

# ST. PAUL'S CHURCH IN NANTUCKET



## ***Annual Report for 2024***

*Mission Statement: The Mission of St. Paul's Church in Nantucket is to make the love of God more widely known.*

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# ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

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## **St. Paul's Church in Nantucket** **184<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting** *Sunday, January 19, 2025* *Immediately following the 9:30am service*

### **Rector** – Father Max Wolf

- Call meeting to order
- Opening Prayer
- Verification of quorum (37 members)
- Request permission to waive the reading of the 2023 Annual Meeting minutes.

### **Wardens** calls for reports:

**Treasurer's Report** – Martin McKerrow

**Stewardship Report** – Peter Barnes/Patsy Wright

**2024 Budget** – Martin McKerrow/Kirk Baker

### **Nominating Committee report and election** – Bob Felch

- Presentation of slate:
  - Vestry
  - Officers
  - Diocesan Convention representatives
- Rector: Any nominations from the floor? For which position? If yes, ballots will be distributed
- Request for approval of slate of nominees by acclamation

### **Wardens' Reports** – Bob Felch and Lucy Leske

### **Rector** – Father Max Wolf

- Any other business
- Concluding remarks and prayer

## ST. PAUL'S CHURCH IN NANTUCKET

2023 183<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL MEETING of St. Paul's Church  
January 21, 2024

**At the close of the 9:30 A.M. service on January 21st, for those in person and on zoom, Max called St. Paul's 183rd Annual Meeting to order at 10:45 and opened with prayer. Declaration of a Quorum: Clerk Peter J. Greenhalgh reported that the quorum of at least 37 church members was in attendance (40 in present, some on Zoom). A move to waive the reading of last year's minutes was made by Peter Barnes seconded by Yvette St. Jean, all agreed. Peter Greenhalgh thanked last year's clerk for taking the minutes.**

### **2023 Treasurer's Report – Martin McKerrow**

Martin spoke from the pulpit and began with "people are saying please God, make this as short a report as possible." He thanked bookkeeper Becky Mack, "who works so diligently on our behalf." He went on to acknowledge the generosity of the congregation and that we couldn't do what we do without your support. "Five years ago, St. Paul's budget was \$500,000, now it is \$800,000. In 2023 over \$2 million flowed in and out of this church. "Gifts given to the community in outreach totaled over \$80,000. \$1,200,000. was spent on the Tower and Narthex - our CPC Grant was \$850,000. which helped cover part of that work. Highlights were that the Christmas Market netted over \$30,000, and the Rug Raffle set a record for raising over \$20,000.

The 2024 budget was presented which included budgeting almost \$500,000 on capital projects to maintain our old campus and provide for day-by-day expenses.

There were no questions. Lou Gennaro moved to accept the Treasurer's report, seconded by Stacey Stuart, all were in favor.

### **Stewardship Report – Co-chairs: Peter Barnes and Patsy Wright**

Peter reported that in 2023 the church received \$545,000. in pledges, given by 181 pledgers. The goal was \$525,000 - which was an increase of over 19% from 2022 – thank you! The 2024 goal will be \$550,000; as of today's date, we have received 131 pledges totaling \$440,000. Patsy shared that the theme for 2024 "Be a part of it" came from a sermon Max had given. She noted that the Stewardship Committee is a great, very active and confident one and that we will meet our goal. "We have a strong Communications Committee as well." Max shared that between our parish updates with *Tidings* and the Outreach newsletter once a month, along with social media and our broadcasting of services, Bible Study, etc. we are reaching large audiences. He then shared a story about a letter that arrived to the church from a couple in Florida, who read *Tidings* and subsequently sent a check for \$5,000 "because of what we do at St. Paul's." Max is very grateful to the Stewardship Committee and thanked them all.

### **Nominating Committee Report and election – Libby Tracey**

Libby explained how the committee looks towards needs, talents and skills when selecting new members. Terms are three years with an occasional opening, where a person will substitute for someone's full term. Officers are for one term. The proposed officers, Diocesan representatives, and Vestry members, who had been approved by the Vestry at an earlier meeting, are noted below.

### **Presentation of the Slate of Officers:**

Wardens: Lucy Leske and Bob Felch

Treasurer: Martin McKerrow

Clerk: Peter J. Greenhalgh

As is noted in the by-laws, a motion was made to accept the slate by Clerk Peter J. Greenhalgh, a second was made, all were in favor.

**Class of 2024:**

Susan Coffin, Patsy Wright

**Class of 2025:**

Kirk Baker, Dorothy Baker, Betsey Wright

**Diocesan Delegate Representative – One-year Term:**

Libby Tracey, Kirk Baker, Bob Felch

There were no nominations from the floor.

A motion was made to accept the names as presented by Stacey Stuart, second by Peter Barnes. All were in favor.

Bob Felch thanked Lucy Leske for agreeing to be Warden and offered special thanks to Yvette St. Jean for being such a presence while on the Vestry.

**Warden’s Report: Libby Tracey and Bob Felch**

Libby read some words that she had written and is very grateful for her past three years as Warden. She shared that the experience had been life affirming for her, and that Sharon and Frank Robinson have yet to miss a service, or Vestry meeting, via zoom. She thanked the entire Vestry and shared that “with Lucy and Bob’s leadership, we are in good shape!” Gods work is being done in this church. She noted that with our aging campus, the Jr. Warden focuses on the campus needs, which have taken center stage. She offered special thanks to Martin McKerrow for all he gives to St. Paul’s, “and the church staff who are the singing heroes of our church.” Max helped guide her during her time on the Vestry and shared that we are all in this together. She is grateful for sharing the Warden’s workload with her friend Bob Felch and offered some kind words about him. “Thank you for the lovely waltz.” Olly Wolf then spoke on all that Libby has done for St. Paul’s, loving, caring and giving.

Bob began his part of the Wardens report by sharing “that he would be moving in with Libby tomorrow, given he is moving to a cottage at Sherburne Commons! However, Libby has been a total inspiration.” He referred to the numerous reports in the Annual Report and is very much looking forward to never having to say the words “Bell Tower again.” He is delighted the Tower and Narthex are completed. In 2024 the church proper will be painted, and interior and plasterwork will be undertaken in the next two months. Services will be held in the Chapel during that time. However, they plan is to have all the work completed by Holy Week.

He noted that highlights over the past year have included working closely with Libby, the Tower and Outreach. “Libby has been very uplifting” in that she secured the elevator/lift replacement, and it works! He shared that it takes a church to support this community and by our Outreach involvements, we are in the lead in this area. He thanked Dorothy Baker and Liz Bristow for their Outreach leadership, they are all about the people. He concluded his remarks by thanking Max & Olly, the staff of Curtis, Joe, and Christine and bookkeeper Becky Mack.

**Rectors Report: Max Wolf**

Max shared how some other churches have a sadness to them; different cultures of folks are not going to church anymore, and yet because we send a yearly ACA report to the Diocesan, our weekly church attendance shows good numbers. “We at St. Paul’s are led to answer God’s call to feed and serve people in our community.” He remarked how each island church has their own strengths and how St. Paul’s has an open table, huge outreach programs, and fabulous music, as we reach out into the world. He praised Libby’s work with Palliative Care, and how it has helped us expand our pastoral outreach. The Lunchbox series has brought new members into the church, and because of our strong leadership and Vestry, we are meeting our goal of “making God’s love more widely known.”

He mentioned that he hoped Yvette St. Jean would only be off the Vestry for one year and come back next year because she brings such perspective to the meetings. He thanked “the Wardens for their gift of keeping our well-being intact; the music program and Joe for being so wonderful. Christine is a joy to work with and Becky works so well with Martin. And in this day and age, Olly is an old-fashioned priest’s wife and is certainly a gift to him and our community. And thank you Curtis, for always keeping him in line.”

“People experience love here; it is a gift we bring, and we are so blessed for having such a loving parish family.”

### **No New Business**

Max’s closing prayer was one of his favorites: “Oh Lord, support us all day long, until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done, then in thy mercy grant us a safe lodging, and a holy rest, and peace at the last.”

The meeting was adjourned at 11:28 A.M. and almost everyone headed to Gardner Hall for a special luncheon.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Peter J. Greenhalgh*  
Clerk

## ST. PAUL’S CHURCH IN NANTUCKET **2024 Annual Report of our Rector**

### *The Attributes of a Healthy Congregation*

Our parish’s Treasurer-elect, Kirk Baker, and I traveled together to Quincy two months ago to participate in Diocesan Convention. (Please see his detailed report that follows.) It was a day of worship, music, presentations, debate and celebration. I was greatly impressed by the rich diversity of Convention delegates and by a general sense of optimism and joy.

One of the reports presented at Convention was about an initiative the Diocese undertook in 2023 named the Healthy Congregations Task Force. In our monthly Clericus Zoom meetings, my regional clergy colleagues and I have continued to explore what are the qualities of a healthy congregation. All agree on the importance of a parish’s invitation and hospitality, no matter how large or small the congregation is, and that all are invited to Holy Communion. Some parishes struggle with disharmony among lay leadership and others with lack of financial resources, but not St. Paul’s. I share how our parish’s music ministry is instrumental in bringing the wider community and island visitors into our beautiful sanctuary. Some of the rectors talk about recruitment efforts, I talk about being known for our ever-expanding service in meeting the needs of our island community.

You will find below committee and leadership reports that reveal the attributes of a healthy congregation. Thank you for your commitment and support that make this all possible. By the grace of God, we have much to celebrate!

*The peace and joy of Christ,*  
*Max*

# A. LEADERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATION

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## **1. Wardens' Report**

We have enjoyed working together as co-wardens this past year while guiding church matters with our engaged rector and a terrific Vestry. Our congregation has been ever supportive of our mission of spreading God's love throughout our island community.

The year 2024 saw the launch of St. Paul's first capital campaign since 2011. The success to date of the "Call to Community" campaign has demonstrated the wonderful commitment of our parishioners and others who care about St. Paul's. During 2024 we raised \$1.7 million for much need renovations and safety enhancement for our church building. As the campaign enters year two, we are confident with the support of the St. Paul's family and Nantucket's Community Preservation Committee we will be able to fulfill most of our work plan.

Volunteerism is a great strength here at St. Paul's. Our outreach attracts more volunteers and gets better and better each year with expanded services to members of our community, many of whom are in significant need.

Throughout this past year the Vestry has worked as a team, listening to parishioners, sharing your views and ours, and exploring the many ways we can strengthen our church together. We are thankful for their hard work; we have learned so much with you and from you.

The Vestry has also focused intently on ensuring that the Church's policies and practices are up to date and aligned with Diocesan guidelines, from our personnel policies to the stewardship and management of our resources. We are so fortunate to have among us a wealth of knowledge, expertise, and wisdom as we work with our rector and staff to fulfill our fiduciary responsibilities.

Once again, we ask what St. Paul's can do for you and what you can do for St. Paul's. The following committees are looking for volunteers: Altar Guild, Campus Review Committee, Fellowship Committee, Finance Committee, and Outreach Committee.

Finally, we are so grateful for our wonderful staff and thank them for the gifts of their talents at St. Paul's. Thank you to Father Max, Joe Hammer, Curtis Barnes, Christine Borneman and Becky Mack, for everything they do to make St. Paul's the loving community and special space that it is. Last but not least, we are constantly amazed and delighted to have Olly in our lives!

*Lucy Leske and Bob Felch*

Wardens

## **2. Treasurer's Report**

I must start by thanking our parishioners and friends for their financial support. Your generosity has allowed St. Paul's to expand its activities with the Nantucket community and to address with confidence more capital-intensive projects such as the Bell Tower.

We are pleased to report that thanks to your support we ended the year in good financial condition. Operating (non-capital) revenues exceeded Operating expenses in 2024 and with generous commitments and payments in support of our Call to Community Capital Campaign, we ended the year in a strong liquidity position. As discussed elsewhere in this report, in 2025 we again face some major capital expenditures and will be able to do so thanks to our current capital position and commitments of future support.

**2024 Operating Highlights:**

- St Paul's Operating Revenues were close to \$773,000 with Operating Expenses under \$768,000 leaving an Operating surplus of about \$5,000 – essentially a break even year.
- Revenues for our Community Outreach programs were significant as were our expenditures.
- These operational results were significantly better than our budget as our expenses were significantly less than budgeted.
- Both our Christmas Market and the Rug Raffle – our primary fund-raising events were highly successful and helped us generate our surplus – hats off to Olly Wolf and Sheila Daume for their leadership on these events.

**Capital Developments:**

- Capital Expenditures (“below the line activity”) totaled about \$245,000 down sharply from the more than \$1,250,000 incurred in 2023.
- Helped by rising security markets our Long-Term Investment Accounts as of 11/30/2024 had a combined value in excess of \$1,390,000 of which about \$799,000 was unrestricted.
- Revenues from the payment of Capital Campaign pledges exceeded \$800,000, providing a strong base to undertake expected 2025 capital expenses.
- Our overall liquidity exceeded over \$1 million – much of which is already committed for 2025 capital expenses.
- While we maintained a line of credit for the full year, it was not used.
- By the end of the year the balance due on our Diocesan loan was about \$67,000. Other liabilities were minimal.
- We are optimistic about receiving an additional CPC grant to help support upcoming capital expenses.

**Looking forward:**

- Our budget for 2025 projects a modest operational surplus.
- At this time, it appears that we have adequate assets on hand and with additional commitment we will be able to fund projected 2025 capital expenditures of \$1,200,000. It is possible that due to the timing of cash flows we may need to make limited use of our Line of Credit. It is our policy to only undertake capital projects with assets in hand.
- We will evaluate extending the duration of our Diocesan Loan to 10 years. The interest cost is minimal and until we have full clarity on capital expenditures it offers us some financial flexibility.

I would like to close, again, thanking you for your support of St. Paul's during my six years as Treasurer. During that time, collectively, you have changed the financial profile of this Church, and it has allowed St. Paul's to expand its activities and support of our community. I'm also indebted to our Bookkeeper Becky Mack, who has helped me understand bookkeeping and put up with my unending questions and desires to reformat our reports.

I've enjoyed serving you and am pleased to be turning over my responsibilities to Kirk Baker. Thank you for your support.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Martin McKerrow*, Treasurer





### **3. Finance Committee**

The purpose of the Finance Committee is to assist the Vestry in its fiduciary responsibilities. It provides broad oversight of St. Paul's long-term investments and recommends to the Vestry ways to maintain prudent financial practices and procedures. It seeks to ensure that the congregation is informed of the parish's financial standing on a regular basis.

It works with and through the Treasurer to design and oversee our financial systems, our operational accounts, our capital accounts and our long-term investments by recommending to the Vestry a philosophy of investment and policies to implement that philosophy for all funds. The committee supervises the investing of such funds and reports the results to the vestry monthly with quarterly and annual reports on investment results and strategy.

The Finance Committee assists in preparing St. Paul's annual budget. It also assists in the annual audit process, participating with our independent auditor and reviewing St. Paul's submission to the Diocese.

Members of the Finance Committee: *Kirk Baker, Chair, Martin McKerrow, Treasurer, Ex-officio: Robert Felch, Lucy Leske, Father Max*

#### **4. 2024 Annual Stewardship Campaign Report**

Our 2024 stewardship campaign, with the theme of “Be A Part Of It,” concluded with more than 180 pledges totaling \$552,000, exceeding our goal of \$550,000. Thank you! We also received \$84,000 in unrestricted gifts along with more than \$30,000 in restricted gifts. This reflects the continued financial support of our members for our growing mission, ministries and programs.

Our 2025 campaign kicked off with the theme of “Growing Together in Faith and Service.” Thanks to prudent management of our finances, including your stewardship dollars, our goal for 2025 is \$550,000. As of January 1, we had received 101 pledges totaling \$403,553, which is 12% higher for this group of pledgers compared to their 2024 pledges. It is also close to 75% of our 2025 goal. The average pledge for 2025 so far is \$4,036 v. \$3,592 for 2024.

Going forward, we will be setting our stewardship goals and reporting on them differently. This is because of the changing composition of our pledges and donations. For one thing, we are receiving more restricted gifts than unrestricted ones and pledges. Restricted gifts direct the Vestry to spend these funds on specific programs such as our St. Paul’s Suppers to fight food insecurity on Nantucket. In fact, we have received restricted gifts of more than \$40,000 so far for 2025. To better account for these donations, we will deduct them from our pledge goals going forward, with 2025 as a transition year. So, applying this new accounting to 2025, for example, our stewardship campaign goal would be about \$510,000 rather than \$550,000. Our budgets for 2024 and 2025 documented in this report already reflect some of these changes. But they should be considering internal bookkeeping adjustments, not a reduction in our fundraising needs overall. If you have any questions about this matter, please contact the church office.

If you have not pledged yet for 2025, you may pick up a pledge card on the table at the back of the church, fill it out and drop it in the collection plate; you may also mail it into or drop it off at the church office. You may also download our campaign materials from our website and pledge online with a secure payment by clicking on the “Donate Now” button at the top of the home page. Please contact the church office if you have any questions about our 2025 campaign.

Thank you to last year's committee members: Bob Felch, Jay Riggs, John Olson, Curtis Barnes, Martin McKerrow, Lucy Leske, Stacey Stuart, Susan Coffin and Steve Kelly. Everyone's efforts are much appreciated.

Thank you again for your support, generosity, and commitment. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Respectfully submitted,

*Peter Barnes & Patsy Wright*  
Annual Stewardship Campaign Co- Chairs

#### **5. Nominating Committee**

The Nominating Committee appointed by the Vestry of St. Paul’s Church in Nantucket submits the following candidates for election by the Parish at its Annual Meeting on January 19, 2025. The Nominating Committee: Dorothy Baker, Liz Bristow, Bob Felch (chair), Lucy Leske, Libby Tracey, Father Max Wolf

##### **Officers – current for 1-year term**

Warden – Lucy Leske  
Warden – Bob Felch (retires)  
Treasurer – Martin McKerrow (retires)  
Clerk – Peter Greenhalgh

##### **Nominee**

Lucy Leske (Senior Warden)  
Liz Bristow (Junior Warden)  
Kirk Baker  
Peter Greenhalgh

**Vestry – current for 3-year term    Nominees**

**Class of 2025**

Kirk Baker (becomes officer)  
Dorothy Baker  
Colby Crenshaw  
Libby Tracey (retires)

**Class of 2028 (new and returning)**

**Toby Broadus (for 1<sup>st</sup> 3-year term)**  
**Dorothy Baker (for 2<sup>nd</sup> 3-year term)**  
**Colby Crenshaw (for a 1-year term)**  
**Lou Gennaro (for an unexpired 2-year term, class of 2027)**

**Class of 2026**

Peter Barnes  
Liz Bristow (becomes officer)  
Jan Jacobi  
Jay Riggs

**Class of 2026**

**Ruthie Klinck (for unexpired 1-year term)**

**Class of 2027**

Steve Paradis  
Sheri Perlman  
Patsy Wright  
Lou Gennaro

**Diocesan Convention Reps – 1-Year Term**

**Current**

1. Libby Tracey
2. Kirk Baker  
    Alt. Dorothy Baker

See attached bios below for new Vestry nominees

Biographies for first-time candidates:

**Toby Broadus**

Long time summer residents, Toby and his wife, Anne moved to Nantucket from Baltimore, MD in June of 2023. Toby retired after thirty years of teaching from his position of Classics Department Chair at Gilman School, where he served concurrently as the scheduler for the Upper School. Toby holds a bachelor's degree from Swarthmore College and a Masters of Liberal Arts from Southern Methodist University. In Baltimore, he served on the boards of The Young Victorian Theatre Company, The Maryland SPCA, and the Bryn Mawr School. He currently serves on the Nantucket Cottage Hospital Advisory Committee. Anne is Head of Lower School at the Nantucket New School. Their two children, Tom and Meredith, are living in Boston. When not taking care of his two Cavalier King Charles spaniels, Toby enjoys attending Midweek Music and the Bible Study sessions.

**Lou Gennaro**

Lou and his wife Dottie have been active members of St. Paul's since 2006 and have lived year-round on Nantucket since 2005. Lou has served St. Paul's in various roles, including Chair of the search committee for two Rectors, a Vestry member, and as a Co-Warden. Lou has also served as President of Habitat for Humanity, Nantucket, and Treasurer of PASCON (Palliative and Supportive Care of Nantucket.) Lou holds a BA from Fordham College and an MBA from Long Island University and spent 30 years in the computer industry in various management and executive positions. Lou and Dottie have three daughters and seven grandchildren.

**Ruthie Klinck:**

Ruthie moved to Nantucket in the summer of 2021 after spending many July holidays here with her parents and her own family. She has three children in their 20s. In recent years, Ruthie has been a member of the Boston Ballet Board of Advisors, the Keewaydin Foundation Board, a Vermont Adaptive ski volunteer, an active member of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Wellesley, an elected Wellesley Town Meeting Member and a Wellesley Service League member. She has a BA from

Middlebury College and an MBA from UVA's Darden School of Business Administration. Ruthie's post MBA career was in marketing. Her young family moved several times whereupon Ruthie became the anchor for the family connecting them to each new community and taking on volunteer roles along the way. She is delighted to have found a community at St. Paul's. In addition to Sunday service, she enjoys the Tuesday Lunchbox Series.

**Additional nominations:**

Nominations for any office may be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting. We request, however, that if you intend to offer a nomination, you first obtain the consent of the nominee and then advise the Church Office of your proposed nomination. Please provide a biography of the nominee prior to the Annual Meeting, or no later than Wednesday January 15th, 2025, for circulation to the Parish in advance of the Annual meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Nominating Committee,  
*Bob Felch*

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## **6. Diocesan Convention**

### **Report on the 239th Convention of the Diocese of Massachusetts**

Father Max Wolf and Kirk Baker attended the 239<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Convention in Plymouth, Massachusetts on Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The theme of this year's convention was, *One Body in Christ, Members One of Another: Reconciliation and Belonging in an Age of Division*. "We, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members of one another." – Romans 12:5

The day began with Eucharist including the Bishop's Annual Address. This was my first opportunity to see and hear our new Bishop, Julia E. Whitworth. Her message began with Grace and Peace, transitioned to a reminder of who we are to one another and asking us to "not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds – a fierce commission for us all." She then went on to speak about simplifying and consolidating our energies and resources to ultimately amplify what is most important in our life together, the Gospel. She discussed supporting clergy financially, also spiritually and emotionally. Before concluding her address, Bishop Whitworth spoke about healing, trauma and truth telling leading to repair and trust. For her conclusion, she expressed gratitude and thanks finishing with Grace and Peace and said, "We are One Body in Christ, members one of another." I personally found her to be a captivating and charismatic speaker and enjoyed listening to her. A video of her address can be found at diomass.org.

The Treasurer reported next and discussed the 2025 budget that was voted on and approved. The budget totals 9.2 million dollars in both income and expenses. There was a separate handout that included a summary of the budget with pie charts, a budget detail comparing the previous two years of income and expenses as well as a list of Assessments by Deanery. There is a further section explaining the Assessment Formula. Endowments and Investments as well as Income from Other Sources are also detailed. In 2022, the convention adopted a resolution calling for the establishment of a reparations fund, the goal of which is 11 million dollars. So far, there is approximately 2 million dollars in the account. The end of the Treasurer's Report discussed a gap between expenses and income for the upcoming year and details regarding how the committee closed the gap as Canon 10.3(a) states that "projected expenses may not exceed projected income" for any budget year.

The next presentation was from the Compensation and Benefits Committee. Their goal is to "Attract, retain and support clergy to achieve the mission of the diocese and congregations." Their summary of Committee Work for 2024 included Guideline Updates, a Compensation Survey, and an update and recommendation of the Total Clergy Compensation (TCC) Standard. The committee recommended a 3% increase in the Total Clergy Compensation Standard for 2025.

The Racial Justice Commission reported the following. They presented a resolution that discussed the development of antiracist training which is a two-part training that will be available to the leadership in the diocese in person or by Zoom. This training is theologically grounded, thoughtfully and carefully developed and carefully vetted, all by a diverse group of voices in consultation with Episcopal leaders. Trained facilitators will lead groups in taking the course.

The Committee on Resolutions then proposed a resolution to Recognize and Commemorate the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Boston Episcopal Charitable Society. The society was founded on Easter Monday, April 6, 1724. Throughout its history, the Society has maintained its commitment of making individual charitable grants, improving the lives of countless elderly and deserving Episcopalians, initially, in greater Boston, and then, in the entire Diocese of Massachusetts. There was a short presentation from the society showing how they help using three types of grants: One-Time Grants, Quarterly Grants and Parish Block Grants. The Society is the second oldest charitable society in North America.

To conclude the day, the Healthy Congregations Task Force presented their report. The Task Force was created in 2023 to explore the components of a healthy congregation and to work towards developing resources to support health and wellness in our diocesan parishes, looking at clergy and laity, mission and ministry. They have completed a survey and will analyze the data, report back to the diocese and begin working in discernment around what action God is calling for next.

Overall, for my first experience as a delegate at the Convention, I found the day to be uplifting and our new Bishop impressive and engaging as a speaker and leader. I would also be remiss for not mentioning how much I appreciated spending the time with Father Max traveling to and from the convention, a unique opportunity that won't soon be forgotten!

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Kirk A. Baker*

## **B. BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS**

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1. Painting of the interior of the main church for the first time in 40 years
2. A new A/V sound system was installed. It took some time to work out the bugs, but now we can hear Father Max
3. The first floor of the Parrish house was improved with new flooring and fresh paint. Thanks to all who gave generously of their time to get that done
4. We got a new hot water boiler! For all the wrong reasons! Our old boiler caught on fire and we had to get a new one, thank the lord our fire alarm system worked and called the local fire department and police! Which leads us to our big project.....

### **LONG RANGE PANNING FOR THE CHURCH AND GARDNER HALL**

In the first quarter of the year a number of major projects were identified to upgrade the infrastructure of the church and finally deal with life safety issues that have been pending for years; the desire to finally renovate Gardner Hall triggered a series of “hard” items to be addressed, which include:

- Installing a sprinkler system
- Designing another code compliant egress from Gardner Hall
- Upgrading the building electric service from 400 amps to 600 amps to support the new work and plan for the future.
- Improved climate control throughout the building
- New code compliant and more efficient bathroom layout in Gardner Hall.

A Building Committee was formed to pursue these projects and have been working to identify architects, engineers, GC's with the intent of starting work in the fall of 2025.

Steve Paradis

Lucy Leske

Colby Crenshaw

Kirk Baker

Martin McKerrow

Robert Felch

John Barnes

The BC interviewed 3 architectural firms and selected Emeritus Ltd. We have been working with them very closely and are very happy with their efforts and dedication to our cause.

Robert Felch and his team submitted an application to the CPC for funding all of these important projects. If all goes well and we meet our capital campaign goals, we're very optimistic about 2025 and the long range future for our beloved church.

Respectfully Submitted

*Steve Paradis*

## **C. MINISTRIES**

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### **St. Paul's Church in Nantucket - 2024 Music Department Annual Report**

"Variety is the spice of life," as the saying goes. And as such, St. Paul's in Nantucket is a very spicy place.

In 2024, the variety in St. Paul's worship music and music offerings was reflected in the style of music performed, the instruments played, and the performers themselves. The music played during St. Paul's worship services included Anglican chant, traditional hymns, gospel anthems, anthems from the Baroque to the contemporary, jazz swing arrangements, among others. Instruments heard include not only St. Paul's fine organ and piano, but also flute, violins, violas, cellos, French horn, guitars, hand bells, bass viol, oboe, and drums. Music ensembles included a string quartet, a string quintet, string orchestra, jazz band, and a jazz trio. Vocally, variety has been expressed from soloists, vocal duets and trios, St. Paul's choir, and the Nantucket Community Music Center Community Chorus.

St. Paul's parishioners and the Nantucket community at large experienced a variety of music repertoire and performers through the Nantucket Musical Arts Society and The Rossini Club concerts. The December Holiday Stroll Concert, "It's Beginning to Sound a Lot Like Christmas" included a piano duet, violin solos, piano and violin duets, vocal soloists and singers, organ pieces, sing-a-longs, and a jazz trio with vocalists.

For the month of August, St. Paul's hosted Miles Quick, director of music and organist, Taunton Minster, Taunton, Somerset, UK. In turn, Joe Hammer was hosted by Taunton Minister, a direct international swap of music directors between the two churches. As such, Miles played for the 9:30 a.m. service and directed the choir on two of the Sundays (Deborah Beale directed the choir on the other two Sundays in August). Miles also performed an organ concert for the Unitarian Universalist's Thursday noontime music program.

Looking forward, there is no doubt that St. Paul's will continue to be a place for "spicy" worship and other music experiences...a place that reflects variety...the quality or state of having different forms or types: multifariousness.

*Joe Hammer*

Director of Music & Organist

## **2. Altar Guild**

The final phase of renovation and repair to the church's interior took place earlier this year. All the plaster walls were filled, smoothed over and painted as well as the trim on the windows. It is good to see the beautification of the interior of the church, but it was necessary to close the main altar area in order to do the work there. This made getting to the Sacristy and setting the altar in the Chapel on Sunday is a challenge for three weeks. Happily, I feel the final result puts a finishing touch on everything.

Get ready for the changes coming to the Altar Guild. Last year Karen Bloomfield and I were both working at the Hospital Thrift Shop when she let me know that she was interested in joining the St. Paul's Altar Guild. As we talked Karen mentioned she had been involved at a large Episcopal church in Houston and that she had completed the training program from that Houston church. I'm sure her training was very complete because Karen is very knowledgeable.

Ann Smith has been an active member of the St. Paul's Altar Guild for many years and is very knowledgeable about all the many requirements that are necessary to prepare the church for the weekly Eucharist.

Last September, it was decided to make Karen the Directress and Ann her assistant, but we wanted to make the change after the busy Christmas Season. After working with Karen Bloomfield, I feel she will be a perfect addition, and Ann will be a good support for Karen. Very shortly I will be stepping aside as Directress but feel very confident that Karen and Ann will be good leaders for the Altar Guild. In conversations with Karen, we are hoping to grow the team and look to the future to see how many new members we can bring into the Altar Guild.

Many thanks go to Jay Riggs, Trisha Anderson, Ann Smith, Sister Susanna, Toni McKerrow, Karen Bloomfield, Susan O'Brien, and Ann Oliver. This group has been very dedicated over the years on a rotating basis, they prepared the elements in advance and set the altar for every Sunday. I encourage anyone who has an interest to contact me, any member of the Altar Guild or Father Max to find out more about he

*Dottie Gennaro, Altar Guild Directress*

## **3. Liturgical Ministry**

Serving the church as a Eucharistic Minister, lector, usher, greeter, or acolyte is a ministry open to all. During the past year, several members of the parish have volunteered to serve in new capacities. It is especially gratifying that year 'rounders Liz Bristow and Stacey Stuart have been trained, and now serve as Eucharistic Ministers, as has summer resident Kathy Baird. Our young people continue to serve as acolytes – especially the Frables, the Crenshaws, and the Moores – and we welcome any others who may be interested. Readers, ushers, and greeters are always needed. Thank you all for your dedicated service to St. Paul's!

### **Eucharistic Ministers**

Kathy Baird  
Dorothy Baker  
Curtis Barnes  
Peter Barnes  
Kate Barney  
Paul Borneman III

Elizabeth Bristow  
Jeffrey Cox  
Gina Crenshaw  
Sister Susanna  
Malcolm MacNab  
Sheri Perelman

Ian Roberston  
Stacey Stuart  
Olly Wolf

### **Acolytes**

Elizabeth Borneman  
Charleston Crenshaw

MaryVirginia Crenshaw  
Genevieve Frable

Clara Frable  
Juliet Frable



Lillian Frable

George Moore

Finn Moore

### Lectors

Trish Anderson  
Kathy Baird  
Joe Baird  
Dorothy Baker  
Kirk Baker  
Sam Baker  
Curtis Barnes  
Peter Barnes  
Ken Beaugrand  
Jennie Benzie  
Nancy Beuscher  
Lucy Bixby  
Abigail Borneman  
Eliabeth Borneman  
Paul Borneman III  
William Connell  
Gina Crenshaw  
Jeffrey Cox  
Zoe Di Pinto

Adam Dread  
Ned Fawcett  
Bob Ford  
Genevieve Frable  
Pam Goddard  
Vicki Goss  
Peter Greenhalgh  
Beverly Hall  
Joe Hammer  
Robert Inglis  
Jan Jacobi  
Bill Jamieson  
Eli Jordan  
Steve Kelly  
Marshall Keys  
Lucy Leske  
Wyatt Leske  
Kathi Linville  
Penny Macintyre

Karen MacNab  
Malcolm MacNab  
Sr. Susanna Margaret  
Josie Martin  
Siobhan O'Mahony  
Jackie McGrady  
Jenny Paradis  
Steve Paradis  
Sheri Perelman  
Ian Robertson  
Yvette St. Jean  
Geoff Schultz  
Howard Stovall  
Libby Tracey  
Randy Wight  
Jack Williams  
Olly Wolf

### Ushers/Greeters

Trish Anderson  
John Barnes  
Curtis Barnes  
Peter Barnes  
Ken Beaugrand  
Abigail Borneman  
Elizabeth Borneman  
Christine Borneman  
Jeffrey Cox  
Adam Dread

Bob Felch  
Lou Gennaro  
Peter Greenhalgh  
Carolyn Hills  
Robert Inglis  
Yvette St. Jean  
Penny Macintyre  
Malcolm MacNab  
Josie Martin  
Martin McKerrow

Bill Moore  
Steve Paradis  
Don Russell  
Phil Smith  
Howard Stovall  
Stacey Stuart  
Libby Tracey  
Cathy Ward  
Randy Wight  
Patsy Wright

Respectfully submitted,  
*Curtis Barnes*, Coordinator

#### **4. Hospitality Committee (Formally known as Fellowship Committee)**

The very fine ladies and one delightful gentleman of the St. Paul's Fellowship Committee remain very dedicated to their mission of providing hospitality and welcoming whenever and wherever needed.

The committee meets about 5 times a year, primarily to organize our Sunday Coffee Hours and other events that require food and drink, usually receptions following a church event. Our committee also facilitates parish wide dinners (Spaghetti dinner, farewell or welcome parties, yearly Maundy Thursday dinner and winter dinners in parishioner's homes.)

We are a small group of ten people and wish to have it grow to twice the size to meet the growth of our parish. If looking for a way to serve the church, joining this committee is a lovely way to do that. Always know that you are welcome to join us.

*Olly Wolf*, Chair

## **5. Laundry Love**

This was the eighth year in which the Mission Committee of St. Paul's has provided laundry cards to those islanders identified as needing a little financial help to do their laundry. We were so fortunate this year to again receive a generous private donation to support our Laundry Love program. This year we have greatly increased our client base. The program gives 5 \$25 cards each month to Elder Services of Nantucket. We now also give 18 \$25 cards each month to The Warming Place. We continue to meet the 3rd Thursday of each month adding more and more clients at each meeting. On our November meeting, we helped 16 clients do their laundry spending \$750.00. We are excited that we are getting new clients each week. Libby, Max, Sheila, Bob and I are enjoying the fellowship that occurs each time we meet.

Respectively submitted,  
*Randy Wight*, Coordinator

## **D. FUNDRAISING**

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### **1. Needlepoint Rug Raffle**

We were excited again this year to have created another needlepoint rug for the yearly fund raiser at St. Paul's Church. The rug design was whimsical sea creatures and shells designed by Denise Strasser in bright colors and lovingly stitched by Nancy Bills, Lucile Hays, Daphne Mitchell, Jeanne Boone, Yvette St. Jean and Sheila Daume.

The rug was displayed in front of Murray's Toggery Shop and we are grateful for their help again this year. Thank you to all for selling tickets on Main St. and after church services on Sunday. Also, thanks to all who generously underwrote the cost of the rug design and finishing.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Sheila Daume*

### **2. Christmas Market**

St. Paul's "Most Excellent" Christmas Market - 2024

With Joy and Good tidings I report to you that St. Paul's Christmas Market once again was successfully held on December 7th in Gardner Hall. It is unclear how many years the Market has been in existence but at least 24 by my estimate.

There is no doubt that this event is extremely important to and even cherished by the Nantucket Island Community as it offers exceptional merchandise at a fair price in a breathtaking display.

This year we had a plethora of donated items, many second hand but also new and unused things. We even dug into our bottomless closet of saved items from past church fairs which added to our inventory, creating a huge selection of things to choose from.

A note to our volunteers- YOUR HARD WORK DOES NOT GO UNNOTICED! A market of this magnitude requires an enormous amount of labor. This includes the planning, the collecting, the sorting, the repairing, the cleaning, the categorizing, the pricing, the cooking, the heavy lifting, the publicizing, the recruiting and the mop up. And none of this can be done without the grace and generosity of time given by the many volunteers who step up to make this event happen. It is extremely sacrificial to give so much of one's time to this fundraising effort and as the chairwoman, I am very grateful.

I was uncertain that I could chair the market this year due to some health issues and fortunately there were two very capable ladies who were a great support, Karen Bloomfield and Ruthie Klink. They made all my worries go away.

This year we did not have preview shopping as we have had in the past. This is due to the overwhelming popularity of the Friday night Christmas Concert in the sanctuary which precedes the preview shopping in Gardner Hall. There are some space constraints, and we were at a loss as to how to keep the numbers of shoppers under control for safety reasons. Instead, we had a reception upstairs after the concert with the Silent Auction open upstairs for perusal. In future years we will revisit the preview shopping with a plan in place to allow shoppers to come from the concert at a manageable pace.

After our Saturday shopping hours, we reopened at coffee hour the following Sunday with a half-price sale. One week later we had a “fill a bag for \$20 sale”. This was a great way to lighten our cleanup load, liquidate our merchandise, make a little more money and once again give our community a bargain.

As for the number of dollars raised, the accounting is still being reported but we are confident we have raised significant funds to help with our many ministries. Besides raising money, the Christmas Market provides outstanding fellowship opportunities. I can think of no time better spent than with the very fine folks I worked with at this year’s market. I hope St. Paul’s will always keep up this important tradition.

Lovingly and respectfully submitted,  
*Olly Wolf*, Christmas Market Chair

## **E. OUTREACH**

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### **1. Nantucket Interfaith Council**

The Nantucket Interfaith Council (NIFC) is a non-profit association made up of clergy and lay members of the island's diverse faith communities, including St. Paul’s. Open meetings are held to discuss common concerns and for opportunities to promote interfaith dialogue and action regarding important issues affecting the Nantucket community.

The Nantucket Food Pantry, the Nantucket Rental Assistance Program, and the Nantucket Fuel Assistance Program - rebranded collectively in 2017 as “Nantucket Food, Fuel and Rental Assistance” - are vital community outreach programs sponsored and maintained by the NIFC. These programs provide critical assistance of food, shelter and heat to Nantucket’s families.

The clergy and lay representatives to the NIFC host an interfaith Nantucket High School Baccalaureate service every June - held for the past three years at St. Paul’s Church, traditionally a Thanksgiving service, and a Martin Luther King Jr. service in January, broadcast and in person.

In December 2020, Nantucket Cottage Hospital made a \$500,000 donation to NFFRA for an endowment for those needing financial assistance to travel off-island for medical care.

The NIFC’s bylaws provide that each island congregation is entitled to representation by its clergy and two lay representatives. Libby Tracey and Bob Felch are our current lay representatives, and Father Max is serving as this year’s Vice-President. Others in the congregation are welcome to attend NIFC meetings (typically, by Zoom, at Noon, second Tuesday of the month, from September to June) and are encouraged to bring important community matters to the Council.

We are blessed to be part of such a generous community in which people of all faiths work together, peacefully, to assist our neighbors in need.

*Frank Robinson, Lay Representative Emeritus  
and Father Max*

## **2. St. Paul's Outreach Committee**

### **St. Paul's Outreach Committee: Transforming Love into Action**

At St. Paul's, we believe outreach is more than a ministry—it's a movement of grace, driven by love, humility, and a shared commitment to making a difference in our community. Together, we seek to nourish both body and spirit, strengthen families, and build resilience across Nantucket. Here's how our parishioners have turned compassion into action this year:

### **St. Paul's Suppers: Feeding Our Neighbors**

Born during the challenges of the pandemic in May 2020, *St. Paul's Suppers* has become a cornerstone of love and connection on our island. Every Wednesday in 2024, professional chefs prepared wholesome, healthy meals, lovingly delivered by parishioners to neighbors in need. These meals reached families, individuals, A Safe Place, and the Warming Place, bringing nourishment and hope to those navigating difficult times. This ministry thrives through the generosity of parishioners and friends, including grants from the Siasconset Union Chapel.

### **Fostering Community Resilience**

- **Nantucket Food Pantry:** Weekly donations of food and supplies from St. Paul's
- **A Safe Place and Fairwinds:** In 2024, we deepened partnerships with these vital organizations by hosting a garden lunch for A Safe Place staff and coordinating holiday gifts to island families. We look forward to expanding these efforts in 2025.
- **Community School Snacks:** In response to a call for help, we now provide daily snacks to 25 students in the Nantucket Community School's after-school programs.

### **Ready, Set, Read: Inspiring Young Minds**

Through our *Ready, Set, Read* program, parish volunteers bring books to life for kindergarten students in the extended day program. Twice a week, we engage in one-on-one reading. In 2024, we added a joyful new tradition: seasonal tea parties with homemade treats!

### **J1 Bike Program: Paving the Way for Hospitality**

Welcoming J1 Visa international students with a sense of belonging, our bike library offers not only transportation but also helmets, locks, and lights. This program would not be possible without a dedicated community volunteer who maintains the bikes and the generous support of Curtis Barnes and Sheriff Perelman.

### **Outreach Newsletter: Celebrating and Expanding Our Impact**

This year, we launched a monthly newsletter to share stories of hope, invite collaboration, and inspire more parishioners to join our efforts. Through this platform, we hope to gain momentum in our work and impact.

### **Looking Ahead with Gratitude and Vision**

We are humbled by the dedication of leaders like Sheila Daume (*St. Paul's Suppers + Fairwinds/A Safe Place*), Randy Wight (*Laundry Love*), Libby Tracey (*Food Pantry + Fairwinds/A Safe Place*), Dorothy Baker (*Community School Snacks + Ready, Set, Read*), and Father Max (*J1 Bike Program*). Each one has poured heart and soul into building a stronger community.

As we look to 2025, we pray for continued support to grow our ministries and respond to emerging needs. Together, we can make God's love more widely known and transform lives on our beautiful island.

If you feel inspired to join us or have ideas to share, please don't hesitate to reach out.

**Respectfully submitted,**

Dorothy Baker and Liz Bristow

*Co-Chairs, St. Paul's Outreach Committee*

## **F. COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

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The purpose of forming a Communications ministry was to communicate God's work in and through the St. Paul's community by sharing stories of outreach, events, and the other ministries of our congregation. This has been accomplished by developing and enacting a strategy for St. Paul's various communication tools including the website, Tidings newsletter, bulletins, and the promotion and marketing, via local media, of our many special events. Our communications initiatives are a natural segue into our annual Stewardship campaign by enabling us to tell our story to a broader number of people. We are very thankful for our dedicated volunteer committee members: Curtis Barnes, Peter Barnes, Susan Coffin, Jan Jacobi, Steven Kelly, and Josie Martin.

*Patsy Wright*

Chair, Communications Committee