

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH IN NANTUCKET



WINTER 2024

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Letter from Our Rector

I had a wonderful conversation a few years ago while seated at St. Paul's Ships Inn Dinner next to our late beloved parishioner, Nancy Broll. Nancy summered in Siasconset, faithfully sang in our choir, and acted in local theatre here, and when at her winter homes outside of Philadelphia and in Florida. She was a warm, dynamic person of great character, and I miss her.

Having just returned to the island, over dinner Nancy asked, "Does St. Paul's Church stay active year-round, or do you close for a while?" She then listened in awe and with great joy as I shared with her the many facets of our compassionate work in the community and all that we do daily. Since

these few years have passed, in many ways we as a parish are busiest in the "offseason" when the needs are greater. And of course, our pastoral care, worship and music offerings are continuous.



You have seen the pillow that my mom gave me years ago, it sits on the Bishop's chair up by the altar.



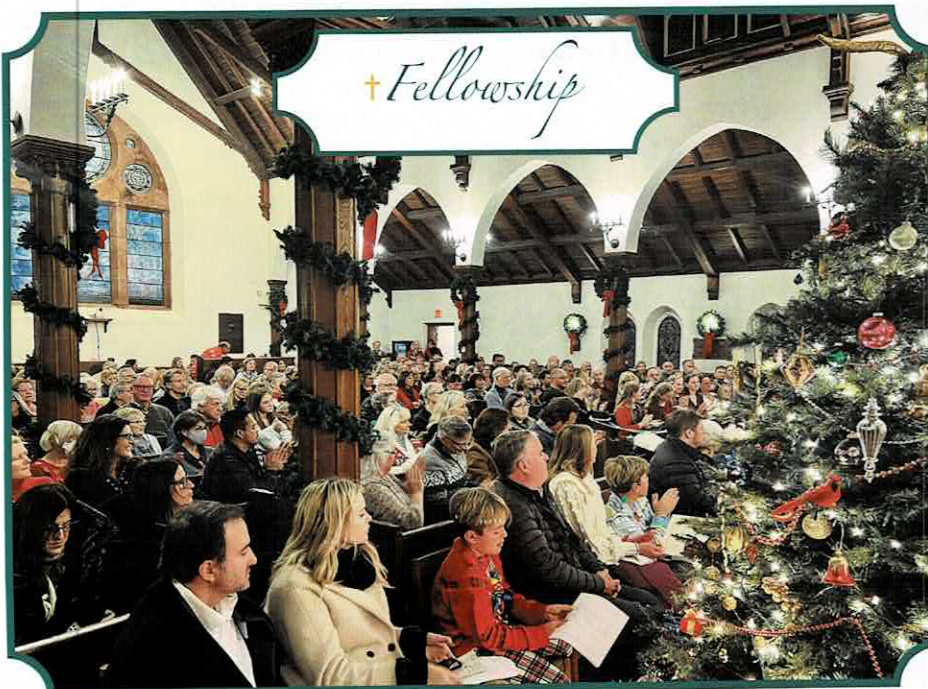
St. Francis with the wolf of Gubbio.
C. Weidemeyer

The message embroidered on the pillow reads, "Jesus is coming! (Look busy)." We have nothing to fear, we stay very busy!

love, Max

† AND IT MAY BE THAT
I WILL ABIDE, YEA,
AND WINTER WITH YOU,
THAT YE MAY
BRING ME
ON MY JOURNEY
WHITHERSOEVER I GO.

CORINTHIANS 16:6



Christmas concert

PHOTO BY PATSY WRIGHT

† AND THE ANGEL SAID UNTO THEM, FEAR NOT:
FOR, BEHOLD, I BRING YOU GOOD TIDINGS
OF GREAT JOY, WHICH SHALL BE TO ALL PEOPLE.
LUKE 2:10

Our Staff

The Rev. Max Wolf, *Rector*
Curtis Barnes, *Verger*
Christine Borneman,
Parish Administrator
Joe Hammer, *Music Director*
The Rev. Susan Phillips,
Deacon

Our Vestry

Bob Felch, *Warden*
Lucy Leske, *Warden*
Martin McKerrow, *Treasurer*
Peter Greenhalgh, *Clerk*

Dorothy Baker

Kirk Baker

Peter Barnes

Liz Bristow

Susan Coffin

Colby Crenshaw

Cece Fowler

Jan Jacobi

Steve Paradis

Jay Riggs

Libby Tracey

Patsy Wright

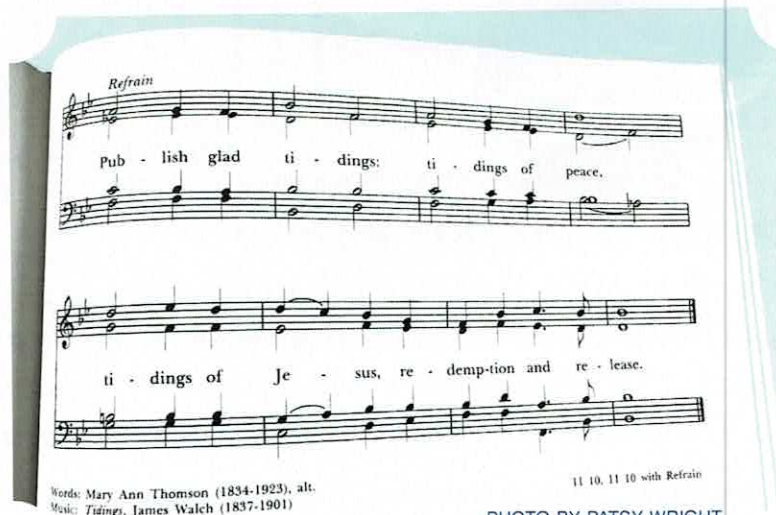


PHOTO BY PATSY WRIGHT

† AND IT WAS AT JERUSALEM
THE FEAST OF THE DEDICATION,
AND IT WAS WINTER.
JOHN 10:22



Our Parish Committees

Our committees welcome your participation:

Altar Guild

Dottie Gennaro and Ann Oliver,
co-chairs

Campus Oversight Committee
Steve Paradis, chair

Capital Planning Committee
Ken Beaugrand and Bob Felch,
co-chairs

Communications Committee
Patsy Wright, chair

Finance Committee
Kirk Baker, chair

Hospitality Committee

Olly Wolf, chair

Outreach Committee

Dorothy Baker and Liz Bristow,
co-chairs

Stewardship Committee

Peter Barnes and Patsy Wright,
co-chairs

Music Committee

Joe Hammer, chair

† Our Church is blessed
by the guardianship
of staff and volunteers.



★ Time ★ Talent ★ Treasure

Peter Greenhalgh and Stacey Stuart

Both of you have demonstrated a deep commitment to St. Paul's church and have guided and inspired others. What brought you to St. Paul's?

Peter: We were both raised by loving parents who were always committed to their church life, so as cradle Episcopalians, we were innately drawn to St. Paul's.

Stacey: Church has always been a welcoming and familiar place that feels like home. The warmth I felt when I first came to St. Paul's was no surprise, and I immediately felt a peacefulness; getting involved was an obvious choice for me.

Peter: When Stacey and I first starting dating, we both said, "I attend St. Paul's" and I thought, hum, maybe Easter & Christmas because I had never seen her there. Well, as it turned out, she went to the 8 o'clock service and I attended the 10 o'clock — but, and this is the truth, we both sat on the same side, in the same place, in the same pew, and did not even know it! My parents were also very involved in our church when I was growing up and had many wonderful friends, so I knew as an adult I wanted that same thing. I feel as though I learned from example.

Stacey: How has volunteering at church impacted your own spiritual journey or personal growth?

Guided by my mother's teachings, I have consistently embraced the theory of giving back, whether within the community or at church, a commitment I've tailored into volunteer work. To me, a crucial aspect of this journey is being welcoming, which also involves contributing to the church's growth and helping it maintain a steady course. On a spiritual level, St. Paul's grounds me, serves as my anchor, and provides me the strength to continually aspire me to become a better person.

It wasn't until I was asked to become a warden on the Vestry that I gained a profound understanding on another level, of the complex workings required to keep the church operating smoothly. I'm grateful for this insightful experience.

Peter: As our "Tidings historian" what are your favorite traditions that have been passed down through generations at St. Paul's?

I think first and foremost it's the music. Liturgical music has always held a special place for me, and over the years we have been fortunate to have amazing choirs; I am pleased that our members continue to make a joyful noise. The fact that our communion doctrine is almost unchanged from the past; and I'm grateful to those who came before us and acted as strong stewards and caretakers to keep our beloved church and its stunning stained glass windows intact. On a very personal note, I was also honored to be invited by John Maury — probably 25 years ago — to become a part of the team to help green the church for Christmas; we are blessed with an amazingly beautiful church thirty miles out at sea, and yet, I've always felt it is even more magical with the tradition of the added greens. And helping display our historic creche figures is one of my most special St. Paul's traditions.

Both of you are known for your hospitality and boundless energy. What keeps you going?

Well, we consider ourselves fortunate to be part of the St. Paul's family, and thus we try to contribute whenever possible. It is truly rewarding to engage with the people and congregation, experiencing the positive energy that comes from our St. Paul's community. Recognizing that we are part of a shared commitment of believing.

Peter: Friendships. The pleasure of breaking bread with church friends made over the years, and the knowledge that we share the strength/teachings that come when two or more are gathered together.... that is a gift WE receive. And we both believe it is important to give back.

Stacey: St. Paul's is one of my "homes;" I love to greet folks during a non-service event, and to guide non-parishioners in the hope they will feel welcomed, and perhaps begin to include church in their own lives.

We both take great pride in being active members of the St. Paul's Community! ⚓





The sound of the bells will be heard when he enters the Holy Place before the Lord, and when he comes out –Exodus 28:35

As we begin another year, St. Paul's will celebrate its one-hundred and twenty-second anniversary, and the restoration of the bell tower.

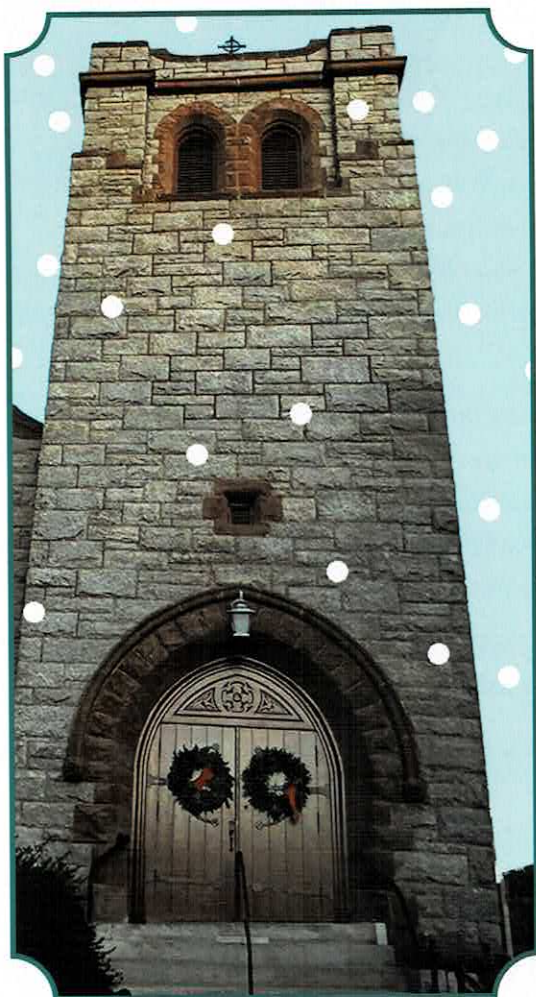


PHOTO BY FATHER MAX

When the church was designed by noted architect Joseph W. Northrop, the bell tower was part of the blueprints, but there is no record as to why it did not include the installation of a bell. It was not until the mid-1980's, when St. Paul's rector Doug Tompkins sent a letter to our parishioners, noting it was time we had a bell to grace our tower. Longtime summer member Lucy Fowlkes responded to Rev. Tompkins, and told him she and her family would like to purchase the bell in memory of her late husband, John Winston Fowlkes Jr.. Research into various bell makers was undertaken, and the Whitechapel Foundry in England was invited to cast the new bell. This process was overseen by Linda Woodford, a well-known campanologist (the musical study of bells). She who presided over the selection of the bell and its installation. On an interesting note, she took great care to ensure that the bell's tone would complement the other church bells on the island.

Frameworks needed to be built in the tower to accommodate the bells' weight, striking mechanism, and cradle, all of which were elevated into place by a crane.

In 1989 the parish celebrated the one-hundred-fiftieth anniversary of the Episcopal church on Nantucket with numerous year-long events. When Lucy Fowlkes passed away, her name was added to the memorial plaque, recently reinstalled in the restored tower which reads:

The Bell in this Tower is Given to The Glory of God and in Loving Memory of John Winston Fowlkes Jr, and Lucy Burwell Allen Fowlkes By their Family in the Year of our Lord, 1990. 🔔



Hand-bell Choir bells



My Faith Journey by Jan Jacobi

I am writing this piece in the hope it will invite others in the parish to share their faith journeys with the St. Paul's community. *Tidings* is the perfect place for these stories.

When I was very young, probably at the age of five or six, I felt a presence in my life that I believed was God. It was not overwhelming or frightening. It was just there. Now, as I approach eighty, I feel the same presence each day. There were quite a few stumbles along the road, and I have been beset with doubts, but my faith tells me that God has been with me on my journey.

My parents separated when I was ten, and they ultimately divorced. At thirteen I began an experience that would shape my life. For five years I attended Kent, an Episcopal boarding school in northwestern Connecticut. Many of my teachers became mentors, the athletic field was a place for character development, I could relax and be honest with my friends, and at the center of the school was the Episcopal Church. Later, a friend would call it "muscular Christianity," as it had a healthy dose of sin and guilt. That part of it had a deeper impact on me than I realized. I graduated from Kent wanting to be a headmaster or a school chaplain.

At college, in the first week or two, I was reading, *Christian Doctrine* by J.S. Whale in the dorm lounge, when a cocky fellow confronted me and said, "You don't believe that s _ _ , do you?" I replied, "As a matter of fact, I do." In our dorm for the next month at all hours of the day or night, at meals, in the bathrooms, in the lounge, the argument raged about whether God existed or not. It was everything that freshman year at college should be.

Gradually, in my twenties I fell away, and my sporadic church attendance dwindled to none. I had become a teacher in a boys' boarding school, and I was doing God's work, but I rarely thought about it in those terms.

Then I decided to teach *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* by James Joyce to my ninth graders. The ten-page sermon on the horrors of hell, with rich and vibrant details, sent me flying back to the Episcopal Church. Note, however, that it was sin and guilt that did the job.

There's a price for that. For me, the God of judgment and vengeance could not survive the love I felt in our marriage and for our children. Yes, we are all sinners, but I felt myself falling away from credal Christianity ("We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under Thy table.") and thirsting for God's love and mercy. Some people can have both, but I could not.

It was during this perplexing time that Ginger and I discovered St. Paul's. We found two rectors, Gene McDowell and Max Wolf (and Olly) who embodied God's love and mercy. For us there has always been something special about St. Paul's. In its welcoming congregation, in its commitment to serving others, in its liturgy and music, and from its beautiful church emanate the special sense of God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit that have always been present in my life.

Recently I asked Andrew Archie, our rector at the Church of St. Michael and St. George in St. Louis, what he would like the children in the church's elementary school to take away from their experience, and he replied, "The Anglican confidence in God's love." That was the final piece for me.

Well, not quite. Last year, the Holy Week preacher at St. Michael and St. George was the former Archbishop of Wales, Barry Morgan. Archbishop Barry, as he likes to be called, was interested in my work on Abraham Lincoln. "Tell me about Lincoln's religion," he said. "I had a conversation with a Lincoln scholar," I replied, "and I asked him that same question." "And what did he reply?" "That Lincoln had his own religion."

He smiled and said softly, "Don't we all." That's the God I know and love. ✠



Our Outreach by Dorothy Baker and Liz Bristow

St. Paul's Outreach Ministries concluded 2023 on a high note with the first annual **Operation Christmas Joy!**

In partnership with **A Safe Place** and **Fairwinds**, Sheila Daume and Libby Tracey coordinated the generous donation of gifts from the parish to help support and spread joy to many island families during Christmas.

Initiated by Dorothy Baker in 2021, the **Ready, Set, Read** ministry has now grown from one, to two days a week. Thirteen volunteers, read stories to twenty children in this after-school program at the elementary school. It is as much fun for the readers as it is for the children...

St. Paul's has also provided **snacks** to children at the elementary school, who all too often due to circumstances at home, must go without.

In 2024 **Laundry Love** continues to provide Islanders with free access to Holdgate's Laundromat. Those who drop by gain not just clean clothes, something many of us take for granted, but also the fellowship lovingly led by Randy Wight.

St. Paul's Suppers, now in its fourth year, delivers over sixty meals to individuals, or families, who for a variety of circumstances, look forward to receiving a delicious weekly hot dinner entrée weekly. Kudos to the many drivers and bakers, and especially to Sheila Daume, who orchestrates this important ministry.

Our donations to the **Food Pantry** are ongoing. St. Paul's blue bags of groceries help reduce hunger and food insecurity on our Island.

Last November, we launched **Donuts & Discussion** for selected coffee hours. The idea being to showcase and share fellowship with community leaders. Our first guest was Ms. Sunny Daily of the **Community Foundation**. Mark February 4th on your calendar, when will we host the team from **The Warming Place**.

Without you, these ministries cannot thrive and serve our Island Community. If you are interested in sharing you time, whatever you can spare, please leave a message at the church office for either Dorothy or Liz. ♥

✦ The greatest virtues are those which are most useful to other persons.
Aristotle

† Love



THE GIFT OF:

† Sacraments

† Fellowship

† Bible study

† Music

† Charity

† Love



Bright lights and shining stars



Lindsley Matthews reads with one of the children at the Ready, Set, Read! after-school program.

Kirk Baker helps with the "greening" of the church.



PHOTO BY PATSY WRIGHT



Killian keeps a careful eye on Stephanie Grace, St. Paul's newest parishioner.

PHOTO BY PATSY WRIGHT



Fellowship and food at St. Paul's semi-annual Ships Inn dinner.

PHOTO BY PATSY WRIGHT

Sheila Daume, on her way to church, delivers a carload of poinsettias.



PHOTO BY PATSY WRIGHT



Lunchbox Series by Sam Baker • Tuesday Lunchbox Series ▶ NOON

Lunchbox enters 2024 reading T. S. Eliot's *Murder in the Cathedral*. We take turns reading the different roles, discuss the power struggle taking place in the play, and then apply lessons from the play and Scripture to our modern situation. T.S. Eliot was astute at describing the human condition.

Murder in the Cathedral is part of Lunchbox Series D (Lunch with King David). We meet on Tuesdays, noon to 1 pm, in the Church. While we are punctual, starting and ending each meeting on time, our discussions take whatever direction they take. There is no right or wrong answer. No homework. No thespian experience needed.

Once we finish reading *Murder in the Cathedral*, we return to King David and explore his relationship with his son Absalom. 2 Samuel 14:25 describes Absalom as: "In all Israel there was not a man so highly praised for his handsome appearance as Absalom. From the top of his head to the sole of his foot there was no blemish in him." We'll see how that worked for him.



The murder of Becket
13th century manuscript
illumination



Leaf from the Morgan Picture Bible,
"Scenes from the Life of Absalom"
c.1250

Absalom propitiating friends ANON. 2 Samuel 15-2-5



After Absalom, we examine power in selected paintings. We finish our lunch with King David by exploring Jesus' relationship with the High Priests and Rome. Then we turn to Lunchbox Series E (Lunch with Job).

If you are keen to receive the handouts and/or join the Lunchbox discussions, please write to Sam Baker at: StPaulLunchboxSeries@gmail.com

✦ *Bible study* • Thursday Morning Bible Study ▶ 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.



What made this a good Bible study? It started with the questions of the learner. All learning begins not with the answers of the teacher, but with the questions of the learner.

Verna Dozier





Our Music by Joe Hammer

From the Holiday Stroll concert on Friday, December 2, through Advent and the services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, St. Paul's was filled with the contemplative, joyous, and celebratory music of Christmas!

The Stroll concert, "It's Beginning to Sound a Lot Like Christmas", was performed to a sold-out crowd of more than 400. Featuring the talents of Jeff Cutts, Graeme Durovich, Faith, Genevieve, Maria, Juliet, and Clara Frable, Nigel Goss, Nick Hayden, Nick Parker, and Ian Robertson, the program of sacred and secular Christmas songs was a festive and well-received start to St. Paul's and Nantucket's Christmas season. This was followed by the annual Advent Lessons and Carols with Eucharist service on December 10, Advent 2.

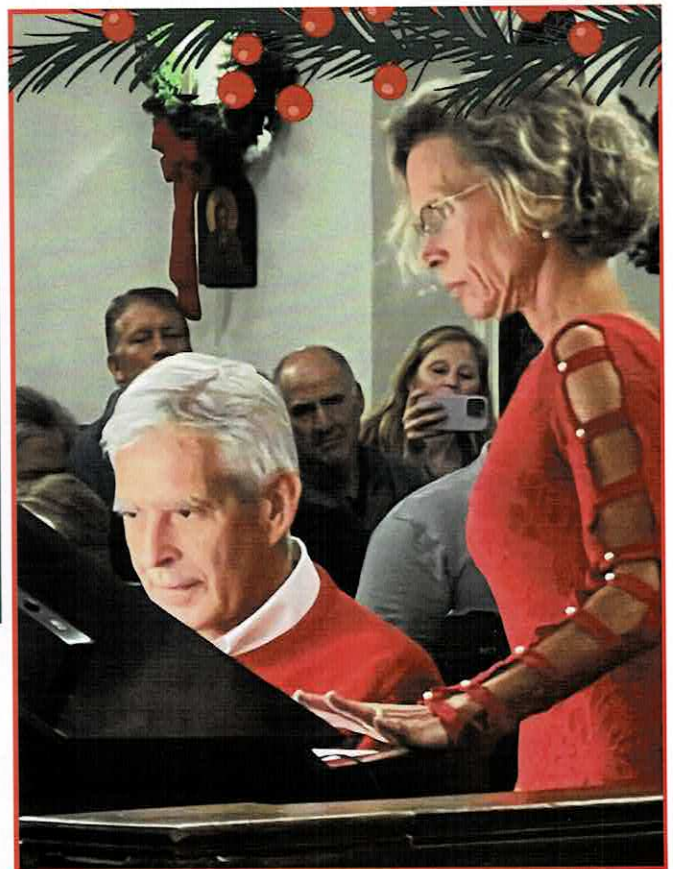
The 4:30 p.m. Family Christmas Eve service was the opportunity for the Frable family to sing a poignant "Christ Child Lullaby," and Pam Goddard on flute presenting two Christmas lullabies. For the second service at 7:00 p.m., the 30-minute Prelude featured Isaiah Williams and Joe Hammer on both the organ and piano. During the service, tenor Ian Robertson sang "And His Name Shall Be Called Wonderful," with former St. Paul's Choral Scholar Julia Marks singing an arrangement of "O Little Town of Bethlehem" Christmas Day's service featured Christmas hymn arrangements on the organ and carols during the service. Throughout the entire Holiday Season, the assistance of John Howish with set-up and tear-down for the various services was greatly appreciated.

The Music Department is looking to the possibility of scheduling an Evensong during Epiphany, as well as programming music for the upcoming Lent and Easter seasons. Stay tuned! 🎵

† Music



† THE LORD THY GOD IN THE MIDST OF
THEE IS MIGHTY; HE WILL SAVE, HE WILL
REJOICE OVER THEE WITH JOY; HE WILL
REST IN HIS LOVE, HE WILL JOY OVER
THEE WITH SINGING.
ZEPHANIAH 3:17



Joe Hammer and Pam Goddard play a duet at the Christmas concert.
PHOTO BY PATSY WRIGHT



Our Vestry meets every month during the year to oversee and guide our many ministries at St. Paul's and across our lovely island in conjunction with our spiritual leader Father Max.

Word from Our Wardens

by Bob Welch and Libby Tracey

We are pleased to report the bell tower and our Narthex entrance are now fully restored after several years of work on

this important project. The next phase will involve the complete repainting and partial replastering of the church interior. We wish to give four "shout-outs" to a few of our leading volunteers of the year:

★ Olly Wolf creatively and graciously led the wonderfully successful Christmas Stroll Fair at St. Paul's. Her coordination of gift soliciting, pricing, volunteers, staging and overseeing the event were saintly. Thank goodness for Olly!

★ Martin McKerrow has served St. Paul's in official capacities over the past 11 years...with one more year to go. He was a valued Vestry member for 6 years and then has served as our Treasurer for the past 5 years. The latter job is hugely labor- and time-intensive for Martin. Our financial well-being is caretaken, monitored, reported on throughout the year at our monthly Vestry meeting and to the parish at large. Thank you!

★ John Howish has superbly served as St Paul's sexton for 18 months. As a public-facing role, John has been a positive representative to our congregants, visitors and the many island technicians that he has assisted in the maintenance of the church property. We heartily thank him for his many kindnesses to St Paul's Church.

★ Joe Hammer. Over the past year we have been embraced by the beauty of the music at St Paul's, and the beauty of our parishioners and the island community coming together to enjoy the music and the beauty of St Paul's Church. With sincere appreciation for the sounds of his music and heart express our thanks to Joe Hammer for his hard work, dedication, and the joy he brings to his ministry of music.



An abundance of treasures adorns the Christmas Market

PHOTO BY PATSY WRIGHT



Keep an eye out for our monthly "Vestry Summary" of actions of the Vestry posted on our website.



◀ Father Max promoting the Christmas Market with his usual joie de vivre.



Adam, Olly, Father Max and Melanie at the Christmas concert



Our Stewardship Report

by Peter Barnes & Patsy Wright, Stewardship Campaign Co-Chairs

† Charity

Our 2023 stewardship campaign, "Serving Each Other And Our Island Community," concluded with a total of \$545,000, exceeding our goal of \$525,000.

We also received \$100,000 in unrestricted gifts last year.

As of today, we can report 129 pledges totaling \$432,000 with an average pledge of \$3,350.

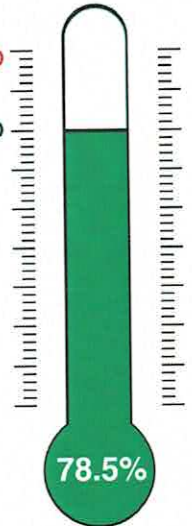
This is an increase of 6% over the 2023 campaign. With these numbers, we are at 78.5% of our goal of \$550,000 for 2024.

If you haven't pledged yet, please consider **Being a Part of It** by contacting the church office for a pledge card or clicking on the **Donate Now** button on our web site. Without your generosity and commitment, we cannot support and grow our many ministries, most significantly, Outreach. †

GOAL:

\$550,000

\$432,000



Christmas Market Olly Wolf and her dedicated band of volunteers, put on a dazzling Christmas Market. Their dedication, creativity, and passion created an unforgettable experience for all who attended. Due to the generosity of all who donated beautiful gifts, objects d'art, and treasures for the silent auction, the Christmas Market raised a record breaking \$30,000.00! 🐛



Our Treasurer's Report by Martin McKerrow, Treasurer

We'd like to thank the Congregation for their support of St. Paul's. In the last three years because of your generosity, St. Paul's budget has grown from about \$500,000 to just over \$800,000. This growth has allowed us to make a major investment in community outreach and in our aging and under-maintained four-building campus. It has also permitted us to strengthen St. Paul's finances enabling us to expand our programming with confidence in our ability to provide long-term support. 💰



Adam Dread with Father Max blessing *Felis catus*.

Until one has loved an animal,
a part of one's soul remains
unawakened.
Anatole France



Bandit, the newest addition to the McKerrow family, receives his first blessing from Father Max.

PHOTO BY PATSY WRIGHT

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH IN NANTUCKET
20 FAIR ST.
NANTUCKET, MA 02554



FAIR ST.

DO WE HAVE YOUR CORRECT MAILING ADDRESS?
CONTACT INFORMATION?
PLEASE SHARE YOUR UPDATES, EMAIL:
office@stpaulschurchnantucket.org.

WINTER 2024



Our Mission is
to make the
LOVE OF GOD
more widely
known.



Visit Us:

- ♦ 20 Fair Street
- ♦ stpaulschurchnantucket.org

Contact Us:

- ♦ 508.228.0916
- ♦ office@stpaulschurchnantucket.org



For Pastoral Care and other concerns:

Please contact Father Max:

- ♦ fathermax@stpaulschurchnantucket.org
- ♦ 302.542.5587

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH IN NANTUCKET

Follow With Us

 Facebook Live or **zoom**

- Sunday Eucharist 9:30 a.m.
- Tuesday Lunchbox Series NOON
- Joe Hammer's Music Wednesday NOON
(HALF HOUR CONCERT)
- Thursday Morning Bible Study 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

▶ To join us on **zoom** please see our weekly Parish Update for the meeting number and password. Please contact the Church office if you need assistance.



Our online offerings are taped and available at:
St. Paul's – Nantucket

Watch Sunday Eucharist, live or taped, and videos of recent sermons and events on:

stpaulschurchnantucket.org



Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!
Episcopal