

Annual Reports
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Cary, North Carolina

Jan 1, 2019

Annual Reports from Ministry Groups and Committees for 2018

HOSPITALITY, PARISH LIFE, AND PASTORAL CARE

CARE AND SHARE:

Care and Share (CnS) Ministry is an in-reach ministry at St. Paul's that assists members on a short-term basis who are experiencing crisis in their lives. The 178 church members who have signed up to be CnS volunteers state they are available to fulfill these needs. CnS Ministry serves Christ when we serve others in need.

Services provided in 2018 include the following:

Meals: a minimum of 23 households received approximately 125 meals. Gail Cowper leads this valuable part of our Ministry.

New Babies/Moms: 4 families with new babies received a total of 21 meals. Nicole Gatchalian oversees this part of our Ministry.

Funeral Receptions: Led by Judy Crow and assisted by Gail Cowper, we have provided 7 families, who have lost a loved one, with a beautiful reception.

Transportation: Drivers have transported 5 persons to church on Sundays. Two persons have been transported to medical appointments for a total of at least 20 appointments. Transportation needs are arranged by Melinda Thomas. CnS needs drivers to transport persons to church, especially the 9:00 a.m. service, and to appointments.

Numerous home-, hospital-, and nursing-home-visits have been made by CnS Leadership members.

Prayer List Contacts: Persons on our parish Prayer List are contacted regularly, or receive a card, from Melonie Wigley and Kathy Huffman to ascertain if there are needs CnS can aid with.

Card Ministry: Approximately 83 cards, including "Get Well" and "Thinking of You" cards, were sent to parishioners in 2018. Approximately 60 sympathy Cards and All Saint's Day cards were sent to families who lost a loved one. Judy Wall crafts our greeting cards. Linda Cozzolino makes our All Saint's Day cards.

Visiting Eucharistic Ministers: Judy Crow, Susan Coulter, and Margie Best on the Leadership Team continue to take communion to parishioners who are unable to come to church.

Prayer Shawls and New Baby Blankets: In conjunction with Prayer Stitchers and Beth Barnes, CnS participated in delivery of prayer shawls to 7 persons and baby blankets to 3 newborns.

CnS sponsored the annual Blessing of the Hands at the 9:00 and 11:15 a.m. church services on March 11, 2018. This meaningful service reminds us that all our "hands" serve Christ as we help others in many diverse ways.

CnS continues to assist church members with obtaining medical and community resources.

The CnS Leadership Team includes 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 our Priest Liaison.

Submitted by Melonie Wigley and Marjorie Best.

FELLOWSHIP EVENTS COMMITTEE:

The Fellowship Events Team Ministry organizes events where parishioners can gather together to enjoy fellowship, create friendships, get a sense of community and provide help to other ministries.

April 13th, we had our third annual BBQ luncheon. We cooked and served BBQ meals to 89 adults and 13 children. Good food and fellowship were enjoyed by all. Though we tried to only charge for the cost of the meal, we made a profit of \$265.17. The profit was placed in the FET Social Activities Fund for future use by the ministry and parish.

On Mother's Day, we hosted a strawberry festival and ice cream social for the coffee hour.

Many of our FET members assisted at the Lobster Fest in October.

A parish social event was planned for November 4th at the North Carolina Museum of Art. We had ten parishioners attend a docent guided tour of the exhibit, The Beyond: Georgia O' Keefe and Contemporary Art. Each person paid for their own ticket. We wished more had attended but everyone had an enjoyable art experience and fellowship.

November 10th, we provided homemade soups and bread, that was served and sold at the Arts and Crafts Festival. We made and sold approximately 140 bowls of soup and accompanying slices of bread, donating well over \$400. to parish outreach. We used a small amount from the BBQ profit to purchase soup ingredients and serve ware, but a large amount of the ingredients was donated by FET members. Much fellowship and good food was enjoyed by both church parishioners and the outside community during this event.

We co-hosted (with the Children's Ministry) the Coffee Hour after the Christmas Pageant on December 16th. It is one of the largest coffee hours of the year and a great start to the festive Christmas season.

I want to thank the 16 members of the FET Ministry who have worked hard on these activities.

Everyone adds such valuable talents to providing our events, especially the planning, cooking, and serving. We have a chance to have fun, fellowship, and food; which we enjoy sharing with our church community. Sharing our community brings us closer to each other and God.

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 2018:

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 six interments in the garden.

Ordered the engraving of the deceased persons' names 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.

A member of the committee walked through the memorial garden area with a Cary police officer to assess the safety of the area.

At the November vestry meeting, the vestry approved the following recommendations made by the Memorial Garden Committee: to permit the full middle name of a purchaser of a columbarium niche; to reduce the fee of \$2500 to \$1500 for a single person purchasing a columbarium niche; and, to limit future prepaid garden contracts to 50% of the remaining available plots in the garden. The Memorial Garden Guidelines were amended to reflect the recommendations.

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 continue to be 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 provides time, talent, and treasure to St. Paul's and its programs and needs, as well as getting together for social activities. We currently have around 50 active members. The 2018 Men's Group Executive Committee included Jeff Kager (Vestry Liaison), Bill Fierke, Steve East, Rick Bradley, and Brian Rudy.

In 2018, 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 provide assistance and education for our members.

The Men's Group had several fund-raising events in 2018, including Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, ASP Spaghetti Dinner (in cooperation with Youth Group ASP representatives), and Lobster Fest. The 2018 Lobster Fest held on Saturday, October 6th, 2018 was another success. We sold about 1,600 lobsters and 1,400 lobster rolls with a net income of over \$19,000. All the money raised helps the church with in-reach and outreach program needs that are planned in advance and approved by the vestry, an emergency need, or are not covered in the church operating budget. In 2018, the Men's Group funded (or set-aside funds) for a variety of parish needs identified and approved by the vestry and the Men's Group Executive Committee. Church programs supported in 2018 included scholarships for ASP and kitchen updates. In coordination with facilities and other ministries, the Men's Group regularly coordinates volunteer events beyond maintenance, such as mulching the grounds and clearing the retention pond area, saving several thousands of dollars.

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

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 the Senior's Luncheon
- Saturday Church work days

The Men's Group invites all men of St. Paul's, 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.

NEWCOMER MINISTRY:

The Newcomer Ministry continues to welcome visitors and new parishioners to St. Paul's. Our primary focus on a weekly basis is bread delivery to everyone who signs a pew card. Thanks to a large pool of volunteers who faithfully bake bread and keep our freezer stocked, there is a supply to provide a welcoming loaf of home-baked bread. Members of church family go to their homes to meet them personally and share bread as a gesture of welcome.

The other chief activity we carry out twice a year is a Newcomer Gathering. We meet with new folks over a simple supper just to visit and answer any questions that they might have. The clergy and several ministry leaders join us, to gently encourage them to get involved in 1 or 2 of our many ministry groups. We share the warmth and fellowship of our parish and form relationships.

Submitted by Anne Laney.

PRAYER STITCHERS:

Prayer Stitches is a prayerful handwork ministry which 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 beyond. Our ministry is also to our members, providing opportunities for fellowship, creativity, and giving.

Prayer Stitches is a strong supporter of Outreach. We make items throughout the year for distribution to individuals and families served by St. Paul's outreach ministries and charitable organizations. In 2018, a total of 501 hats, scarves, afghans, shawls, lap robes and other items with a total value of \$6,293.00 were donated. Families served through our Refuge for Refugees Ministry received a hat for each family member and an afghan as part of their welcome to their new homes. Six prayer afghans were made for the families served through the Appalachian Service Project. The remaining items were donated to nine organizations and agencies serving veterans, homeless persons and families, low-income families, children, and individuals in hospital and hospice care. Preemie hats were 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 the St. Paul's Arts and Crafts Festival, the Glenaire Bazaar and to individuals, resulting in a total of \$2,187.00 collected and donated to St. Paul's Outreach Ministries.

Our Inreach ministry includes prayer pockets and shawls made for members of the parish, their family members, and friends. In 2018, eighty-seven (87) prayer pockets and ten (10) prayer shawls were given to persons in need of comfort and prayers.

Prayer Stitches began three new initiatives in 2018:

Pocket Prayer Squares, knitted or crocheted squares with an uplifting prayer attached, are available in the narthex. Intended as assurance of God's presence and an expression of our prayers, 218 squares were distributed in 2018.

In coordination with the Care and Share Ministry and as an expression of the love and support of their church family, baby blankets are now being given to St. Paul's families with a new baby. Three blankets were given in 2018.

Hats are now being made for patients at the Ronald McDonald House in Durham. A total of 44 hats were donated in 2018.

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.

RAINBOW GATHERING:

The Rainbow Gathering group continued to provide a monthly meeting space for St. Paul's parishioners our friends and community members who identify as Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer or Questioning.

Following a presentation by Barbara Lau, the Director of the Pauli Murray Center in Durham who presented on the life and legacy of late Reverend Pauli Murray, we co-sponsored a book study on one of the many memoirs Pauli Murray wrote. The book study was well received, and we invited participants to a follow-up documentary evening and a walking tour of her childhood neighborhood in Durham. We had opportunities for meetups outside the church and those included a breakfast and dinner at local restaurants.

We participated in the community table at the 2018 North Carolina Gay and Lesbian Film Festival and have been in communication with the local Gay and Lesbian Center in Raleigh to work on collaborating with them for youth outreach. We wrapped up the year with a dessert social and ornament exchange.

Rainbow Gathering members voted to move the meetings from Friday evenings to Sunday afternoon starting in January of 2019.

Active Rainbow Gathering members include: Andrea Johnson chair, Dana Frenz, Laura Carathanasis, Mary Rodriguez, Deborah Turner, Carol Martin (community member), Evelyn Studer (community member), Nancy Fierke, Marci Byers, Martha Waters, Georgie Gracie, and Myra Hawkins.

Submitted by Andrea Johnson.

EDUCATIONAL AND SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

ADULT FORMATION COMMITTEE:

Adult Formation offered a variety of topics and opportunities for St. Paul's in 2018. The Sunday morning offerings were well attended and greatly appreciated. Positive comments were abundant, and participants usually left the Chapel still discussing the topic. Except for the summer offerings, the content was planned (and primarily presented) by our exceptional clergy team.

Wednesday evening offerings also provided a wide variety of topics. Although the attendance was less than the Sunday offerings, Wednesday provided an opportunity for community building and a welcoming acceptance for several new members of St. Paul's.

Again this year, the Wednesday Eucharist was greatly appreciated. It gave participants the opportunity to have a deeper spiritual focus during Lent and Advent, as well as a communal opportunity for Bible study.

Adult Formation also sponsored the all-day Enneagram workshop for about 30 participants.

Series Title	No. of Sessions	Ave. Attendance	Total Attendance
Sunday Morning Offerings			
Epiphany: Worshiping with the Saints and Mystics of the Church	4	30.5	122
Lent: Loving Our Neighbors Near and Far	5	53.3	267
Easter: Spiritual Practices in Daily Life	5	31	155
Summer: NOOMA	10	7.5	75
History of Christianity Videos	6	7	42
Rob Bell Documentary	1	7	7
Jesus Christ Superstar	3	6.3	19
Ordinary: Going Deeper: Ancient Teachings for a Vibrant Faith	6	36	216
Advent: Holy Longing in Turbulent Times	2	No count	
Wednesday Evening Offerings			
Epiphany: A Church Epiphany	4	4.5	18
Lent: Half Truths	5	8.6	43
Ordinary: Reclaiming Jesus	9	6.3	57

Lent and Advent Eucharist (noon + 7 pm)

Series	No. of Wednesdays	Ave. Attendance	Total Attendance
Lent	5	12.6	63
Advent	3	12.3	37

Adult Formation Committee: Gerri Batchelor, Chair; Linda Rudisell, Secretary; Rev. Javier Almendárez-Bautista, clergy representative; Andrea Johnson, Brandon Jernigan, Grant W. Ray, Howard Loughlin, Joe Ryan, Myra Hawkins, and Bill Gautier, vestry representative.

Submitted by Gerri Batchelor

CHILDREN’S MINISTRIES COMMITTEE (CMC):

The Children’s Ministries Committee (CMC) is so thankful for all 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 \$3000 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. We hosted three Note in the Pocket collection drives for clothing and we collected over 12 bins of new/used clothing to be distributed to children in Wake County.

In sharing their time, 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. Paul's, and cleaned up the St. Paul's playground.

Sunday School: The Sunday School program served an average of 47 children on Sunday mornings this fall with classes being taught by 28 super Sunday school teachers.

Attendance History

2018 average attendance was 47 children

2017 average attendance was 48 children

2016 average attendance was 53 children

2015 average attendance was 60 children

2014 average attendance was 60 children

2013 average attendance was 71 children

2012 average attendance was 83 children

2011 average attendance was 63 children

2010 average attendance was 67 children

Children's Chapel: Children's Chapel met throughout the year during the 9:00am and 11:15am services. Average attendance at the 9:00 a.m. service was 29 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 22 children participating in the Fall 2018 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 April 2018. 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 2018 to May 2019-\$1428 (to date) to Note in the Pocket (June 9, 2019 Sort Date)

June 2017 to May 2018-\$3000 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

June 2010 to May 2011-\$1600 to Episcopal Relief and Development

VBS: Our *Journey to Bethlehem* Vacation Bible School was a big success this year. Our VBS was attended by 87 children. We had numerous youth helpers and adult volunteers. Our outreach project was to collect donations of new and used clothing for Note in the Pocket.

Communion Classes: Communion classes met during Lent and 19 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 87 children to share the wonder and excitement of Jesus' birth with the parish. We enjoyed hearing 38 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 2018 included a 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 You”s: 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), Melissa Raasch (committee chair), Sarah Woodson, Amy Borbet, Lynn Tovar, Callie Simrill-Hester, Rachael Campbell, Lauren Campbell, Sarah Fisher, and Melanie Williams.

We celebrate God’s blessings and look forward to another wonderful year in 2019.

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 9:15am 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

MOMS MINISTRY:

MOMs (Ministry of Mothers Sharing) is a multi-week, facilitated, small-group focused on spirituality and “self-awareness” for mothers of young children through teenagers (and beyond)! MOMs gives structured time for these women to discover and enrich their spiritual selves and to connect with other mothers at St. Paul’s. It is not a Bible study and it is not a support group, though in can include elements of both. TNT became an offshoot of MOMs in 2009. As of this report,

A seven-week session for TNT-ers (or “Dynamite” Moms – mothers of teens and ‘tweens)—getting a late start in September due to Hurricane Florence. Thirteen women participated, including the three facilitators. A celebratory dinner was held at the home of Julia Rudy at the conclusion of the session.

A series for MOMs (young children) is planned for early Spring 2019.

MOMs ministry operates at minimal financial cost, as registration fees are collected from participants and MOMs alumni participate with spiritual and supplies support.

Over the years, MOMs has sponsored a total of 182 women at St. Paul’s through 18 MOMs courses and seven TNT series. Many of our TNTers were previously MOMs. MOMs enjoys a large and supportive group of alumni who continue their participation in the ministry with prayer, facilitation, and social support.

Submitted by Ann Lockhart.

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 2018, we read 5 fiction and 5 non-fiction books (we did not meet in July or October). 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 a.m. 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 spit 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 school students participated in our annual Appalachian Service Project mission trip, this year to Fentress County, TN. The middle schoolers had their annual mission trip to the Episcopal Farmworkers Ministry in June.
- **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 / Provincial Events:** We had youth attend Bishop's Ball, Happening, and Genesis. We had youth on team for the following events: Happening (3), Bishop's Ball (4), and genesis (2). Two youth and Leah served as counselors for HUGS Camp in July. We had 2 youth and Leah attend the Provincial Youth Event in Atlanta in July (Leah and 1 youth on team). Leah and 3 youth serve on the Diocesan Charter Commission for Youth (CCY), a group that plans and leads Diocesan Youth events. Leah continues to meet with other Diocesan youth leaders monthly.
- **Spiritual Formation:** Confirmation classes were held in the spring and 7 youth were confirmed in June. We had both a Lenten and an Advent Study. 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 A Night In a Car. 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 2019 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

DORCAS MINISTRIES:

Dorcas Ministries is funded by financial donations and proceeds from the Thrift Shop. Crisis Ministry and the Thrift Shop are staffed by over 600 volunteers (30 from St. Paul's). More volunteers are needed if you have an extra 3 hours a week to spare.

In 2018 Dorcas Ministries served an estimated 24,000 clients. Services provided are:

- **Financial Assistance** for those who live, work, worship, and attend public school in Cary and Morrisville and find themselves in a temporary financial crisis. Applicants may present all necessary past due bills for consideration.
- **Food Pantry** provides free emergency food assistance. Shoppers choose canned goods, frozen meat, fresh produce, dairy items, and paper products. Food is provided by generous community donors and managed by caring volunteers. Area churches and organizations can sign up to provide all the needs for a specific shelf in the Food Pantry. St. Paul's signed up for the toilet paper shelf. For 2018 we collected 2,264 rolls of toilet paper (94% of our goal), 5 rolls of paper towels, toothbrushes, and toiletry samples for the Dorcas Food Pantry.
- **Job Training Center** provides volunteer coaches that can assist with job searching, resume writing, career advising, and basic computer training. A phone, fax, and computers with printers and an internet connection are available for use.
- **Childcare** temporary financial assistance for 4-year old preschool, Transitional Kindergarten, daycare, before/after care, and camp for children who attend public school in Cary or Morrisville, or whose parents live, work, or worship there and are struggling to afford the expense.
- **Education** assistance for the unemployed or under-employed is available through the Keller Program or the Career Advancement Program.
- **Cary Parks & Recreation** fee assistance is available to residents of the Town of Cary for Cary Parks and Recreation programs.

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 2018 we served over 700 meals.

Our St. Paul's volunteers work in two-person teams servicing the same route each month. This allows us to not only be familiar with the assigned 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, Tommy Harrill, Toni Holderied, Dana Petersen, Damil Gharthey, and Yvonne Gharthey. 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, Gail Duncan, Elaine Hunt, John Malco, Conyers Woodruff, Dennis Holderied, Lauren Campbell, and Jenny Smith.

The ministry especially wishes to thank Bill Fierke, Jan Barbee, and Barbara Brickman for their years of service as monthly volunteers. Jan and Barbara will continue to serve in the ministry as substitute volunteers.

Submitted by Bob Petersen.

REFUGE FOR REFUGEES:

The Refuge for Refugee ministry (R4R) continued working with U. S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) to welcome refugee families to the Raleigh / Cary area. We continue to support four families actively (with two families being independent of our efforts). This year we lost one family and gained another: the Somali family was doing sufficiently well that they chose to join a large Somali community in Minnesota and relocated there (we have remained in touch, and they seem to have adjusted well and enjoy being in that community); and we welcomed a family of six from Ethiopia in late September. The year has seen the families face significant challenges, from serious health issues to a fire in their apartment forcing them to relocate. There have been successes, too – with one family acquiring a car and others showing progress in education and work. Our ministry members still assist with things like teaching English as a Second Language, getting them to medical appointments, helping them navigate the bureaucratic maze of government and health care, and just being a friendly “ear” to listen. This year, we have been assisted with generous donations from the St. Paul's community and from Dorcas Ministries and from Wheels4Hope. Thank you to all who have contributed time, money, and talents to make the stranger feel welcome in our land.

Submitted by the Cupitts.

ST. NICHOLAS MINISTRY:

The St. Nicholas ministry made Christ known in our community this year by brightening the Christmas season for 403 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

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

This year we also provided gifts for the refugee families sponsored by St. Paul's.

Due to a snowstorm, St. Nicholas Day service was cancelled. Volunteers held hours throughout the week to collect gifts in the parish hall. Though all the tags were claimed this year, there were a record number of gifts left unfulfilled. 35 children had to be provided for by the supplemental gifts purchased through the year by the St. Nicholas ministry. We also purchased twenty \$25 Walmart gift cards using the money in the account earmarked for the 2019 season. By Friday the 14th, in one way or another, all 403 children were provided for. Any gifts brought following delivery are reserved for next year.

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 of the 368 gifts collected is valued at \$50, the outpouring of gifts from the congregation represents an outreach effort of more than \$18,400 and another \$500 in gift cards provided by our ministry. We were also able to provide coats, backpacks, shoes, balls, toys, books, and many other miscellaneous items with the monetary gifts donated in 2017.

This was a learning year for St. Nicholas in worst case scenarios. We will certainly be leaving a little room in the budget each year for emergency and gift cards. I will also rewrite the letter to the agencies, spelling out a Plan B if our collection is hampered for any reason as flexibility on both sides is necessary.

Submitted by Colette Hibberd.

VETERANS AND MILITARY OUTREACH:

In grateful appreciation for the support from our St. Paul's and VMO family members, 2018 proved to be an incredibly humbling first year as a fully formed In-reach-Outreach Group.

FORMATION PHASE: We completed our formation phase which includes: a beautiful prayer for our meeting closures; a website resource listing; and a logo donated by a "Friends of VMO" graphic artist – (graciously completed from our rough hand drafted idea). The logo includes a cross symbol in place of (and) in our name and colors that represent: light blue for St. Paul's; Black for Deceased POW and MIA; Gold for Gold Star Mothers; Red for Blood shed for our Veterans; White and Blue for our military and family members; and stars that represent each branch of military. Also, aprons were purchased, and logos sewn on for identifying us as we continue to expand our ministry as a transforming presence in our local community.

IN-REACH: 2018-- a year of learning and growth

Welcoming Environment: As VMO celebrates its first year, looking back, we are incredibly humbled by the generous outpouring of love and support that made this in-reach possible. Thanks to our St.

Paul's parish family, we were provided the opportunity to reach out and connect with other military members (past and present) and their family members to form a group of people that are ready and willing to become an In-reach organization that will be capable of providing in-reach service. We are truly thankful.

Deployed Service Member Initiative: VMO is pleased to support our deployed military parish members with care packages, cards, and letters. Our goal is to create an environment that respects the privacy of the service member, while ensuring friends and family members feel comfortable sharing as they become a treasured member of the St. Paul's & VMO community before, during, and after a service member's deployment.

Education opportunities: As military members make up less than 2% of the population, we are consistently working on providing opportunities to help close the gap of miscommunication and misinformation that arises from lack of direct exposure between military and non-military. We are looking forward to implementing a 3-part program to host an annual book study group 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. The personal inventory exercise is a wealth of information that every member of the congregation would greatly enjoy.

OUTREACH: 2018 -- blessed with a generous outpouring of spirit of support

Homeless Initiative: The homeless initiative is fulfilled with personal & hygiene supplies that are collected throughout the year in our Red, White, & Blue Wagon located in the narthex; and in turn directly donated to organizations that provide direct service to homeless veterans. This year we received a total \$861.64 – in prayer squares, wash clothes, knitted hats & scarves, and personal hygiene supplies (travel size soap, shampoo, shaving cream, razors, deodorant, sun lotion): \$434.14 was donated to Military Missions in Action; and \$427.50 donated to the Durham Veteran’s Hospital. Also, thanks to generous donations from parish members and outreach, we were able to donate sweat shirts and pants, t-shirts, underwear, and socks to 10-homeless veterans at the Durham Veteran’s Hospital packaged in lightweight backpacks.

Service Animal Initiative: The first annual Service Animal Initiative was a loving experience that we are looking forward to again sharing with you in 2019. The love shared in the room at the graduation ceremony in October was incredible. If you have an opportunity to attend in 2019, we highly recommend it. An invitation will be sent out well in advance. Training of a service animal is very extensive in a well-regulated environment. The long-term benefits are endless. Graduates then use their skills to “spread the love” to other service members. This is a life transforming experience for everyone involved. VMO’s Goal is to annually adopt a dog (raise \$1000) by selling dog biscuits. This may be done at the church level and by forming relationships with individuals and groups in the community to also “adopt” a service animal for veterans by selling homemade dog biscuits. The cost is minimal making it a low-cost initiative while simultaneously fostering invitation, inclusiveness, and acceptance. This year VMO raised a total of \$581 -- VMO raised \$361 at a cost of approximately \$21 – in a period less than 5 hours between 2 events -- Graduation and Veterans Day – they were a huge hit – people are looking forward to next year; and grateful thank you to our Prayer Stitchers family for the generous donation of knitted hats – an additional \$220 was raised to help us reach our \$1,000 goal. The sales were donated directly to Vets United, Durham, NC.

USO Initiative: The USO is actively operated by volunteers and VMO is fortunate to share in this support duty. Families are welcomed from around the world and offered generous donations of water, soft drinks and snacks, and a quiet place to relax at the airport. VMO, through use of outreach funds, donates quarterly a case of water and a box of snacks. This is a much-appreciated donation by the families during some very stressful times.

Toy Drive: Annually, St. Paul’s hosts an annual gift collection from the preschool in December for children traveling with their parents from around the world to visit family and friend that pass through the USO at the Raleigh International Airport. Due to overlapping St. Paul In-reach / Outreach activities in December, VMO will be moving its annual collection to February around Valentine’s Day and naming it A LOVE COLLECTION. We are looking to hosting our first annual event in February and sharing the concept in next year’s annual report.

A heartfelt thank you to you, our St. Paul family, we are looking forward to working together as a family of faith.

Submitted by Penny Tennian.

EPISCOPAL FARMWORKER MINISTRY: HERMANO DAY:

2018 was the twentieth anniversary of “Hermano Day” which is a day in which we support our “Brothers In Christ,” migrant and seasonal farmworkers, through the Episcopal Farmworker Ministry. 2018 was our most generous year ever. Parishioners donated \$3,750.00 in cash donations and 106 bags of bedding/clothing/food.

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

This year, in addition to “Hermano Day” our parish joined our diocese in offering aid and assistance to those farmworkers affected or displaced by Hurricane Florence. The monetary donations to the Episcopal Farmworker Ministry totaled \$1435.00 in cash and 40 bags of food and dry goods.

Total donations \$3,750.00 - Hermano Day - March 18, 2018

Total donations \$1,435.00 - Hurricane Florence Relief efforts - October 23, 2018

Total bags of bedding/clothing/food - 106 - Hermano Day

Total bags of food/dry goods - 40 - Hurricane Relief

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.

RISE AGAINST HUNGER:

Rise Against Hunger (formerly Stop Hunger Now) is driven by the vision of a world without hunger. Their mission is to end hunger by 2030 by providing food and life-changing aid to the world’s most vulnerable and creating a global commitment to mobilize the necessary resources. At just \$ 0.29 per meal, 80% of Rise Against Hunger meals are distributed through global partners that administer school feeding programs, orphanages, health clinics, vocational training and a growing focus on the education and empowerment of women as a key in the pursuit of zero hunger. Rise Against Hunger meals are nutritiously sound. Every dehydrated rice/soy meal is fortified with 23 essential vitamins and nutrients. Research has shown that one in three people in developing countries are adversely affected by vitamin and mineral deficiencies.

At each meal packaging event, St. Paul’s commits to packaging 10,000 meals. Volunteers from 4 years of age and up commit their time and money to both packaging the meals and paying for the food ingredients used in these meals. This is a wonderful ministry where people of all ages learn there is something that they can do to make this world a better place for all.

In 2018, Ramsey McIntire and Brooke Mautz began coordinating with Rise Against Hunger, and we hosted a meal packaging event on October 14th. We had participation from 74 volunteers, raised \$3345 in donations, and packaged approximately 15,000 meals. As a result of this event, St. Paul’s surpassed 130,000 total meals packaged for Rise Against Hunger since they began hosting events 13 years ago.

The meals packaged at St. Paul’s on October 14th were sent on a shipping container with 285,120 meals to Swaziland with Rise Against Hunger’s partner Adventist Development and Relief Agency, which is an organization that nourishes lives through food assistance and other services in Swaziland.

Submitted by Ramsey McIntire.

LITURGY

ACOLYTES:

Acolytes

What is an acolyte? The word acolyte is derived from the Greek word ἀκόλουθος (akolouthos), meaning an attendant, or Late Latin acolythus. An acolyte is an assistant or follower assisting the celebrant in a religious service or procession. In Anglican churches – such as the Church of England, the Episcopal Church of the United States, the Church in Wales, the Scottish Episcopal Church – altar servers are often called acolytes. (1)

At St. Paul's, acolytes assist in worship by carrying a processional cross (Crucifer), lighting candles, holding the Gospel book, holding candles or "torches" (Torch Bearer), assisting a deacon or priest set up and clean up at the altar, handing the offering plates to ushers, leading the processional and recessional, among other tasks.

We invite anyone in the 4th grade through adults to participate in this ministry. Training days are scheduled as needed. Two articles about the importance and history of acolytes in worship:

1. Let There Be Acolytes: 10 Hidden Benefits for Young People:
<https://tinyurl.com/LetThereBeAcolytes>
2. The Ministry of Acolytes: <https://tinyurl.com/MinistryofAcolytes>

See an Acolyte Training Video, produced St. Paul's acolytes in August 2015, at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N1TGyXJ0-r8>.

If you would like to be an Acolyte or would like information on this ministry, please contact Ramsey McIntire: dingervb@gmail.com

History of Acolytes: Acolytes are mentioned as a minor order (along with porters, lectors, and exorcists) as early as a letter of Pope Cornelius to Fabius of Antioch in 252. They were also mentioned in Cyprian's writings. They assisted deacons or subdeacons at the preparation of the table. Later they carried candles in processions. In Rome they carried fragments of the bread consecrated at the papal Mass to other churches. In the late middle ages, when candles began to appear upon altars, they lighted the altar candles. Eventually lay servers or sacristans performed duties earlier associated with acolytes, and the order of acolyte was normally conferred upon a candidate for priesthood in the course of his training. The minor orders were not perpetuated in Anglicanism. Some of the duties earlier performed by persons in the minor order of acolyte were taken over by lay clerks. In the later nineteenth century the clerks were suppressed and their duties were largely taken over by lay "acolytes" and sacristans or altar guilds. (2)

References:

- (1) <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acolyte>
- (2) <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/library/glossary/acolyte>

Submitted by Ramsey McIntire.

ALTAR GUILD:

Current membership: 27 Active Members, 3 Substitutes plus many husbands and children who help on special occasions or after a service. We are always ready to welcome a new volunteer.

Director: Anne Babb

The Altar Guild is a relaxed and unassuming ministry whose focus is to prepare the church and altar for worship. We are a silent yet integral part of the 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.

We are grouped in teams and each team meets once a month for about an hour, on its assigned Saturday to clean the altar and baptismal font, polish the alms basins vest the altar, and prepare the wafers, wine, and water for the upcoming Eucharist. On Sunday, after each service you will see us cleaning up the previous communion and preparing for the next one. We also make the beautiful flower arrangements that decorate the altar. This year, thanks to Jan Barbee and Barbara Brickman, we have added a Baptismal banner which you will see hanging at a service of Baptism. We also maintain the chapel and setup/cleanup for any special services held there.

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.

Submitted by Anne Babb.

MUSIC MINISTRY PROGRAM:

Music Ministries continued to thrive in 2018 with eight regular ensembles that contained close to 70 individuals across all age groups. The ensembles for children and youth are Epiphany Choir (Grades K-2), Advent Choir (Grades 3-5), Advent Bells (Grades 3-5), Canterbury Choir, Canterbury Bells (Grades 6-12). Ensembles for adults are Bells of St. Paul's, 9:00 Choir, and St. Paul's Choir. Music Ministries provides a special place for making Christ known through God's gift of music, both for the experienced adults and those children just learning music. For children and youth, we teach music basics as well as learning details of the church year and how the chosen music reflects the themes and moods of the seasons in our Anglican style of worship.

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

The two adult vocal choirs provide musical leadership for the 9:00 and 11:15 a.m. services all year, while the other ensembles perform for regular and special services throughout the period from September to May.

The combined choirs, the Bells of St. Paul's, and trumpeter Emery Anderson came together for some memorable music on the Parish's 60th Anniversary service in September. Groups from the church also performed at the 2018 Lobsterfest and Arts and Crafts Festival.

The Cary Community Choir's 48th Annual performance of Handel's *Messiah* was hosted here on December 2. The CCC is made up singers from many different churches and other choral organizations in the area, is accompanied by a professional chamber orchestra, and is hosted by different churches each year. It had been a long while since St. Paul's had served as host. The CCC was very happy with our hospitality and ease of coordination. They had record attendance for the concert which filled St. Paul's. Dan Loughlin agreed to take pictures on short notice, and the CCC was very pleased with his work.

On December 16, St. Paul's Choir and the Bells of St. Paul's performed a beautiful "Lessons and Carols" in the evening. It was well attended by church members and members of the community alike. The attendance for this grows each year.

The program is steadily growing in numbers and quality. The afore-mentioned is just highlights of 2018. The volunteer musicians from the parish and the guest musicians that we attract, produce fine and varied music in support and enhancement of our worship services. We provide musical training for our children and musical outlets for our adults. Music Ministries gives participants a unique and important service opportunity in the church. That service brings special experiences to all in worship. Additionally, Music Ministries is an inviting entry point for many members of our surrounding community to experience the welcoming atmosphere of St. Paul's.

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. During 2018 we added three ushers to our ministry and lost five to other ministries.

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 2018 include: Newsletter (St. Paul's Letter), Website, E-News, Sunday Bulletin, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Narthex Monitor, Podcasts, and Adult Formation Newsletter. 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, Katie Robinson, Ted Straub, Lanny Wase, and Gordon Werner

The **Newsletter** (*St. Paul's Letter*) contains in-depth news and is mailed 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 using MailChimp to 198 subscribers. This year, Larry updated and improved the format and appearance of the newsletter using the new Episcopal Visual Identity Guide.

The **Website** (stpaulscary.org) contains up-to-the-minute posts, including upcoming events and other church information. Brandon Jernigan does 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 504 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 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 current 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. An effort is underway to increase viewing of certain posts by a process called "boosting." It is hoped that this will serve to increase church membership.

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 AM. Announcements are also reproduced on the website by John Hemperly.

Homilies are available via **Podcasts**. Podcasts are managed 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 is managed by Brandon Jernigan and is used to share photos. Users can search for "stpaulscary" and follow posted photos. Brandon also manages our **YouTube channel**: www.youtube.com/channel/UCmL1Yr7I0-KwwrL91N_dntw

An **Adult Formation Newsletter** is sent to subscribers, and details adult education and spiritual formation offerings at St. Paul's. This is managed by Brandon Jernigan and is emailed via MailChimp to 107 subscribers.

Com Com assisted in the **60th Anniversary Capital Campaign** by providing pledging forms on the website and by providing information to prospective donors. Com Com also participates in the **Annual Campaign** in the same way.

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, toys and furniture. Thank you 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)".

The Kids' Club staff continues to enjoy the 2017 installation of new lights around the Kids' Club building, Chapel, and Memorial garden. We really appreciate that it lights up like "Times Square"! What

a difference it makes in the evening, and we all feel much safer working at night. Thank you again to Christine Ingram, Jackie Straub, and the vestry members for approving this installation. Thank you 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 2018 staff consists of Andrea Kirchner, Tara Muller, Natania Reyes, Jenny Smith, and Lisa Walt. In September, we also welcomed Alexis Hetrick 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 2019 with your sweet little ones!

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 2018, the MLRC accomplished this goal by providing:

Opportunities for parishioners to connect with ministries:

- **Ministry Fairs:** Three mini Ministry Fairs were held during 2018. 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 video 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, who can then pass it along to their group members.

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, recycling bulletins, 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 2018. I could not do my job without you. I hope you enjoyed it and will return, along with some new volunteers in 2019.

Submitted by Melanie Fairbrother, Office Manager

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 2 classes for 1-year olds, 2 classes for 2-year olds, 3 classes for 3-year olds and 4 classes for 4- and 5-year olds. St. Paul's Preschool currently has 100 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. Alex. 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 known 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 p.m. We have 27 children registered in the Extended Day Program. Currently, the cost is \$35 a month for 12:30-1:00 p.m.

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, canned food collection, St. Nicholas ministry, field trips, visits from the Fire and Police Department, a dance company, the Traveling Tortoise and much more. This year the TK class collected over 150 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

RESILIENCE MINISTRY:

Serious childhood trauma has the potential to have long-term impacts on the child and the family for generations to come. It is crucial that such trauma be prevented or identified early to minimize these lasting effects. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has said this is the #1 public health problem which has yet to be addressed in the US.

The movie *Resilience* describes the science that led to the recognition of these long-term effects and describes a few creative strategies where such trauma has been prevented or its impact diminished. This film is the cornerstone of the ministry’s work, serving as a tool to introduce this important issue to our target audiences.

The Resilience Ministry has only been a recognized ministry at St. Paul’s since September 2018. The goal of our ministry is to not only inform people of this important societal problem but also to provide specific resources for movie attendees to respond effectively to situations they will encounter where there is concern about such trauma. Our goal is not to provide direct services to children and families, but to empower individuals, families and communities to understand, prevent and respond to the trauma, preventing the long-term effects of childhood adversity.

Our accomplishments in 2018 were as follows:

- Showed *Resilience* to over 100 people at St. Paul’s including the hosting of a community “café” that led to the development of the initial priorities for the Resilience Ministry;
- As a result of the *Resilience* viewing, the Pre-School teachers and leaders revised their Pre-School Policies and Procedures and added a “toolbox” of resources for when they encounter issues in the classroom;
- Trained 5 facilitators to lead discussions of the film; and,

- Established partnerships with Prevent Child Abuse, NC, NC State Institute for Emerging Issues, and other critical community organizations engaged in this important work.

Some of our goals and priorities for 2019 are as follows:

- Show Resilience to interested members of St. Paul's who are engaged in ministries serving youth and families both at St. Paul's and as outreach to our larger community;
- Provide follow up training to the Preschool staff and parents;
- Train additional facilitators to show the film, lead discussion and provide resources;
- Further develop our resource "tool boxes" for use by specific ministry groups; and,
- Explore further opportunities for community Resilience partnerships, collaborating with others that do similar work.

If you have questions, please contact one of our steering group members: Melissa Ockert (m.oakleyockert@gmail.com), Howard Loughlin (hloughlin@earthlink.net), or Jackie Straub (jmpstraub@aol.com).

Submitted by Howard Loughlin