

Summer 2024

SPIRITUS ♦ GLADIUS

SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND SCHOOL MAGAZINE



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On the Front Cover

Parishioners participating in our June 15,
2024 Holy Hike at Mother Neff State Park.
Photo taken by Pieter Sigtenhorst.

Fall and Winter 2024



SEPTEMBER

- 1 Family Dinner - Game Night
- 8 Sunday Formation begins
Ice Cream Social
- 11 College Dinner
- 13 Women's Retreat begins
- 22 Third Grade Bible Presentation
Youth Breakfast
- 29 Episcopal School Sunday

OCTOBER

- 6 Stewardship Kickoff
- 9 College Dinner
- 12 Cameron Park Zoo Adventure
- 13 Blessing of the Animals
- 20 Family Dinner
- 27 Stewardship Potluck
Youth Breakfast
- 30 Trunk or Treat

NOVEMBER

- 3 All Saints Parish Gathering
- 9 Holy Hikes
- 13 College Dinner
- 17 Family Dinner
Angel Tree Kickoff
- 24 Mission Waco Thanksgiving

DECEMBER

- 1 Advent Workshop
- 8 Saint Nicholas Visit
- 10 College Dinner
- 14 Holy Hikes
- 15 Family Christmas Party
- 22 Greening of the Nave
Pageant Rehearsal



The Philadelphia Eleven

The Rev. Samantha R.E. Smith
Rector

I was 17 the first time I felt a true call to ordained ministry. I had been asked to serve a chalice at a summer camp closing eucharist, which is something I'd never done or even thought about before. And in the midst of serving, I had this distinct understanding that my life would be sustained and fed by this act of feeding others the spiritual nourishment of God's grace and love. I spent the next 10 years wrestling with that call on my life, sometimes in amazement and sometimes in fear. I questioned whether I was good enough,

whether I was dedicated enough, whether I was equipped enough. For a whole decade, I questioned God and God's call, but one thing I never questioned was whether I was *allowed* to pursue it.

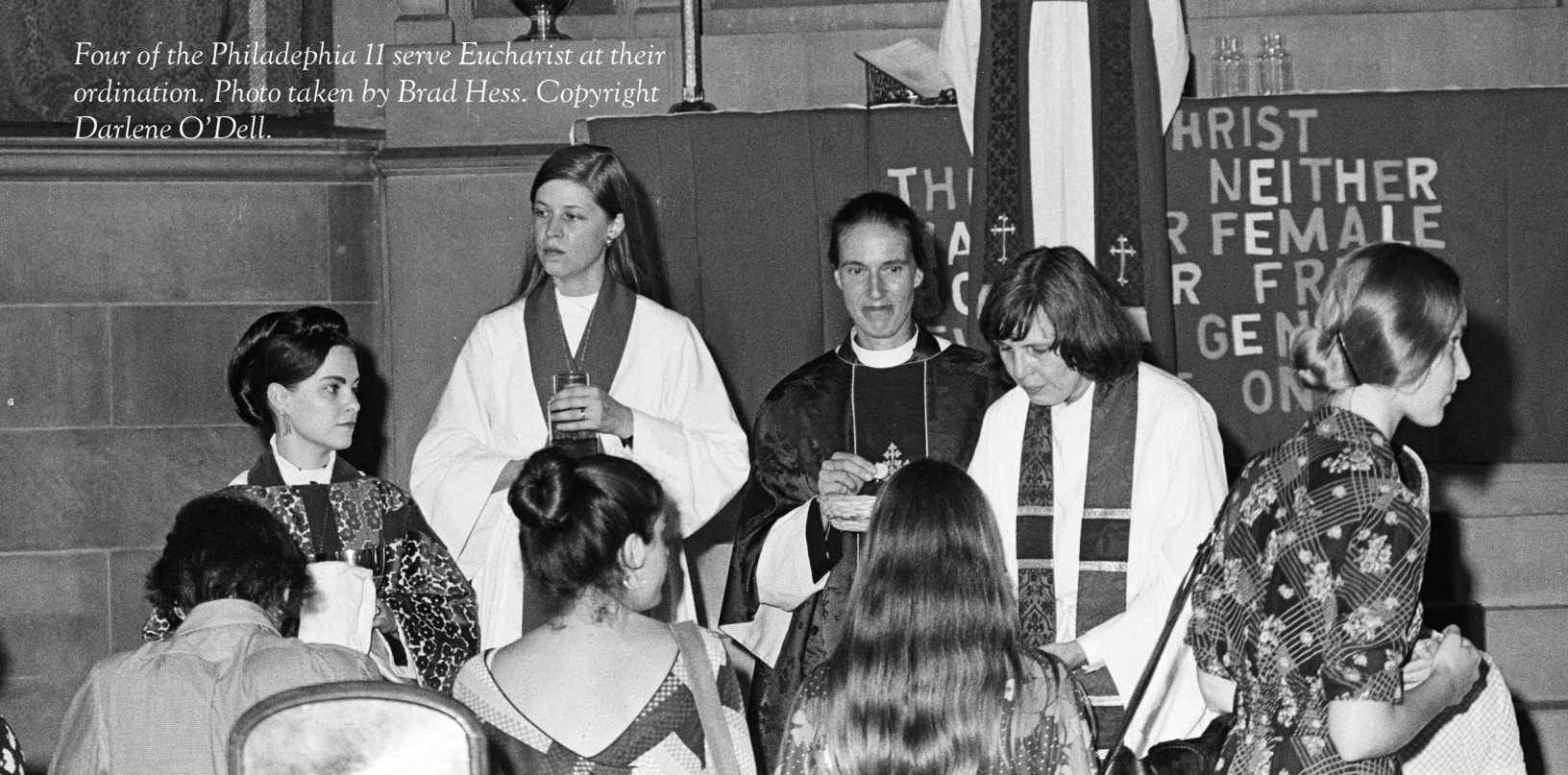
By some miracle of God, or perhaps by pure coincidence, I was born on the 10th anniversary of the General Convention's vote to ordain women to the priesthood and episcopate. I have never known our church without ordained women. My life has always been shaped by faithful clergy, both men and women, who preach and celebrate the sacraments through God's grace and mercy. So when I heard God call me to that same life, it didn't even occur to me that there might be a time or a place in God's church where that couldn't have been possible.

There are many, many moments and people throughout the history of God's people and God's church that brought our own Episcopal Church to this truth. This summer we celebrated one group of them, who broke open the minds and hearts of many in order to answer faithfully the call of God on their own lives - the Philadelphia Eleven. In 1974, 11 women were ordained to the Episcopal priesthood. And though they had gone through all the canonically required preparation, just like their male counterparts, it was considered an 'irregular' ordination, as the General Convention had



Bishop Doyle ordaining Sam a deacon in 2017.

Four of the Philadelphia 11 serve Eucharist at their ordination. Photo taken by Brad Hess. Copyright Darlene O'Dell.



not yet explicitly approved the ordination of women and wouldn't for another 2 years. And yet, the Spirit was moving in the church, and through the work of the Spirit people gathered to affirm God's call on the life of 11 women who, like me, knew they were to sustain and feed their own lives by feeding and sustaining others through the sacraments of God's church.

This summer, the General Convention voted to acknowledge and celebrate a feast day for the Philadelphia Eleven, just in time for the 50th anniversary of their ordination, July 29, 1974. It was a moving experience to be in the House of Deputies for that vote, where there were people present who had been part of the church before, during, and after the ordination of women. To see God's movement in the hearts of so many over the last five decades, to understand on a large scale the power of God's hope and grace, and to offer gratitude to those who have come before us and lit our path was a gift I won't soon forget.

God is always working in our lives. The Word of God and the Spirit of God are alive and

moving through us and through the world, constantly transforming it and us more fully into God's Kingdom. This has always been true. But it has not always been easy. It can be so hard, in the moment, to discern whether change is God-inspired or ego-driven. It can be hard to trust God's will as it takes shape in



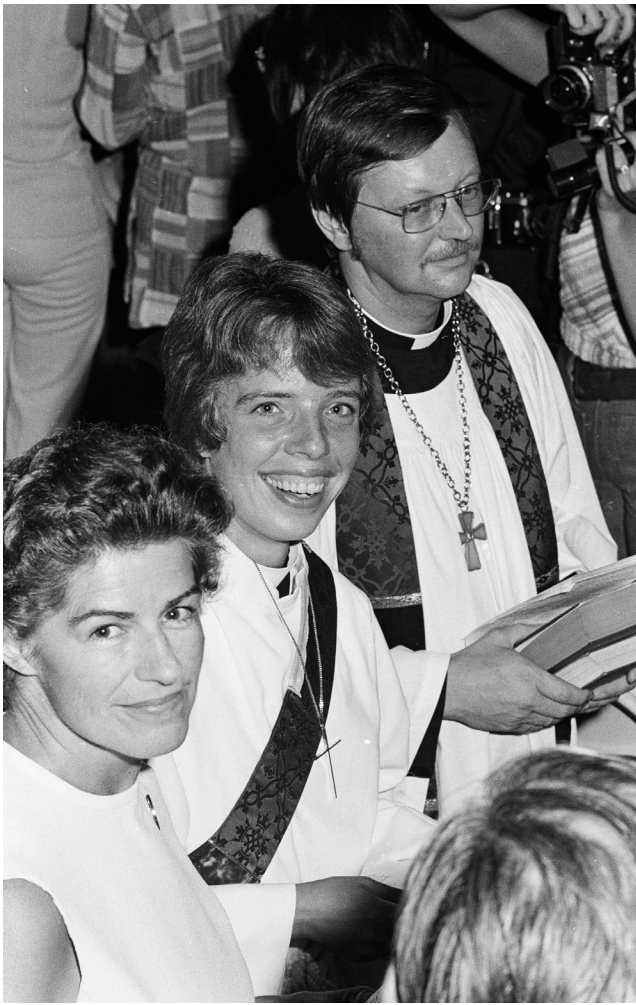
Two young women watch from the crowd as the first women are ordained priests in the Episcopal Church. Photo by Brad Hess. Copyright Darlene O'Dell.

and around us and asks us to do something different. It can be hard to find a pathway forward when uncertainty plagues our minds. But I am grateful that in the life of our church for the last 50 years, and in my own life, that though it has been hard, it has been good. I'm grateful to the women who heard God's call and had the courage and faithfulness to answer it, and I'm grateful to our church bodies who listened for the movement of God's Spirit and chose to follow it into this reality.

And for you, my dear parishioners, I hope the Philadelphia Eleven will inspire you to seek out where God is calling you in your own life. And when you find it, I pray you will have the courage, the hope, and the support to pursue it. May the great cloud of witnesses who have come before us continue to inspire our own endeavors, and may we provide that inspiration for those who come after us.



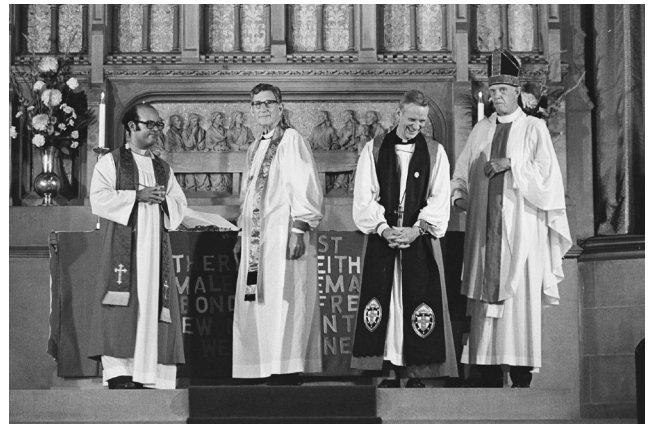
Sam and Bishop Doyle during her ordination to the diaconate in 2017.



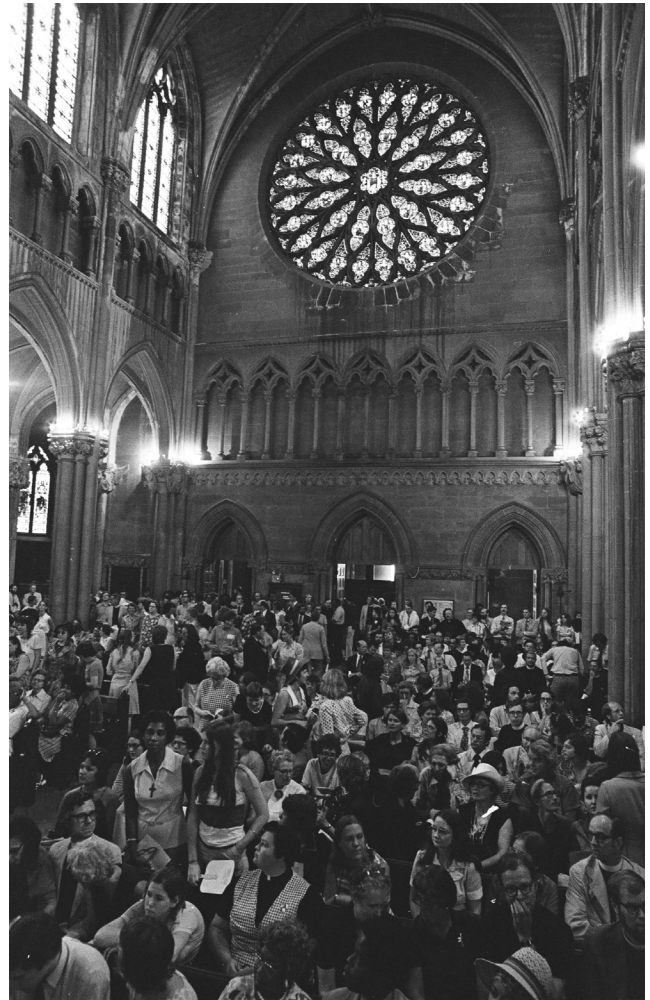
One of the women ordained to the priesthood is pictured in the center of this image before the service. Photo by Brad Hess. Copyright Darlene O'Dell.



Three audience members embrace. Photo by Brad Hess. Copyright Darlene O'Dell.



Three retired bishops ordained the Philadelphia II and a fourth attended the ordination to show his support. Photo by Brad Hess. Copyright Darlene O'Dell.



A view of the audience. Photo by Brad Hess. Copyright Darlene O'Dell.



Developing Your Own Faith

Sara Allison

Director of Youth Ministry

This June I was lucky enough to help Fr. James Pevehouse at Camp Allen and then jump right into Saint Paul's Disciple Camp. It was a whirlwind of adventures with kids, and something that continues to surprise me is how our children develop their faith when given the chance to escape from their normal routines and families.

Our children and youth are in the middle of a decades-long lack of personal autonomy. The reasons why are amazing: parents spend more time with their kids than ever before, families recognize the value of extracurricular activities and the role they play in social development, and society has identified safety concerns in activities that had previously gone unaddressed.

But when kids have less space to be themselves without family supervision and guidance, they lose the chance and ability to develop their own beliefs. Without this development, it is difficult to take ownership of the beliefs they have been taught and demonstrated. Giving our kids the space and freedom to experience and wrestle with new and old ideas in a supportive way, with

appropriate guidance and support, is essential for their personal faith formation.

There's never been a safer time to be a child. News overwhelms us and may convince us the world is a dangerous place, and it certainly can be! But in this safety, our children can become so comfortable that they do not engage with what they have been taught or have the ability to question and explore their own assumptions and beliefs.

I don't want to suggest that our children actively need to be in more danger, but experience at Camp Allen and Disciple Camp this summer reminded me of how successful a new and exciting atmosphere can be for supporting faith formation in our kids, even as they spend most of that time splashing in the pool, eating candy bars or making a great many beaded bracelets. I encourage you to look for similar opportunities for yourself and your children as you grow in your knowledge, wisdom and faith.



Disciple Camp: Adventure with God

Lisa St. Romain

Director of Children's & Family Ministry

Surrounded by water, trees, and rolling hills, Disciple Camp - Camp Firelight was the destination for summer fun for campers of all ages! Each morning ninety-eight campers joined first-time camp counselor, Morgan and Lu (short for Lumen) the lightning bug, as they faced their fears and learned to trust in God. With the help of Lu (Jay Campbell) and the Camp Counselor Guide Book, Counselor Morgan (Morgan Keime) and the campers explored timeless Bible stories that showed how Old and New Testament characters trusted God in the face of their fears and went on to do great things in God's name.

Saint Paul's church and school greatly supported this exciting summer adventure! Campers experienced the stories through music, drama, storytelling, games, arts and crafts, science, and snacks! We sang W-I-S-E and learned about Jesus as a boy in the temple. Games like Balloon/Noodle and Jacob's Ladder Ball provided high-energy activities while the craft rotation allowed for quiet creativity. The campers even ate worms (the gummy kind.) All this was made possible through the efforts and support of twenty-two dedicated adult volunteers and the twenty-one amazing youth counselors!

Our mission project was led by Compton Grigsby who taught us that worms are good for the soil and the environment, as they digest organic matter, loosen the soil, and

feed plants with nutrients. The campers prepared a "home" for their worms, then fed and misted them until they were ready to be released into the soil.

At the final gathering at Camp Firelight, musician Hunter Bellows joined our opening celebration. He shared his tuba and brought everyone great joy! I am grateful for the children, the volunteers, and your prayers. God richly blessed our time together at Camp Firelight!



◆◆◆ Disciple Camp 2024: Camp Firelight!



Whenever I'm afraid,
I put my
trust
in **YOU.**
Psalm 56:3



◆◆◆ Disciple Camp 2024: Camp Firelight!



**Trust God
to Lead
the Way!**

Building a Bright Future for Saint Paul's

As summer comes to a close and we begin planning for all the excitement of the program year, we are reminded of the importance of planning for the future of Saint Paul's- not just the next month, the next program year, or the calendar year, but for the many years to come. Our historic church has a long tradition of being a beacon of light to our community, and as we look ahead, we are excited to share plans that will continue that legacy for generations to come.

A Vision for Growth

On August 3, the Vestry met for a mid-year full day retreat, where they took time to reflect on what it means to be Saint Paul's and set a forward-thinking vision for our future. The Vestry is eager to set into motion plans to build a vibrant and supportive faith community for our members.

An important step in planning for our future was the formation of a Master

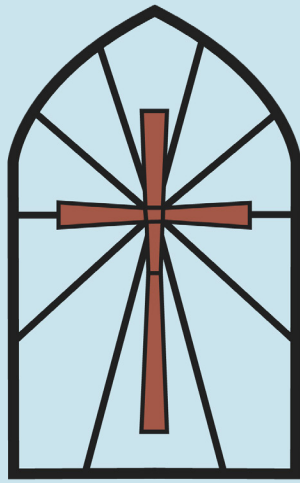
Planning Committee. This committee, chaired by Lance Grigsby and supported by members Curtis Cleveland, Chris McSwain, Roland Goertz, and Aryn Burgess, will take on the task of evaluating our campus and making plans to increase its potential. This initiative will help us preserve our historic building while ensuring our campus will be able to support our worship and education needs for decades to come.

Stewardship: Illuminating the Path Forward

At the same time that we are preparing for an exciting future for Saint Paul's we are also finalizing details for our annual stewardship campaign. This year the theme of the campaign is "Stories of Light." We believe this theme highlights both the beauty of our illustrious past and shines light on our plans for the future. Saint Paul's is a community where the light of Christ can shine brightly in everything we do.



A picture from last year's potluck wrapping up our 2024 Stewardship Campaign: Rooted in Enough. We will celebrate our 2025 campaign with a potluck on October 27.



STORIES *of* LIGHT

Saint Paul's Stewardship 2025

The logo for our 2025 Stewardship Campaign. We are excited to share more with you throughout the month of October.

This year, our stewardship campaign is more important than ever. Along with our ambitious plans for our future, we are proposing an ambitious budget to ensure we can grow and expand in our ministries. We invite everyone to consider prayerfully how they can contribute to our bright future and help us tell the story of Saint Paul's to those around us. Your contributions will help lead the way forward to a bright and brilliant future for Saint Paul's.

Moving Forward Together

As we take these initial steps into planning for Saint Paul's future, we are committed to keeping the congregation informed and involved. We invite you to share your thoughts and hopes for the future of our campus and congregation.

Thank you to every member of Saint Paul's for your continued dedication and generosity. Together, we can build a future for Saint Paul's where we can remain a steadfast beacon of light in our community for generations to come.



We are planning for more fellowship opportunities, both as a way to celebrate Stewardship and throughout the year as well.



Harmony and a Sum Greater than its Parts

M'Lissa Howen
Head of School

Saint Paul's Episcopal School centers each year on a concept that will best help us educate the whole child in body, mind, and spirit. In 2024-2025, we want to create the most joyful noise, so we chose to make the school year about harmony. Whenever I hear that word, my mind immediately jumps to the start of the holiday season on Thanksgiving evening. We open the season by watching my youngest daughter's favorite movie, *Love, Actually*. The movie closes with

the reunion scenes at Heathrow airport, multiplying over and over, backed by the Beach Boys' gorgeous harmonies in *God Only Knows*. The movie also closes with me in a teary puddle.

That is what harmony is about. The Beach Boys were great at combining different musical notes in a chord, so the result is something different, something more powerful and beautiful than any individual note. Harmony is more than a musical concept which is why my husband says that John Stockton and Karl Malone were in perfect harmony on the basketball court. Colors work together to produce visual art that is stunning like Vincent Van Gogh's *Starry Night*. It is why our wish is to live "in harmony" with nature and others.

While agreement is part of harmony, the result does not come from one person subjugating himself to another. Instead, the power in harmony comes from melding the strengths of each note. The Beach Boys depended on each other to be great individual performers, singing in their own voices but using those voices



toward a common goal. It struck us that harmony in that way is a worthy goal for a school.

We have great and growing diversity in our community, whether it be in talents, in viewpoints, or in backgrounds. To actually live in harmony, we must do two things. First, we encourage each talent, each viewpoint, and each background to be expressed. Second, we meld those expressions into something that works together. Harnessing those individual components results in a sum that is greater than its parts.

It's easier said than done. My guess is that the first time the Beach Boys rehearsed God Only Knows, it was rough. Stockton and Malone did not move in synchronicity the first time they practiced.

The evidence suggests the painting we know as Starry Night was actually Van Gogh's second attempt on the subject.

This year at Saint Paul's, we will be doing the hard but joyful work of celebrating all the things that make each student wonderfully unique and creating growth by blending those many lights together. You will hear it at music and art programs, see it on the sports fields, and understand it through each group project. I say often that there is no more beautiful sound than children singing. This year, Saint Paul's will bring that saying to life in all aspects of our community. Join us as much as you can.

Blessings and Peace,
M'Lissa Howen, M.Ed.
Head of School



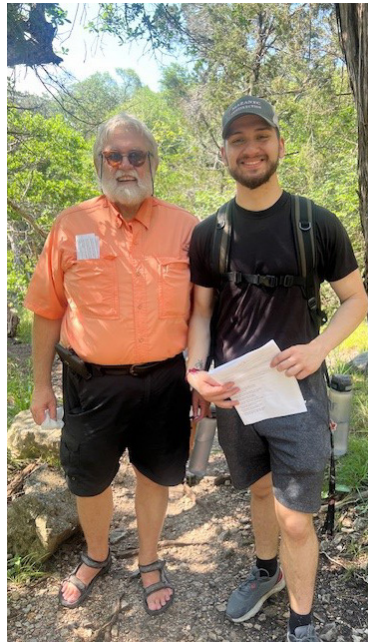
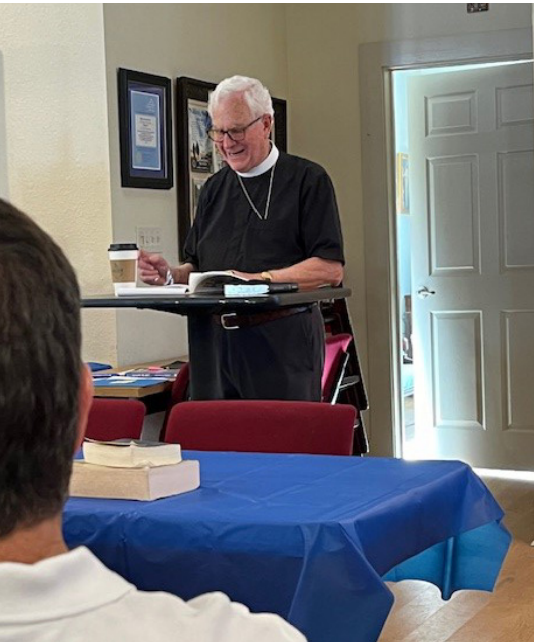
◆◆◆ Saint Paul's in Photos



◆◆◆ Saint Paul's in Photos



◆◆◆ Saint Paul's in Photos



◆◆◆ Saint Paul's in Numbers

Pledges Anticipated vs. Received

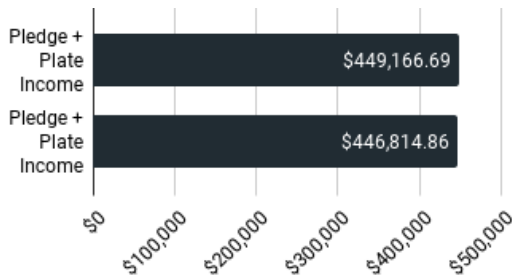
Through July 31, 2024



The first graph shows the difference between the amount of money pledged to be donated through July, versus how much money was paid to existing pledges. Pledges are promises given to the church in October of each year to help us accurately set up our budget.

Income Anticipated vs. Received

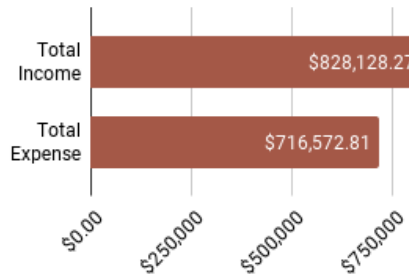
Through July 31, 2024



The next graph depicts all of our anticipated donor contribution income through July versus how much we actually received. This income includes pledges, money received from one-time gifts, and other individual contributions.

Income vs. Expense

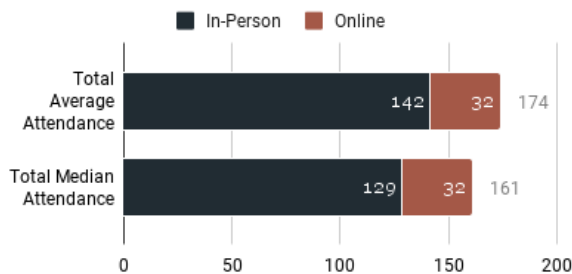
Through July 31, 2024



The Income vs. Expenses graph includes all sources of income including our endowment and other investment income from outside sources. The graph compares that income to what the church has spent in the same period of time.

Average and Median Sunday Attendance

Through July 28, 2024



The last graph provides a view on attendance numbers throughout the year. Median attendance is included to give a better idea of what an average Sunday looks like without influence from statistical outliers such as Easter Sunday.



SAINT • PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

601 Columbus Ave
Waco, TX 76701
contactus@saintpaulswaco.org
saintpaulswaco.org

WORSHIP SCHEDULE



8 AM Service of Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10 AM Service of Holy Eucharist, Rite II*†

*indicates Livestreamed services
†childcare available

You can find Sunday's order of worship at
saintpaulswaco.org/worship

You can find our livestreamed services by visting
facebook.com/saintpaulswaco

Saint Paul's Vestry

Mike Indergard, *Senior Warden*
Pieter Sigtenhorst, *Junior Warden*
Ford Taylor, *Treasurer*
Len Brown, *Clerk*
Pam Crow
John Miller Mayfield
Kristi Carlile
Kyle Deaver
Felicia Goodman
Curtis Cleveland
Jan Hicks
Richard Karr
Laura Swann

Saint Paul's Staff

The Rev. Samantha R.E. Smith, *Rector*
The Rev. Preston Yancey, *Interim Associate Rector*
The Rev. Al Melis, *Deacon*
Lisa St. Romain, *Director of Children's & Family Minsitry*
Sara Allison, *Director of Youth Minsitry*
Iona Easterwood, *Accountant*
Brandi Goddard, *Parish Administrator*
Sarah Martin, *Director of Communications & Membership*
Craig Finley, *Facilities Director*
Paul Hicks, *Sexton*
Charles Watson, *Assisting Sexton*
Willie Sergent, *Retired Sexton Emeritus*
Dr. Will McLean, *Choir Director*
Dr. Jeffrey Peterson, *Organist*
M'Lissa Howen, *Head of School*



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