

Annual Reports

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Cary, North Carolina

Jan 1, 2018

Annual Reports from Ministry Groups and Committees for 2017

HOSPITALITY, PARISH LIFE, AND PASTORAL CARE

CARE AND SHARE: Care and Share (CnS) Ministry is an in-reach ministry at St. Paul's. We assist members of St. Paul's on a short-time basis who are experiencing crisis in their lives. Our 207 volunteers are called upon to fulfill these needs. CnS Ministry allows us to serve Christ as we serve each other.

Services provided in 2017 include the following:

Meals: At least 19 families received a total of 120 meals. This important part of our ministry is successfully led by Gail Cowper.

New Babies/Moms: Meals were provided for 2 families with a new baby. Nicole Gatchalian leads this part of our ministry.

Funeral Receptions: Judy Crow, assisted by Gail Cowper, executes this important service provided for our families who have lost a loved one. This year we provided 8 beautiful receptions.

Transportation: 7 individuals were transported to church services this year by volunteers. 3 individuals were taken to appointments with a total of 13 rides. CnS is in need of volunteers to drive people to 9:00 church service and to MD appointments. Melinda Thomas is lead person for Transportation.

Home, hospital, and nursing home visits were made to a minimum of 7 persons.

Prayer List Contacts: Monthly, Melonie Wigley contacts St. Paul's persons who are on our Prayer List. These calls are to ascertain how members are doing and if one needs further assistance.

Household Needs: 1 person was assisted this year. Jeff Kager is in charge of this area of our ministry.

Card Ministry: 60 greeting cards, ie Get Well, Thinking of You, and Sympathy cards were sent in 2017. St. Paul's member Judy Wall makes all of these cards. Kristen Holmes sends Birthday cards to church members 70 years and older. 60 All Saint's Day cards, crafted by Linda Cozzolino, were written and sent to members who have lost loved ones in 2017 by the Leadership Team.

Visiting Eucharistic Ministers: This year 5 church members received Communion in their homes by Team members Judy Crow, Susan Coulter, and Margie Best.

Prayer Shawls: In conjunction with Prayer Stitchers and Beth Barnes, CnS participated in services to provide Prayer Shawls for 7 church members.

Dog-Walking: 10 dog-walks were coordinated by Susan Coulter for a person's dog for whom the owner had surgery.

CnS sponsored Blessing of the Hands at 2 church services in 2017. The service reminds our Church Family how our "hands", and what we do to help others, serves Christ.

CnS continues to help church members obtain community and medical resources.

The CnS Leadership Team includes Callie Hester, Gail Cowper, Jeff Kager, Judy Crow, Kathy Huffman, Linda Cozzolino, Margie Best, Melinda Thomas, Melonie Wigley, Nicole Gatchalian, and Susan Coulter. Carr Holland, III is Priest Liason.

Submitted by Marjorie Best.

FELLOWSHIP EVENTS COMMITTEE: The Fellowship Events Committee provides events where parishioners can get together, enjoy fellowship, and create friendships. We also provide help to other ministries.

- March 3rd, we had a successful BBQ luncheon. We cooked and served BBQ meals to 140 adults and 17 children. Good food and fellowship was enjoyed by all. Though we tried to only charge for the cost of the meal, we made a profit of \$577.
- April 2nd, we co-hosted with the Children's Ministry, the Communion Coffee Hour.
- April 16th, we co-hosted with the Youth Ministry, the Easter / Confirmation Coffee Hour. It was possibly the largest coffee hour of the year.
- May 14th, we provided a Strawberry Festival / Ice cream Social for the Mother's Day Coffee Hour.
- Many of the FET members assisted at the Lobster Fest in October.
- November 4th, we provided homemade soups and breads that were sold and served at the Arts and Crafts Festival. We sold 92 bowls of soup and 16 cartons of herb crackers, donating \$384. to outreach from the soul sales. We did use \$137. from the FET Social Activities Fund to purchase soup ingredients. Much fellowship was enjoyed by both church parishioners and the outside community during this event.
- December 17th, we will co-host with the Children's Ministry the Christmas Pageant Coffee Hour.
- Some of the cost of these events were provided from the FET Social Activities Fund but a large part were donations from the FET members.

Submitted by Toni Holderied.

MEMORIAL GARDEN: The Memorial Garden Ministry's first and foremost responsibility is to ensure that St. Paul's Memorial Garden is and continues to be a place for the interment/inurnment of ashes in simple dignity and in surroundings that proclaim our resurrection faith.

The committee submits the following for 2017:

Continued to have major workdays and performed routine maintenance of the Memorial Garden.

Additionally, made sure that the irrigation system was inspected and maintained.

Placed greenery on the Markers for Easter and Advent, and Palms were placed in the vases for Palm Sunday.

Ensured that the Memorial Garden was prepared and flowers in place for five interments in the Garden.

Ordered the engraving for the Garden's Marker.
Maintained and updated the Garden Plot Plan and the Columbarium Niche Plan.
Added two names to the Remembrance Wall.
Continued to refine and maintain the Memorial Garden Handbook for use by the committee members and the church staff.
Worked with the church leadership to install security lighting for the Memorial Garden area.

The committee welcomed one new member, Alana Loughlin, and, additionally, Joyce Loughlin, to the Memorial Garden's list of volunteers. Members of the committee are the Rev. George Adamik, Frank Bricio, Lisa Brown, Gale Herrman, Kay Lindquist, Alana Loughlin, Katie and Kurt Robinson, Pete Stockett, Jackie Straub, Gordon Werner, and Keith Wood.

Members of the Memorial Garden are grateful to those volunteers who assist in the major workdays, maintenance, or in the arrangement of flowers. Those parishioners are Phil Brown (and granddaughter, Layla), Jon Copperwheat, Brad Hirschy, Joyce Loughlin, Stacey Prudich (and her children, Ryan, Katie and Zach), and Paula Sours.

Submitted by Jackie Straub.

MEN'S GROUP: The St. Paul's Episcopal Church Men's Group is a self-supporting, active ministry that includes men from many walks of life with different skills and backgrounds. We work on providing our time, talent, and treasure to St. Paul's and its programs and needs, as well as getting together for social activities. All men in St. Paul's over the age of 18 are eligible members of the Men's Group, and we currently have around 50 active members. The 2017 Men's Group Executive Committee included Jeff Kager (Vestry Liaison), Fillmore Bowen, Bill Fierke, Steve East, Rick Bradley, and Brian Rudy.

In 2017, we performed numerous activities in support of the church and its programs. We sponsored or participated in a variety of rewarding activities that build fellowship, help deserving groups of people, support the parish, and assist and educate our members. The 2017 Lobster Fest held on October 2nd, 2017 was another success. We sold about 1,600 lobsters and 1,400 lobster rolls with a net income of over \$19,000.

The Men's Group had several fund-raising events in 2017, including Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, ASP Spaghetti Dinner (in cooperation with Youth Group ASP representatives), and Lobster Fest. All the money raised helps the church with in-reach and outreach program needs that are designated in advance and approved by the Vestry, an emergency need, or are not covered in the church operating budget. In 2017, the Men's Group funded (or set-aside funds) for a variety of parish needs identified and approved by Vestry and the Men's Group Executive Committee. Church programs supported in 2017 included Curry House connections, courtyard lighting improvements and kitchen updates. In coordination with Facilities and other ministries, the Men's Group regularly coordinates volunteer events beyond maintenance, such as (but not limited to) clearing the retention pond area, saving several thousands of dollars.

Men's Group social events include the annual Men's Group meeting at St. Paul's, parish coffee hour, and Men's Group Beach Week in April, and regular update meetings.

Additional Men's Group activities supporting the church include:

- Facility team that handles weekly church lawn mowing and gutter cleaning
- Set-up and cooking for annual Parish Picnic
- Cooking at various church luncheons, including Elderberry's Luncheon

- Saturday Church work days

The Men's Group invites all men, eighteen years or older, to become part of this important ministry. It is rewarding in many ways and has helped many men of St. Paul's find a way to share their talents and resources for the improvement of our Church community.

Submitted by Fillmore Bowen, Men's Group President.

MYSTERY BOOK CLUB: We meet once per month, at IHOP Restaurant. We have grown from 3 members, last year to around 15 and are still growing.

Our ministry has opened its doors to several members outside of the St Paul's family, showing that we are inclusive and welcoming.

The Ministry provides its members with an opportunity to read and review, without judgement, a diverse and eclectic variety of mystery books. All of our members faithfully adhere to our policies which follow Christ's teachings, including kindness, patience, and fellowship.

Submitted by Sarah Collins.

NEWCOMER MINISTRY: The Newcomer Ministry welcomes all visitors and new parishioners to St. Paul's. When someone visits and fills out a pew card, they receive a loaf of bread within a couple of days, delivered to their homes by one of our volunteers. The bread ministry has a group of about 20 bakers who bake 2 loaves of bread about every 4 months. They are put in the freezer in the church kitchen, where deliverers pick them up, along with the Welcome Tri-fold and other materials. We have an average of 2 visitors per week. Often, we are invited into their homes and relationships are formed.

Twice a year, we offer a series of Newcomer classes. We meet 3 times over 3 weeks, in the evening at church. Anyone who has visited in the previous 6 months is invited, as well as anyone else who is interested in learning about our parish and the larger Episcopal Church. The classes are led by Fathers George, Carr, and Javier. We include several lay ministry leaders, to share about the many opportunities St. Paul's offers for participation. We usually have about 5-8 attendees at classes, and we form friendships. It is a chance to welcome folks in a personal way, learning together, and having fellowship.

We hope to be the "All Are Welcome" face of St. Paul's.

Submitted by Frank and Anne Laney.

PRAYER STITCHERS: Prayer Stitchers supports the mission of St. Paul's by making and distributing items that provide comfort and warmth to persons in need within the parish and throughout the community. Our ministry is also to our members, providing opportunities for fellowship, creativity and giving. We are a prayerful handwork ministry. At each meeting, we pray that the items we make will be a blessing to persons who receive them and we thank God for the gifts of knitting, crocheting and for the gift of prayer.

Prayer Stitchers is a strong supporter of Outreach. We make items throughout the year for distribution to St. Paul's outreach ministries and local charitable organizations and for sale at the annual Arts and Crafts Festival. In 2017, a total of 394 hats, scarves, afghans, prayer shawls and lap robes valued at \$5,233.00 were donated to nine (9) organizations and agencies serving veterans, homeless and low-income families and children and persons receiving hospice care. Preemie hats are made year-round for infants in the Wake Med Cary neonatal unit.

Hand-knitted and crocheted items made by our members and other needlecrafters were sold at two Fall 2017 festivals and to individuals. Proceeds from the Nov. 4 St. Paul's Festival of Arts and Crafts (\$1,230.00), the Nov. 18 Glenaire Bazaar (\$700.00) and to individuals resulted in a total of \$1,930.00 donated to St. Paul's Outreach Ministries.

Six (6) prayer afghans were made for the families served through the Appalachian Service Project and presented with prayers by the youth working with each family. Feedback from youth and volunteers is that the afghans become a very meaningful connection between the families and our parish. These afghans have a monetary value of \$180.00 based on the cost of materials and time involved in making them.

Our inreach ministry includes prayer pockets and shawls for members of the parish, their family members and friends in need of comfort and warmth. In 2017, seventeen (17) prayer pockets and eleven (11) prayer shawls were given with prayers. Parishioners who receive these items tell us that they are a constant reminder of the care and concern of their faith community.

All are welcome to join Prayer Stitchers for prayer and fellowship as we make items for persons in need. People who would like to learn to knit or crochet can learn from members of our ministry who love to teach.

Submitted by Beth Barnes and Marilyn Mitchell.

EDUCATIONAL AND SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES COMMITTEE (CMC): The Children's Ministries Committee (CMC) is so thankful for all of the volunteers and parishioners that have supported CMC programs as we continue to help the children of St. Paul's know Christ and make Christ known.

Children's Ministry Vision: St. Paul's Children's Ministry offers a nurturing and inclusive environment where all children experience God's love and begin their spiritual journey.

Children's Ministry Mission: Drawing upon the rich traditions of the Episcopal Church and by partnering with our parents, we strive to nurture the faith of every child and build a church community. We will accomplish this through Sunday School Lessons, Children's Chapel Worship, Pre-EYC, Vacation Bible School, Stewardship, Eucharist and Liturgical education and fellowship.

Core Development Values: Liturgical Education, Sense of Community, Fellowship, Moral Values, Spirituality, Service, and Outreach

Outreach/Service: The children of St. Paul's continued to be generous with their time and treasure. In addition to collecting \$3100 to donate to Note in the Pocket, we hosted a Parish Wide "sort day," where over 90 volunteers sorted clothing into size and gender for children in need in Wake County. Our VBS attendees collected over 400 lbs of food for Urban Ministries and over \$200 for Heifer International. We hosted three Note in the Pocket collection drives for clothing and we collected over 20 bins of new/used clothing to be distributed to children in Wake County.

In sharing their time, the children packed lunches with the Brown Bag Ministry, picked sweet potatoes for the Society of St. Andrew, delivered treats and good cheer to our neighbors at Glenaire, sorted clothing on site at Note in the Pocket, sorted food at the Food Bank of North Carolina, helped set up beds and rooms for Family Promise, assisted with St. Nicholas Day at St. Pauls and cleaned up the St. Paul's playground.

Summer S(f)undays: In the summer of 2017 Children's Ministries held "Summer S(f)undays" activities. These activities included Playground Parables (meeting the children at their happy place) where popsicles and other treats were enjoyed during a Parable lesson on the playground. Other activities included painting rocks, bubbles and sidewalk chalk, sunglasses, sprinklers and the Kona Ice Truck!

Sunday School: The Sunday School program served an average of 48 children on Sunday mornings this fall with classes being taught by 27 super Sunday school teachers.

Attendance History

2017 average attendance was 48 children

2016 average attendance was 53 children

2015 average attendance was 60 children

2014 average attendance was 60 children

Children's Chapel: Children's Chapel met throughout the year during the 9:00am and 11:15am services. Average attendance at the 9am service was 28 children. Clergy Led Children's Chapels continued for children in 3rd, 4th and 5th grade with an average attendance of 10 children.

Pre-EYC: Fourth and fifth graders continued to enjoy bi-monthly Pre-EYC meetings on Sunday afternoons during the fall and spring, with around 20 children participating in the Fall 2017 meetings. The children enjoy a meal together and then participate in activities that promote outreach, learning and fun. Pre-EYC members also attended a spring weekend overnight retreat at Blue Jay Pointe Park in March 2017. The children completed many outreach projects as listed in the outreach report.

Children's Stewardship: Our children continued to be generous in their stewardship contributions.

June 2017 to May 2018-\$1194 (to date) to Note in the Pocket (June 3, 2018 Sort Date)

June 2016 to May 2017-\$3100 to Note in the Pocket (June 4, 2017 Sort Date)

June 2015 to May 2016-\$3033 to Stop Hunger Now (May 15, 2016)

June 2014 to May 2015-\$2062.23 to PLM Families Together

June 2013 to May 2014-\$1,920.41 to Wake Interfaith Hospitality Network (WIHN)

December 2012 to May 2013-\$737 to Urban Ministries

June 2012 to December 2012-\$800 to Bibles for Sunday School Classrooms

June 2011 to May 2012-\$1961.58 to Heifer International

VBS: Vacation Bible School was a big success this year as we wrote our own VBS curriculum (again), "Abundance Orchard." Our VBS was attended by 87 children. We had numerous youth helpers and adult volunteers. Our outreach project was to collect donations of food for Urban Ministries and money for Heifer International. We are already planning our 2018 VBS, "Journey to Bethlehem."

Communion Classes: Communion classes met during Lent and 32 children in first grade and older learned from the clergy about the traditions of our faith and the significance of the Eucharist. Communion class graduates received new Bibles as a special keepsake from their experience.

Christmas Pageant: The Christmas pageant provided opportunities for around 96 children to share the wonder and excitement of Jesus' birth with the parish. We enjoyed hearing 41 children speak, watching them all performing in costume and telling the story we love so well.

Other events sponsored by the Children's Ministries Committee in 2017 included a Teacher Appreciation Brunch, Backpack Blessing Sunday, Easter Egg Hunt, a few Coffee Hours, Bounce Houses at the Parish Picnic, a Mardi Gras celebration, Stations of the Cross Service, Pumpkin Carving and Chili Cookoff, a Teddy Bear Tea and an Intergenerational Advent Craft Event.

Thank Yous: None of this would have been possible without the hard work and good effort of our parent volunteers and especially the members of the of the Children's Ministries Committee: Christine Ingram (Director of Children's Ministries), Christa Magee (Children's Ministries Assistant), Cecilia Lancia (Committee Chair), Jenn Bosser, Sara Concini, Ruth Echols, Sarah Woodson, Melissa Raasch, Amy Borbet, Lynn Tovar, Callie Simrill-Hester and Rachael Campbell. We celebrate God's blessings and look forward to another wonderful year in 2018.

Submitted by Christine Ingram

JULIAN GATHERING: The Julian Gathering is a small discussion group which meets twice a month for spiritual fellowship, study, and prayer. It provides an excellent opportunity to know Christ and to make Christ known as we explore the writings of Julian of Norwich. Lady Julian was a 14th century mystic whose understanding of God's enduring, ever-present love offers a timeless message of hope and comfort.

The group meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 9:15 a.m. in the Cry Room. Each meeting begins with a time of silent prayer, followed by reading and discussion of *The Revelations of Divine Love* by Julian of Norwich. Her insights serve as a catalyst for discussions on prayer, faith, gratitude, and other spiritual topics. Extra copies of the book are available at each meeting, and newcomers are welcome to attend at any time.

Submitted by Lanny Wase

WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP: The Women's Study Group is open to women who are interested in reading and discussing literature with spiritual/religious themes. The group meets on the second Tuesday of each month from 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m in the Cry Room. In 2017, we read 5 fiction books and 6 non-fiction books (we did not meet in July). The group focuses on faith development through literature and discussion. Fellowship is a focus as well.

We alternate months reading fiction and then non-fiction, often choosing books that will challenge and inform us spiritually. The monthly meetings/discussions are led by members who facilitate the discussion of the book. Those responsibilities rotate within the group.

We believe that reading and learning about different issues and different points of views helps us live into St. Paul's mission to go forth in service to make this world a better place for all God's children. We joyfully do that equipped with the knowledge and understanding we have gleaned from our readings.

Submitted by Leah Dail.

YOUTH MINISTRY: Youth Ministry at St. Paul's continues to grow and thrive. Leah Dail continue as the Youth Program Coordinator. Youth Ministry is blessed with the combined efforts of a hard-working Youth Committee, strong adult and parent volunteers, and faithful youth. We strive to nurture and develop the faith and spirituality of young people grades 6-12 by creating a safe community where youth can feel comfortable to examine their faith while building relationships with God and each other.

The core of Youth Ministry at St. Paul's is found in our weekly Sunday programs. Youth Formation is offered during the 10:00 hour on Sunday mornings. There are two classes offered: Middle School (grades 6-8) and High School (grades 9-12). Both classes use the Episcopal Curriculum for Youth from Virginia Theological Seminary. The classes are taught by teams of volunteer teachers who

engage the youth with various theological and Biblical topics. On Sunday evenings, we have Episcopal Youth Community (EYC). It is typically split into middle school and high school sessions with a shared meal (prepared and served by gracious volunteers). The programs vary and include fun, games, service, and faith exploration.

Youth Ministry has been active throughout this year. Some highlights include:

- **Mission Trips and Activities:** The high schoolers experienced a local mission trip/pilgrimage during spring break where we stayed at St. Paul's and had day trips to Greensboro (International Civil Rights Museum, an Escape Room, and worshiped at St. Andrews), Durham (visit to St. Philips's labyrinth), Chapel Hill (community garden work), and Raleigh (visit to St. Augustine's). The high school students also participated in our annual Appalachian Service Project mission trip, this year to Avery County, NC. Unfortunately, there was no middle school youth trip to the Episcopal Farmworkers Ministry.
- **Mission Trip Fundraisers:** These included many activities that served our community as well as built skills for mission work. Fundraisers included the Spaghetti Dinner and Auction, 2 ASP Chore Days, Parish Babysitting, the Murder Mystery Dinner, and the Halloween Carnival.
- **Diocesan Events:** We had groups attend Bishop's Ball and Happening. We had 5 youth on Team for Happening including one of the Rectors. Leah and 2 youth serve on the Diocesan Charter Commission for Youth (CCY), a group that plans and leads Diocesan Youth events. Leah continues to meet periodically with other Diocesan youth leaders.
- **Spiritual Formation:** Confirmation classes were held in the spring and 11 youth were confirmed in April. We had several clergy led EYC's, both a Lenten and an Advent Study. We planned and led a Taize service for the parish that was well attended. We presented an Advent play for the Parish in December.
- **Outreach:** The youth participated in the annual Souper Bowl canned food drive, participated in the Martin Luther King Day of Service, Brown bag Ministry, and the 30 Hour Famine. Outreach within St. Paul's included helping with the Pancake Supper, Lobsterfest, Halloween Carnival, Bazaar, St. Nicholas Ministry, the Senior Luncheon, buying and delivering supplies to the Episcopal Farmworkers Ministry in Newton Grove, and VBS.
- **Fellowship Activities:** There were many but some popular ones included lock-ins, bowling with Pre-EYC, game nights, a pool party, and our annual Christmas party that includes a tacky Christmas sweater contest and gift exchange. We went to Kanuga for snowtubing in January and had Milkshake Sundays during the summer with fun and fellowship.

In 2018 we can look forward to more fun and fellowship together as we lead the youth into more meaningful relationships with God and their world.

Submitted by Leah Dail, Youth Program Coordinator.

OUTREACH

OUTREACH COMMITTEE: 2017 was a year of transitions for the Outreach Support Team. After being led for 4 years by Aleta McClenney, she handed the reigns over to Kevin McIntire. We have spent time this year formalizing our accounting policies and procedures as well as our communication with the different outreach ministry leaders and Vestry. We look forward to 2018.

ASP – 6 vans full of youth and adults went to Avery County, NC to make homes warmer safer and drier. This is the most St. Paul's has ever taken (~45 people) on this trip. This ministry continues to thrive.

Arts and Crafts Festival – The festival this year, held on November 4th, raised nearly \$6500 for our Outreach budget. \$3000 going to both Dorcas and Wheels for Hope (\$1500/each) and the remainder to be used at the OST's discretion.

Episcopal Campus Ministry – Welcomed a new Chaplain, Adrienne Koch, and recommitted their emphasis/mission to issues of social justice.

Family Promise – Had 17 volunteers provide over 300 hours of service. We are continuing to think of ways to increase parish participation in this important ministry. The leaders of this ministry would also like to host these families for a week and are currently working with the OST to figure out how to do that.

Hermano Day – Brought in over \$2300 in donations this year. We are trying to come up with better ways that we can support this ministry, e.g. helping the workers with taxes.

Meals on Wheels – This past year they delivered over 700 meals (the most ever) to our Cary neighbors, often bringing a smile and/or sympathetic ear with the meal.

Refuge for Refugees – Continued to support the 3 previous families at various levels. The first family from Pakistan has become completely independent. The mother is in Dental Hygienist school at Wake Tech and the father is, who speaks several languages, is working to become an interpreter for NSCRI. The second family from Burma has had several challenges but the volunteers continue to support them in so many different ways. They will be applying for their green card in 2018. The third family from Somalia has been the most challenging and the R4R committee has learned so much from this difficult process. The language barriers, health issues and social norms have proven to be somewhat unexpected difficulties. For example, getting a member of the family to see the doctor on time is tough when the family generally doesn't trust doctors due to past experience in the refugee camp and can't tell time because this is literally a new concept for them. But it's not all difficult news for this family as they just welcomed a new baby boy in December 2017! The future for this new baby is now unbelievably bright. Even with these challenges, the R4R volunteers remain committed and hopeful for this ministry. They plan on welcoming another family this year.

Stop Hunger Now – Now called Rise Against Hunger, took a year off as Glenda Swann, who had led this effort for many years, did not want to continue to lead this ministry alone. However, we are glad to say that there are plans in the making for an event on MLK day in 2019.

Urban Ministries - To date (11/30/2017) The Little Red Wagon has sent in, from the good people of Saint Paul's, 11,640 pounds of food to Urban Ministries. Serving some of the 100,000+ people in Wake county living in poverty. The simplicity and success of this ministry is a model for all ministries at St. Paul's.

Veterans Ministry Outreach – USO and Veterans ministry have combined together to better serve the veteran population at St. Paul's. Look for this ministry to be much more visible in 2018.

Wheels for Hope – Dedicated another car to another well deserving family. While this ministry is well funded through the arts and crafts fair, we still struggle to find more volunteers.

Wake County Community Organization – Led by Fr. Javier, this is a new initiative that the OST donated discretionary funds to. This community organization is attempting to get other churches and neighborhoods together in order to become more involved in our community. It seeks to come up with actionable activities to improve housing, food, health care, etc... It will do this politically, but

not in a partisan way. In fact, efforts are being made to make sure all faiths and political parties are represented. The goal is to find issues that we can all agree on and start there.

Submitted by Kevin McIntire.

DORCAS MINISTRIES: In 1968, a group of people led by Cary resident, Margaret Keller began the ministry of Christian Community in Action based on Matthew 25:31-45 “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” The mission was, and is, to show the love of Jesus Christ by serving people in need in our local community. Parishioners from St. Paul’s were part of that founding group.

As of December 10, 2017 we collected 3,159 rolls of toilet paper (132% of our goal) and 12 boxes of Kleenex.

Dorcas Ministries provides crisis relief to area residents who seek stability and self-sufficiency through food and financial assistance, scholarships, training programs, referrals and an affordable thrift shop.

By the numbers in 2016 over 20,000 lives were touched by Dorcas Ministries:

- 11,000 neighbors received financial help
- 7,000 neighbors fed their families from the Food Pantry
- 1,577 neighbors received training
- 930 neighbors received help with preschool or daycare
- 336 neighbors facing homelessness received help with emergency housing
- 172 neighbors learned how to manage their chronic diseases from the bimonthly UNC mobile clinic at Dorcas
- 66 neighbors were helped with costs of retraining
- \$975,000 was given in assistance

Dorcas Ministries is supported by over **450 volunteers** from area churches. St. Paul’s currently provides **28 volunteers** and two of us serve on the Board of Directors (me and David Coulter). My hope is to increase the number of St. Paul’s volunteers in 2018.

Submitted by Nancy Fierke.

MEALS ON WHEELS: The St. Paul’s Meals on Wheels Ministry is part of Meals on Wheels of Wake County. On the first Wednesday of each month we deliver a hot pre-packaged meal and side items to our elderly, home-bound, or needy neighbors on designated routes. We currently have six routes, all in Cary, and we work out of the Resurrection Lutheran Church. In 2017 we served over 700 meals.

Our St. Paul’s volunteers work in two-person teams servicing the same route each month which allows us to not only be familiar with route, but more importantly to build a caring relationship with those we serve.

We are greatly thankful for the time and effort from the St. Paul’s members who have volunteered to serve monthly in our ministry: Jan Barbee, Barbara Brickman, Mike O’Dowd, Terry Babb, Ted Straub, Bill Fierke, Annette Smith, Bob Johnson, Geri Johnson, Damil Ghartey, and Yvonne Ghartey. Many of our volunteers have served others through this ministry for over a decade.

And we also thank our substitute volunteers. They often are asked to fill in for others on short or no notice! They are: Malcolm Lockhart, Charlie Parrish, Tommy Harrill, Gail Duncan, Elaine Hunt,

John Malco, Conyers Woodruff, Dennis Holderied, Toni Holderied, Lauren Campbell and Jenny Smith.

Submitted by Bob Petersen.

ST. NICHOLAS MINISTRY: The St. Nicholas ministry made Christ known in our community this year by brightening the Christmas season for 394 needy children/ and their parents.

St. Paul's St. Nicholas Ministry works with four area agencies to identify needy families and children in our community. The four agencies are:

CommWell Health, a ministry providing medical and behavioral health services to seasonal farmworkers in the Dunn area;

The Episcopal Housing Ministry, which helps needy families find housing right here in our own diocese;

The Healing Place of Wake County, a rehab shelter for "homeless, addicted" men and women; and

PLM Families Together, an ecumenical organization helping homeless families reach independence here in Wake County.

St. Nicholas collected our gifts this year on December 10th, and we distributed them to the various agency representatives that afternoon, or delivered them early on Monday, December 11th. The agencies then distribute the presents to the needy families that they serve.

On Dec 14th, members of our ministry travelled to CommWell Health to participate in their St. Nicholas gift distribution and speak at their board meeting. We announced that our intention going further is to provide for 100% of their agency's Christmas needs (this year and years prior there has been a lottery to be a family supported by St. Paul's and many families were left unserved). This was met with great joy and we, in turn, received fantastic news that in response to the more than 35 years of service to CommWell Health. St. Paul's will be honored with their 2018 "Heroes of Community Health" award!

The St. Nicholas Ministry owes a great deal of gratitude to the many parishioners who respond so overwhelmingly each year to this outreach ministry. If each gift is valued at \$50 (this is low, in reality), the outpouring of gifts from the congregation would represent an outreach effort of more than \$19,700.00. In 2017, 15 bikes were donated (tied a record set last year). A member of our ministry rented and drove a full-sized U-Haul truck (that we absolutely filled) to CommWell Health to accommodate for such tremendous generosity.

We also thank the ministry members who volunteer to prepare for St. Nicholas' visit each year, who help organize, sort, and deliver the gifts, and who work to ensure that no child is left out or omitted. There are always a few children whose tags from the Advent Tree are lost, or whose gifts arrive late: each year, monetary donations to the St. Nicholas ministry are used by ministry volunteers to buy age and gender specific items (when the volunteers find sale-priced bargains throughout the year) so that gifts can be put together for those children whose tags were not returned-that way, no needy child gets left out. The purchased items are also used to augment gifts, as needed, to ensure that each child in a family gets about the same number of items to open. This year, in addition to the supplemental gifts, a large number of coats and boots were also purchased. In 2017 all of the tags were claimed and only 8 children were left to provide for by the ministry's purchases. We, as a group, contributed this to the thorough and frequent communication to the congregation of the necessity to have the gifts to church no later than Dec 19th at noon. We also believe this led to the large arrival of gifts to the tree the week preceding St. Nicholas Day. In response to such efficiency

by the church, members of the ministry decided collectively that in 2018 it would be appropriate to spend some of the donated money on gift cards to further provide for the unspoken needs of the families we serve.

And, we also thank the Youth of St. Paul's who put up the tree, tie the ribbons on the tags, and put the tags on the tree. We thank the fourth and fifth-grade classes for assisting in sorting. We thank the Sunday School students and teachers who made cards for each family. This was specifically mentioned by management at CommWell Health as a very appreciated touch. And we thank Christine Ingram and Leah Dahl who advise these groups. I would be remiss to omit the Cupitts from the list of gratitude! Though they handed over the reins of the ministry that they created and shaped, they continue to make great contributions to the success of the ministry. I shudder to think of the hours Larry graciously spends organizing the information received from the agencies and creating the tags for the tree. Mary Marsha is readily available, helpful, and insightful for all the questions and predicaments that inevitably arose throughout the year. Finally, special gratitude is due to our very own Bishop of Myra who always seems to have a bag full of gold coins to share with the St. Paul's congregation.

Submitted by Colette Hibberd.

St. Paul's also contributes financially and materially, through monetary gifts and collection drives, to a number of local and global outreach ministries, including Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) and the following organizations:

EPISCOPAL FARMWORKER MINISTRY: HERMANO DAY: 2017 was our most successful year ever for “Hermano Day.” Parishioners donated generously of clothing, bedding, food, and monetary donations to benefit our Brothers in Christ, the migrant and seasonal farmworkers supported by the Episcopal Farmworker Ministry in Newton Grove, NC.

On March 26, 2017 the Episcopal Farmworker Ministry received 155 bags of donated clothing, bedding and food, the value of which, if calculated, would be in the thousands of dollars. Additionally, monetary donations were collected in the amount of \$3302.00- our highest donation to date.

The material goods we collected were distributed by the Episcopal Farmworker Ministry to seasonal farm laborers living in the 47 labor camps served by the ministry. The money is used to provide food, clothing, medicine, transportation and other necessities of life to the men in the camps.

By sharing the bounty of our lives with those who provide us with the bounty of our tables, we live into the mission of St. Paul's to honor the presence of Christ in each other.

Submitted by Gale Hermann.

VETERANS AND MILITARY OUTREACH: As VMO is in formation phase, enthusiasm is in overdrive to complete the phase while simultaneously keeping the newly formed group energized with ongoing projects. Our plans include several phases:

Formation Phase: The formation phase includes generating our motto, mission and vision statements and an identifying symbol for our organization.

Outreach Phase: This phase will grow over time and begin with the process of creating mutual relationships with all available Veteran's organizations. The plan is to assign each organization a committee member as a liaison to inform VMO of services available for our military members;

while simultaneously engaging committee members and the congregation to volunteer on the various organization's outreach projects, i.e.. (MMIA: homeless, backpacks, toiletry supplies, clothing); (USO: deployed, airport toiletry supplies, annual toy drive in conjunction with the preschool); (Durham VA Hospital, homeless, backpacks, toiletry supplies, clothing).

Education phase: As military members make up less than two percent (2%) of the population, a direct need for learning to communicate has been identified, and as such, a 3-part program is in outline phase to create a study group for not only committee members but the congregation as a whole. The study group will be based on the book "Coming Home", By Zachary Moon. It is a 6-week study on how to create a mutual relationship with the military member -- looking beyond the uniform -- seeing the person. It includes a outstanding personal inventory exercise. When this is determined a success at the committee level, we will offer the book study to the congregation (after approval by the Church of course).

As you can see, we will be very busy over the next couple of years simply forming and organizing, but it will all be worth it when we have a fully formed, fully functioning faith-based outreach family. It is going to be a joyful journey.

Regarding 2017 and how did our Ministry help our community?

Listing of the various outreach activities for year:

- USO - Airport personal care supplies drive
- Homeless Veterans Initiative - Backpack, Sweat Clothes, Personal care items
- Deployed Soldiers Initiative - Care Packages of various items sent during faith based holidays
- USO Toy Drive
- MMIA/GO-DO Project Initiative formation phase
- Town of Cary Annual Veteran's Luncheon, Volunteer serving
- Annual USO Gala - Basket for fundraiser
- Christmas breads and cards for our senior veterans
- MMIA - Personal care items for homeless

We are looking forward to expanding our outreach and working together as a family of faith.

Submitted by Penny Tennian.

LITURGY

ALTAR GUILD: Current membership: 24 Active Members, 3 Substitutes plus many husbands and children who help on special occasions or after a service

Director: Anne Babb

The Altar Guild is a relaxed and unassuming ministry whose focus is to prepare the church and altar for worship. We also prepare the chapel for mid-week services like those held on Wednesday during Advent. We are a silent yet integral part of any church service. We have been gifted with extraordinary and dedicated members who work in the background to help make Christ known to the whole church through all the seasons of the church year.

This year we added some new items to our worship space. First, we had Andy Kintz design and build a beautiful new wooden Pascal Candle to replace an old brass one that was too small for our space. The wood and the stand design match our worship area beautifully. It was used for the first

time on Easter Eve 2017. Second, Jan Barbee and Barbara Brickman donated more banners to add a bit of variety to the long Ordinary season – watch for the lovely ribbon banners.

Our ministry is funded primarily through donations given in memorial or thanksgiving throughout the year via the Flower Chart in the Narthex or at Christmas or Easter via pew envelopes. In order to remain self-funding, we have raised the cost of memorial flower donations this year.

Submitted by Anne Babb.

LECTORS: More than 50 adult and youth parish members participated as lectors this year. Lectors proclaimed the word of God to parishioners at each of our three services throughout the year. They also led us in corporate prayer for the betterment of our lives, our church and our community. Lectors participated at services throughout the year, including services throughout Holy Week.

Submitted by Bill Bystrynski.

MUSIC MINISTRY PROGRAM: Music Ministries continued to thrive in 2017 with eight regular ensembles that contained over 70 individuals of all age groups. Especially with children and youth, rehearsal time is spent on learning details of the church year and how the chosen music reflects the themes and moods of the season, as well as the significance and importance of the music in service to the Anglican style of worship. Music Ministries provides a special place for making Christ known through God's gift of music.

Andrea Dreier, Music Associate, directs the Epiphany Choir and provides keyboard accompaniment for services and rehearsals as needed. Joanna Li, Organist, is the principal keyboardist for the church, providing accompaniment for choral and congregational singing and special music as needed in services throughout the year. Rusty McKinney, Minister of Music, personally conducts all of the other ensembles and is the administrator for the music program.

Epiphany Choir (Grades K-2), Advent Choir (Grades 3-5), and Advent Bells (Grades 3-5)

These ensembles perform 3- 4 times a year, often Christmas Eve and around Easter. Andrea and I often combine the Epiphany and Advent Choirs for to learn rudiments of music and to introduce them to part singing through age appropriate music in addition to learning specific pieces to be presented at worship services. This past year saw increased participation in all three groups. They on Palm Sunday, at the Picnic Sunday Service, and on Christmas Eve.

Canterbury Choir and the Canterbury Bells (Grades 6-12). These youth ensembles performed several times during the year including Christmas Eve and Easter. Canterbury Choir has a good mix in the age range insuring that we will continue to have a strong group even as singers graduate High School. The handbell group is likewise diverse in age with only one senior in the group and several new members just coming in from Advent Bells. These groups of exceptional youth have done well with bringing their diversity of talent and ability together into excellence in an environment where truly "All are Welcome."

The Bells of St. Paul's performed for Easter, Christmas, and at Advent Lessons and Carols as well as other times. Additionally, they provided a special concert for the Arts and Crafts Festival at St. Paul's. Membership has been added, and we now have several very qualified substitutes on our roster, as well as the core group.

The 9:00 Choir has seen significant growth this past year and has now has about 15 members. This dedicated choir provides leadership for congregational singing principally for the 9:00 Service on Sundays, though they also sing at other service. Individual members also join the St.

Paul's Choir for certain special events as they are able. The time commitment for this choir is purposefully low (meeting for rehearsals only before services) to allow choir participation for people with busy work schedules during the week.

The St. Paul's Choir has added several new members this past year and overall has grown to 21 members on the regular roster. SPC sang for Ash Wednesday, most Holy Week services and presented Advent Lessons and Carols in December 2017, which was well done and well received. A major event this year for the choir was recording and releasing a CD of Advent and Christmas Music, "A Babe is Born." The project was suggested to the Rector by an anonymous donor who provided the funds to cover the production costs (hiring a sound engineer for recording sessions, purchasing a cd duplicator, a printer to print on CD's, etc.) In February, I finalized the repertoire to be recorded, drawing mostly on music that had been performed on Lessons and Carols from the previous two years. I also composed a setting of "There is No Rose" for the choir to be recorded and then later performed during services in Advent and Christmas. I engaged Nathaniel Yaffe of the NC Symphony as sound engineer and producer. The Wednesday after Easter we began rehearsing the repertoire. In early June we had two evening recording sessions at St. Paul's. BY mid-July I had a master CD and during July – September acquired the necessary supplies and afore-mentioned machines to make the CD's in quantity. I designed the CD booklet using picture taken by Dan Loughlin of services and at the recording sessions and researched licensing of the pieces that required it for distribution of the recording. By early October, we had a good quantity of completed CD's ready for sale. CD's were sold at LobsterFest, Festival of Arts and Crafts, and throughout Advent. In all, about 200 were sold and a number were provided at no cost to outreach ministries within the church for distribution. The CD's were well received and help raise awareness of the choir and St. Paul's in the larger community.

Overall Events in Music Ministries

At LobsterFest, a Celtic group that was formed within the Parish, The Celtic Collective in the late Spring of 2017 made its public debut. I put the members of the group in touch and held a first meeting with them in the choir room. In individual conversations with new parishioner David Holloway, and folks that have been here Alison Arnold and Kevin McIntire , I realized there was a potential here for a Celtic band with these people at the core. The Celtic Collective went on to open the music at the Arts and Crafts Festival.

The participation in the Arts and Crafts Festival by Music Ministries was at its highest yet. Three groups (Celtic Collective, Bells of St. Paul's and the St. Paul's Carolers) performed short concerts in the church throughout the day. The Canterbury Bells were originally scheduled to perform, but had to be pulled out because of a schedule conflict with Cary Band Day occurring on the same date. This musical festival within the Arts and Crafts Festival has potential to grow in years to come.

In December, new handbell table coverings were purchased to replace decades old, worn out ones. Not only is there a visual aesthetic improvement with these, but they make some techniques in bell ringing easier and sound better.

Also, I personally built and installed in the choir room, sound dampening panels to improve the acoustic environment there for rehearsals.

Overall, Music Ministries continues to grow in numbers and in musical richness and

Submitted by Rusty McKinney, Minister of Music.

USHERS: The Usher Ministry is important to our worship service and offers an opportunity for many people to outwardly participate in the life of St. Paul's. This ministry is a crucial component in helping newcomers and visitors form a positive first impression of St. Paul's.

The goal of each of our current 41 ushers is to always be part of the welcoming ministry of St. Paul's – making all feel a part of the worship service. The Usher Ministry is open to new recruits– if interested in joining this ministry please contact Steve East (Stevenc@nc.rr.com) or Jeff Kager (Jeff.Kager@va.gov).

Submitted by Steve East.

PARISH OPERATIONS

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE: The Communications Committee (a.k.a. Com Com) provides a vital link in furthering St. Paul's mission to *Know Christ and Make Christ Known* by overseeing published media that keeps parishioners informed about all aspects of parish life. Media that were used in 2017 include: Newsletter (St. Paul's Letter), Website, E-News, Sunday Bulletin, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Narthex Monitor, and Podcasts. Com Com is available to ministries who may need guidance on their communications needs.

Com Com members are: Fill Bowen, Larry Cupitt, Melanie Fairbrother, Christine Ingram, Brandon Jernigan, Tad Richard, Katie Robinson, Ted Straub, Lanny Wase, and Gordon Werner

The **Newsletter** (St. Paul's Letter) contains in-depth news and is mailed and/or emailed to all parish members nine times a year. Larry Cupitt creates the newsletter. About 575 newsletters are sent via postal mail, taking advantage of bulk mail rates. A link to a PDF version is emailed to about 175 parishioners.

The **Website** (stpaulscary.org) contains up-to-the-minute posts, including upcoming events and other church information. Tad Richard and Brandon Jernigan do most of the technical work, Gordon Werner, Brandon Jernigan, and John Hemperly do the posting and updating of articles, and Dan Loughlin posts many of the photos that appear or are linked on the website. Currently, SmugMug.com is the storage site containing a treasure trove of thousands of St. Paul's photos dating back decades. The website was used extensively during Lobster Fest for online ordering and was also used for online pledging during the stewardship campaign.

E-News is an email sent to those who subscribe, and has been issued every other Thursday since November 2007. Gordon Werner issues St. Paul's E-News. Currently, there are 510 subscribers. E-News mainly contains posts that have been published on the website on upcoming events and services. E-News is emailed using a program called MailChimp that reduces bounce-backs and also provides statistics on who is reading E-News and what links are clicked.

St. Paul's **Facebook** site is administered by Fill Bowen. Facebook focuses on upcoming church events and reports results of past events. Interaction by parish members with St. Paul's Facebook site (like, etc.) has continued to increase over the past couple of years.

The **Narthex Monitor** is a screen installed in the lobby that continuously scrolls, presenting information to visitors and those entering the church on upcoming events and directing them to various meeting spaces. Larry Cupitt updates the monitor at least once a week.

An **Announcements** sheet is inserted in the Sunday bulletin. Requests for announcements in a Sunday bulletin must be submitted to Melanie by the prior Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. Announcements are also reproduced on the website.

Homilies are now available via **Podcasts**. Podcasts were implemented in 2016 by Brandon Jernigan. People can subscribe to these podcasts and have them delivered to their mobile devices. Users can subscribe to podcasts of St. Paul's Cary by using the application on their smart phones.

An **Instagram** account has been implemented by Brandon Jernigan in 2016 and is used to share photos. Users can search for "stpaulscary" and follow posted photos.

The Communications Committee also monitors posters, etc. that are displayed in the **narthex**. A sign has been placed in the narthex directing that donated articles be placed in bins located opposite the choir room.

A video has been made by Fill Bowen and has been posted on You Tube, titled "**St. Paul's Coffee Hour Instructions**." It is linked on the website under "Ministries / Adult Ministries / Coffee Hour"

A procedure has been developed by Katie Robinson to allow the printing of shortened URLs that are published in hardcopy media (where you can't just click on a link). The process is called **BITLY** and a link is posted under "Resources / Ministry-Resources / Bitly."

Submitted by Gordon Werner.

KIDS' CLUB / NURSERY: The Kids' Club/Nursery ministry has a special role in welcoming many new families to the church. Our ministry provides a safe and nurturing environment for infants through school age children. We are a small group of dedicated women who enjoy working with children and taking the time to develop relationships with them. Kids' Club enables parents to attend church, teach Sunday school, attend choir practices and participate in other meetings or events while their children play in Kids' Club. Kids' Club care is available during Sunday morning services each week. We also care for school age children in the evenings (upon request) so adults who are parents can participate fully in church events.

We are grateful to those individuals who have donated goldfish, diapers and toys, and to Sherri Hubbard for donating fun crafts throughout the year.

Kids' Club continues to use cell phones as the primary way to contact parents when a child is upset or ill. We ask parents to program their cell phones to silent/vibrate. Kids' Club continues to use the standard text when contacting parents-"Kids Club needs you to return for (child's name)".

This year the Kids' Club staff was overjoyed with the installation of new lights around the Kids' club building, Chapel and Memorial garden. Thank you so much St. Paul's! We love that it lights up like "Times Square"! What a difference it makes in the evening. The nursery staff feels much safer working at night with the new lighting. Thank you to Christine Ingram, Jackie Straub and the vestry members for approving this installation. Another thank you goes out to Melanie Fairbrother, Jeff Kager, Kurt Robinson and Brian Rudy for their assistance and handy work in Kids' Club throughout the year!

Our wonderfully committed 2017 staff consisted of Leigh Grammich, Stephanie Hochanadel, Evalyn Johnson, Melinda Lowe, Tara Muller and Lisa Walt. In March, we also welcomed Natania Reyes to the staff. Each staff member is screened, trained and has CPR and First Aid certification. I deeply appreciate this professional and devoted staff who offer their Sunday mornings and evenings to work in the nursery. These caring ladies ensure Kids Club runs smoothly year round. They welcome

families every Sunday, serve goldfish crackers and clean up with cheer and skill and provide a terrific service to the families of the church.

We love spending time with St. Paul's youngest parishioners. We look forward to 2018 with your little cherubs!

Submitted by Laura Gorman, Kids' Club Director

MINISTRY LEADER RESOURCE COMMITTEE: The Ministry Leader Resource Committee (MLRC) helps to support the mission of St. Paul's through supporting its ministry leaders and by inviting and encouraging parishioners to get involved in parish life. In 2017, the MLRC accomplished this goal by providing:

Opportunities for parishioners to connect with ministries:

- Ministry Fairs: Three mini Ministry Fairs were held during 2017. Over fifty different groups used these opportunities to showcase their ministries and to talk with possible volunteers.
- Coffee Hour Ministry Highlights: Throughout the year, various ministries were highlighted as coffee hour hosts. Each ministry was recognized in church with a special prayer and was invited to share information about their particular ministry during coffee hour. A Youtube was created to help make coffee preparation easier.
- Time and Talent Sign Ups: Time and Talent forms are available year-round in the narthex and on the website. There is also a fillable form on the website.

Resources for ministry leaders:

- Ministry List: A list of all St. Paul's ministries and groups and the contact persons for each is continually revised as needed. About three times a year, an updated copy of this document is emailed to all parish leaders, posted on the website, and made available in the church office.
- Handbook for Ministry Leaders: This handy reference is available on the website and provides important information for leaders, including current church forms, guidelines, and procedures.
- Ongoing Ministry Leader Updates: The MLRC provided timely and helpful information for all ministry leaders through newsletter items, emails, E-news, and the St. Paul's website.
- Ministry Leader Email List: This is a closed list, which can be used to disseminate timely information among ministry leaders.

Moving forward, the MLRC hopes to continue to support the spirit of "All are Welcome" by encouraging parishioners to share their gifts and to make connections within our parish. Current members of the MLRC are: Margie Best, Frank Bricio, Gail Duncan, Jeff Kager, Mary Kintz, Sally Moller, Brian Rudy, Karen Smith, Victor Talbird, and Lanny Wase.

Submitted by Lanny Wase.

OFFICE VOLUNTEER: Office volunteers assist the clergy and office staff with tasks that benefit the work of the church. Some of the tasks that office volunteers do are: staffing phones, forwarding calls and taking messages, referring callers to appropriate resources, and entering data into our computer database and some maintenance. Other volunteers prepare and complete mailings; write letters to visitors; record and document transfers, baptisms, and other sacraments. They also prepare, edit, fold, print, and collate bulletins and other documents. In an average week, we utilize regular weekly volunteers who cumulatively work 36 hours a week in the office. This does not include volunteer hours for extra mailings by other ministries, additional bulletin inserts, and newsletter assembly and editing. The monthly newsletter requires approximately 24 volunteer hours a month

and an all parish wide mailing requires approximately 6 volunteer hours for each mailing. Volunteers also staff the office during the Office Managers vacation time.

Thank you to the many people who have volunteered their time and talent as office volunteers in 2017. We hope you enjoyed it and will return, along with some new volunteers in 2018.

Submitted by Melanie Fairbrother, Office Manager

PULSE COMMITTEE: The mission of the Pulse Committee at St Paul's is to detect trends in the views of our parishioners. The impact this committee has is that the clergy can continue doing what is working well, and to potentially alter items/services / programs that need adjusting. Without this feedback, the clergy has a more challenging time determining how the general parish population views St Paul's and its ministries. In addition to giving feedback and / or their opinions of St. Paul's, parishioners are quick to say how much they appreciate that their feedback is solicited.

The Pulse committee started the year with 8 active members, lost one member, and gained two new members, ending the year with 9 active members. The Pulse committee members are given a list of 12 parishioners each quarter for three quarters (approximately 252 parishioners total). The fourth quarter is during the Stewardship campaign and the Pulse committee does not make calls that quarter. The percentage of parishioners that are reached has averaged less than 50%. This percentage has decreased over the years with changing technology and people choosing not to answer their phones! When email addresses are available and phone numbers are not, Pulse members will use this media to communicate with parishioners, however the intent is to continue to strive for voice communication with parishioners.

The response of each survey call is hand written and given back to the chair, Elaine Hunt. After the end of the quarter, all returned phone call survey sheets are given to the rector for his perusal and analysis.

Submitted by Elaine Hunt.

SERVING ST. PAUL'S AND THE COMMUNITY

PRESCHOOL: St. Paul's Preschool welcomes all families in our community. Our goal is to help each child develop mentally, emotionally, socially, physically and spiritually through participation in a variety of learning experiences. We want children to love school, love to learn and know they are special and loved by God. We strive to provide a safe learning environment where all children can learn. We are fortunate to have many new families join us each year. Several of these families find a church home at St. Paul's while attending the Preschool.

The Preschool currently offers 1 class for 1 year olds, 2 classes for 2 year olds, 4 classes for 3 year olds and 3 classes for 4 and 5 year olds. St. Paul's Preschool currently has 91 children and 24 staff members. We have a few openings in our 4's classes and TK class.

The Preschool Board meets monthly and consists of parents, teachers, the director and assistant director, a vestry member, and the Children's Ministry Director. The Board discusses fundraising, classes, parents and teachers needs and wants, and marketing strategies.

The Preschool children participate in a Music/Movement class which meets weekly with Ms. Donna or Ms. Danielle. The children sing songs, play games, use the parachute and work on gross motor skills.

Ms. Laura leads our Toddlers and 2's in weekly Chapel. She teaches the children that they are special and that they are loved by God and Jesus. She uses a felt board, puppets and other hands on materials to tell simple Bible stories. Their favorite song to sing is "This Little Light of Mine."

The 3's, 4's and TK meet weekly for Chapel with Father Carr. Father Carr teaches them the "Lord's Prayer", tells them a story from the Bible and sings "famous" Chapel songs such as "My God is So Big" and "Fuzzy Caterpillar." The children take turns as the "acolytes" and light and snuff out the candles. Each lighter and snuffer offers a special prayer for someone or something they love.

The 4 & 5 year old classes also have Spanish once a week with Senora Alex. These classes are in addition to all the wonderful activities that are provided by our classroom teachers. St. Paul's Preschool teachers develop their own curriculum with developmentally and age appropriate activities that will help prepare the children for the "next" level of learning. This flexibility in the curriculum allows the teachers to bring their own uniqueness and special talents to their classes. Christ is made know in the classroom through daily morning and lunch prayers, through stories and songs.

Extended Day is offered on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 12:30 until 1:00. We have 25 children registered in the Extended Day Program. Currently, the cost is \$35 a month for 12:30-1:00.

The Preschool students and families participate in several outreach opportunities and events throughout the year including an Ice Cream Social, Muffins for Moms, Donuts for Dads, Snow Ball, Restaurant Nights, Cookies in the Courtyard, USO Toy donations, can food collection, field trips, visits from the Fire and Police Department, a dance company, the Traveling Tortoise and much more. This year the TK class collected 177 cans of food for St. Paul's "Little Red Wagon" ministry.

The class is invited to attend church and present the cans during the 9:00 a.m. service. We are always striving to build a sense of unity with our Preschool families while getting to know and giving back to our community.

This year St. Paul's Children's Ministries distributed a list of the Children's Ministries events, activities and Sunday School information to all the Preschool families. Additionally, emails were sent inviting the Preschool children to participate in such events as Pumpkin Carving, the Christmas Pageant and Teddy Bear Tea.

We are blessed to have such amazing Preschool teachers and families. The teachers and I will continue to provide a warm, loving, safe learning environment for our preschool families.

Submitted by Brooke Bowersox, Preschool Director