish of St. Paul Pastoral Care Report 2024



Throughout 2024 the Pastoral Care Committee sought to minister to members of our parish in the spirit of Jesus implicit question - "What if we all love each other?!" With

this challenge in mind, throughout the year we sought to weave more securely the fabric of our parish family both by making regular “check in” calls to our fellow Parish members and by visiting with those in the Parish who were ill or where lending a needed hand could be of help. Likewise, we cared for each other when a listening ear could offer a needed boost.

With the coming of The Rev. Dr. Meghan Sweeney to be Priest in Charge at the Parish of St Paul, a new chapter in the Pastoral Care Committee’s mission has begun. Shifting away from lay leadership, we have begun looking to Meghan for dialog and guidance on how best to serve the pastoral care needs of all in our parish as together we seek to respond to that wonderful possibility that Jesus continues to pose for each of us.



Respectfully submitted by Chris Gruener for the Pastoral Care Team



Episcopal Parish of St. Paul Hospitality Report 2024

In 2024, we celebrated many Sunday coffee hours together usually in the parish hall and sometimes in the beautiful weather of our front church yard. Kim Koger, Mary Lou Pierron, and Margaret Hummel were most often the hospitality organizers.

We also produced a series of more elaborate events for parish bonding and in recognition of important events, which could not have occurred without the help of a larger crew of hospitality helpers including Kathryn and Ken Murphy Anderson, Brenda Carter, and David Montgomery. We had a lunch buffet at our Annual Meeting, as is our tradition. We had a more elaborate lunch for our Easter coffee hour, while New City provided the festive atmosphere in the front church yard with their bouncy

house. We had a very festive June with a big picnic lunch to celebrate Mandi Rice's ordination to the diaconate on the weekend of June 1 and 2. On June 16 we had a community church yard party to launch our rainbow chairs. We had an extra big coffee hour to welcome Rev. Meghan on her first Sunday with us in September catered by our neighborhood colleagues at Laikon Patisserie on the corner of Lincoln and Walnut Sts. We have started a run as the home parish of the Jubilate Chamber Choir led by Mary Jodice with Richard and Elizabeth Pearce as our musician connections to the ensemble. Their first performance here on November 3, instigated a festive afterparty in the parish hall on the first dark night after the time change. One of our largest and most unique events was the third annual Tuesday of Thanksgiving week Indigenous Peoples Dinner brought to us by Rev Devlin and the City of Newton Indigenous Peoples Day Committee. We ended the festive Christmas season with a secular carol sing in the parish hall with very festive snacks organized by Brenda Carter and the music community of POSP.

We are lucky to have a well-stocked kitchenette and kitchen in the basement, and a tradition of enjoying festive events like 12th Night, Mardi Gras, and Holy Saturday over the years. Any parishioners--or community partners--who are inspired to do so, should feel free to suggest party and gathering opportunities to be offered in our space using our facilities.

Hospitably submitted,
Kim Koger



Episcopal Parish of St. Paul Global Village Children's Project Report 2024



With steady financial and volunteer support from members of St Paul's and others, the Global Village Children's Project was able this past year to not only continue providing education, housing, medical care and good nutrition to the young people being served in past years, but also to bring one new child under its protective wings!

As in past years, GVCP director Anne Muyanga came to the USA for a medical check up, and to share with us her work with orphaned and disadvantaged children in Uganda. While here, Anne presented – with helpful assistance from St Paul's volunteers - a marvelous fundraising program that led ultimately to the meeting of urgently needed tuition funding. Following that event, our St Paul's "neighbor", Rev. Devlin Scott – Pastor of the New City Church – helped Anne to create a video of her work which is now available on the Global Village Children's Project website at <https://gvcporphans.org>.

In addition to offering thanks to Rev. Scott, the GVCP team extends gratitude to our own Mary Lou Pierron whose grant writing skills once again lead to generous funding support from the Loretto Community, which in turn made possible the meeting of special medical needs of children in the care of the GVCP, repairs to the organization's truck, and replacement of damaged irrigation equipment.

Many, many thanks to all who have played a part in the ongoing success of the GVCP's mission!

Respectfully submitted for the GVCP Team by Chris Gruener (who would love to hear from all who may wish to bring their skills into volunteer service of the GVCP. He can be reached at 617-965-6552 or at crossroadscounseling101@gmail.com)



Episcopal Parish of St. Paul Plenty Belize and Our “Trash to Treasure” Project 2024



2024 marked the 25th consecutive year that St Paul’s volunteers recycled bottles and cans to support the various programs of “Plenty” www.plenty.org. At 5 cents per container – and with some additional financial donations – proceeds collected to support the development work of Plenty in Belize and elsewhere, totaled \$600. Seen above are students in the Jalacte Village School in Southern Belize, performing manual pest control in their organic garden – a project that was aided financially by Plenty - thereby assuring that the vegetables they are growing will survive to find their way into their school’s hot lunch program! Plenty in Belize is now moving on to focus on other sustainable development work in Belize. Great pics of the school gardens and other projects of Plenty in Belize can be seen at <https://plenty.org/program/plenty-belize/>!

All the plastic, glass and aluminum that St Paul’s recycled this past year could otherwise have ended up as landfill. But thanks to everyone who brought in recyclables and everyone who helped with delivery to the recycling center, our trash was turned into the “Treasure” of sustainable development projects in rural southern Belize.

Many thanks to everyone who played a part in our 2024 recycling efforts.

If you would like to help make 2025 another spectacular recycling success please contact Chris Gruener at crossroadscounseling101@gmail.com or at (617) 965-6552..

Respectfully submitted by Chris Gruener for the St Paul’s Plenty Support Team



Episcopal Parish of St. Paul Centre Street Food Pantry Report 2024

The annual report for the food pantry we helped to found just reported that, on their first service day in January, they expect to greet folks from 250 households! One of their popular offerings is the Kids Club Fresh Program, which provides milk, sandwich rolls and fresh fruit for lunches. There are 250 volunteers who continue to serve people faithfully at Trinity Church in Newton Centre. Our donations are still very much needed! Their report also notes that “the majority of people using food pantries still identify themselves as food insecure.”

It has been our habit over the years to raise funds twice a year specifically for the food pantry, and to invite folks to bring food donations. Let’s keep up the good work!

Respectfully submitted by Margaret Hummel



Episcopal Parish of Saint Paul
Treasurer's Report for year ended December 31, 2024, with
Proposed Budget for 2025

Summary

In calendar (fiscal) year 2024, our combined cash holdings (bank balances and money market) rose by \$49,739 (17%). The value of our stock investments rose very strongly by \$101,173 (26%), broadly in line with the general market.

Overall, this means that our total net resources (not including the value of our properties) have risen by 25% in 2024, from \$629,349 to the current \$787,025.

Looking forward to 2025, and under the base assumption that we carry on as we are presently doing for the full coming year, we project a small cashflow surplus of \$6,600 for the year, without the usual draw from our long-term investments.

Stewardship and Pledges

A small number of pledgers have left us, with the expected number for 2025 falling to 23 from 27 in 2024. However, the pledge average has risen, and we expect \$90,000 in 2025, a little more than last year.

	2023 actual	2024 actual	2025 est.
Pledge Amount	96,072	87,761	90,000
# of pledges	28	27	23
Average	3,431	3,250	3,913
Median	3,000	3,120	3,500

Longer-term history compares as follows:

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total Amount Pledged	139,766	133,075	130,148	116,039	97,497
Number of Pledges	55	45	47	37	32
Average	2,719	3,092	2,769	3,136	3,046
Median	2,000	2,000	1,920	2,000	2,600

2024 Operating Results & our 2025 Budget

2025 Budgeted Revenue

The total budgeted revenues for 2025 are \$190,600, closely in line with our actual revenues in 2024. Our primary revenue assumptions for 2025 are that our rental income continues unchanged, and that with a small cashflow surplus expected overall, the customary annual draw from our long-term investments will not be necessary.

2025 Budgeted Expenses

Our total budgeted expenses for 2025 are \$184,000, considerably higher than our actual operating expenses in 2024, because we now have our half-time priest.

We have not allowed in this operations budget for the likely necessary upcoming cost of upgrading our fire alarm system and exit signs, as stipulated by city codes. We are hopeful that the total expense can be kept under \$20,000, and would probably be treated for accounting purposes as a capital item rather than operational expense.

2025 Budget: Small Operating Surplus

The budget assumptions enumerated above (excluding capital costs on the buildings and any draw from our long-term investments) result in a projected surplus for 2025 of \$6,600.

2024 Operating Results

We ended the 2024 calendar (and fiscal) year with an operating surplus of \$65,750, without taking our usual 4% draw from our long-term investments, since it was not needed. (Our draw for 2023 was \$19,350). This is a saving over our original budget for 2024 of \$75,700, due to savings on salaries (principally through not having a priest for eight and one half months), some savings on budgeted church repair and our heating bills, and small savings versus budget in almost every one of our church activities.

The table below presents actual and budgeted revenues & expenses, grouped by category. Anyone interested in reviewing the fully detailed line items in our accounts is welcome to request a copy of the latest Treasurer's Report to the Vestry which covers the complete calendar year.

Table: Operating Results and Budgets

				2022 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2024 Budget	2025 Budget
<u>OPERATING RECEIPTS</u>								
Pledges & Donations				94,413	96,072	87,761	85,000	90,000
Rental Income				49,765	55,733	101,603	98,000	98,000
Sunday Plate, Outreach				3,805	3,762	2,583	1,000	2,500
Fundraisers				0	0	0	0	0
Grants				0	0	0	5,000	0
Bank Interest				38	73	78	50	100
Reserve Draw				22,081	19,350	0	20,000	0
Other				2,945	515	0	0	0
Total Operating Receipts				173,047	175,505	192,025	209,050	190,600
<u>OPERATING DISBURSEMENTS</u>								
Payroll				130,745	93,795	48,376	110,000	102,000
Facilities				83,051	37,409	36,250	40,000	36,000
Diocesan Assessment				18,571	10,509	12,671	11,000	13,000
Program				4,979	4,260	4,040	10,000	4,000
Outreach				2,805	3,670	1,400	3,000	3,000
Operations				20,910	25,287	23,538	25,000	26,000
Total Operating Disbursements				261,061	174,930	126,275	199,000	184,000
<u>OPERATING SURPLUS/(SHORTFALL)</u>				(88,014)	575	65,750	10,050	6,600

Table: Year End Cash and Investments

	12/31/2020	12/31/2021	12/31/2022	12/31/2023	12/31/2024
Cash:					
Brookline Bank - Checking	101,541	89,668	70,387	75,481	118,610
Brookline Bank - Discretionary	420	920	1,420	1,420	1,421
Brookline Bank - Security Dep.	5,909	3,500	3,500	3,854	3,858
Brookline Bank - Reserves	90,301	82,655	31,043	23,546	16,030
Total Cash at Bank	198,171	176,743	106,350	104,301	139,919
Investments:					
Fidelity	156,588	124,779	83,553	71,102	79,295
Vanguard Money Market	107,141	107,160	108,322	114,362	120,344
Total Cash Investments	263,728	231,939	191,875	185,464	199,639
Stocks:					
Diocesan Fossil Free Fund	129,487	158,264	125,846	158,048	198,376
KLD Funds held at Vanguard	16,099	23,173	18,188	22,608	27,378
Vanguard Social Index	150,726	216,223	166,444	215,945	272,020
Total Stock Investments	296,312	397,660	310,478	396,601	497,774
Total Cash and Investments	758,212	806,342	608,703	686,366	837,332
Loan	76,419	70,144	64,178	57,017	50,307
Total Cash & Invests less Loan	681,793	736,198	544,525	629,349	787,025

In calendar year 2024, the value of our stock investments rose by \$101,173 (26%) to \$497,774, broadly in line with the general market. Our combined cash holdings (bank balances and money market) at year-end rose to \$339,558 (up 17%).

Overall, this means that our total net liquid and semi-liquid resources (everything excluding our properties) rose by 25% in 2024, from \$629,349 to the current \$787,025.

A tabulation of our full financial position including properties and our various small restricted funds follows:

Statement of Financial Position as of 12/31/2024

	12/31/2024
ASSETS	
Cash:	
Brookline Bank - Checking	118,610
Brookline Bank - Clergy Discretionary	1,421
Brookline Bank - Security Deposit	3,858
Brookline Bank - Reserves	16,030
Total Cash at Bank	139,919
Investments:	
Fidelity	79,295
Vanguard Money Market	120,344
Total Cash Investments	199,639
Diocesan Fossil Free Fund	198,376
KLD Funds held at Vanguard	27,378
Vanguard Social Index	272,020
Total Stock Investments	497,774
Total Cash and Investments	837,332
Fixed Assets: (assessed values*)	
Sanctuary and Parish Hall	1,455,000
Rectory	1,258,800
Rental Property	532,600
Furnishings and Equipment	50,000
Total Fixed Assets*	3,296,400
Less Security Deposits	5,325
Less Loan for 2017 heating system	50,307
TOTAL NET ASSETS	4,078,100
ASSETS BY CATEGORY	
Buildings and Equipment net of Loan	3,246,093
Misc. Donor Restricted Cash Funds:	
Altar Guild	422
Clergy Sabbatical	3,464
Meditation Garden	850
Garden Fund	641
Knitting Ministry	370
Music Fund	200
Swain Memorial	150
Vestry Designated Funds:	
Parishioner Hardship Fund	6,000
Long-Term Investments	611,613
Operating Reserve and Cash at Bank:	
Cash at Bank	139,919
Operating Reserve	68,378
TOTAL NET ASSETS	4,078,100

This concludes the treasurer's report for calendar (fiscal) year 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Pearce
Treasurer