# 2021 Annual Parish Report



Sunday February 13, 2022 Annual Meeting

Holy Eucharist 7:45 AM & 10:15 AM Luncheon/Parish Meeting 11:30AM

### Connect With Us

- //www.youtube.com/user/StPaulsNOLA
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### **Guiding Principles**

We are a Parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana committed to living as, and encouraging others to live as, disciples guided by the historic faith and teachings of the Anglican tradition.

We accept, honor, respect, and love one another as Christ taught us to do.

We are committed to honesty and integrity in our dealings with each other, the community, and the Diocese.

We provide a framework for people in faith and help them develop for ministry.

We believe in and value Christian education in the Episcopal tradition.

We will resolve conflicts with love and respect. We faithfully administer the Sacraments.

### Rule of Life

Growing in Relationships. Growing in Service. Growing in Christ.

### Mission

To restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ (BCP 855).

### Vision

St. Paul's strives to live the gospel of Christ by inviting all people, as they are, to grow in faith within an Episcopal community committed to a more loving, hopeful, and inclusive world.

### **Annual Parish Report**

Agenda	03
Rector's Reflection	04
Meet Your Vestry Nominees	06
Senior Warden	08
Associate for Congregational Development	09
St. Paul's Center for Counseling & Education	09
St. Paul's Episcopal School	11
Organist-Choirmaster	15
Outreach Ministry	17
Financial Report	18
Annual Meeting Minutes – February 21,2021	21



# St. Paul's Episcopal Church Annual Parish Meeting Sunday, February 13, 2022 Agenda

- Call to Order
- Opening Prayer
- Trivia
- Declaration of a Quorum: William Barousse, Clerk
- Approval of 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes (see page 21)
- Trivia
- Oral Reports:
  - o Senior Warden: Eston Fain
    - Trivia
  - School: Charleen Schwank
    - Trivia
  - o Treasurer: Ryan Kelley
    - Trivia
- Comments from the Rector: The Rev. Rob Courtney
- Trivia
- Recognition of Outgoing Vestry Members:
  - o Cherie Bolner
  - Eston Fain
  - o Ryan Kelley
  - o Irene Ziegler
- Trivia
- Election of New Vestry Members:
  - Holly Abbott
  - o Jason Burge
  - o Susan Robinson
  - o Miriam Swift
- Trivia
- Closing Litany
- Blessing and Dismissal

# Rector's Reflection



Greetings, St. Paul's! Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Our theme for this year's annual meeting and commitment Sunday is "Growing in Gratitude." St. Paul's makes it easy for me to find gratitude daily. I can't help but be grateful for all of you for your love and support of me and my family, and for the work you do in sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with one another and our wider community.

We enter 2022 after another challenging year. "I have resiliency fatigue," said one faculty member from the school this past Fall. We all hoped 2021 might be the year that repented of 2020, but for St. Paul's this year was more difficult than the last. With all the things St.

Paul's has been through in our history—fire, flood, war, displacement—we like to think of ourselves as resilient. This one faculty member expressed, however, what a lot of us have felt—resiliency fatigue. We're tired of having to be resilient at all. We would prefer a break from life-altering events from which we must recover.

Being tired of being resilient is perfectly okay and understandable. Fatigue aside, resilient is nevertheless what we're continuing to be. Thanks be to God, we do not have to be resilient all on our own. Over the last five months it has been amazing to watch so many capable and talented people come together to tackle the monumental task of hurricane recovery. It has been heartwarming to receive generous support from neighbors and other Episcopal institutions. God continues to provide the people, the skills, and other resources necessary for us to continue in our ministry. Life may seem to love throwing things at St. Paul's, but we keep finding ways to continue in our mission of sharing the Good News of God in Christ.

Over the past several years we've built a lot of financial and administrative resiliency. I believe that's shown itself to be true during this latest crisis in several ways. First and perhaps foremost at this moment, is the vestry's work in recent years of assuring St. Paul's has adequate insurance coverage. Our policy with Church Insurance Company has been key to our recovery. Second is the generosity of our parish family in giving, combined with the strength of the O'Ferrall fund gifted to us by a thriving stock market, as well as a diminishing draw on the fund for the support of the annual budget over the last decade. This allows us to worry a lot less about meeting financial obligations during periods of crisis. Thirdly, the bonds of affection maintained between the church and our school whose growth in enrollment and financial stability have been crucial to weathering storms both literal and figurative.

The most important component of our resiliency is without a doubt you, our church members, school families, staff, and faculty. There are so many generous, talented, and caring people in our midst. I'd like especially to thank the vestry's executive team with whom I've spent a lot of time over the last few months. That team includes our wardens, Eston Fain and Stephen Kepper, whose encouraging, supportive, and dedicated leadership has run quietly in the background, and has been invaluable to me and the rest of the vestry. Ryan Kelley, our treasurer, joyfully gives hours of his time each week to St. Paul's, and whose calm, steady, caring demeanor inspires trust, and keeps us all focused on what's most important (hint: it's not the money). William Barousse serves as our chancellor, our vestry clerk, and his counsel, accompanied by a non-anxious presence, offers confidence around decision making. I'm extremely grateful for all of their additional help and support during the last five months of hurricane recovery, as well as the help and support of all of our talented and dedicated vestry members: Cherie Bolner, Melissa Carnall, Lori Parault, Betsy Stoner, Greg Williams, and Irene Ziegler. Each of you brings something special to St. Paul's and our ministries, and I thank God for you and your faithfulness.

My leadership style tends toward collaborative leadership, and I could not ask for a better collaborator than Mtr. Liz. She is one of the most gifted priests I've ever met, and we are so fortunate as a parish to have her with us. Lori Lavelle, our parish administrator, is always one step ahead of where we need to be. All of us depend on her to keep us accountable to deadlines and details, and she does so with such a caring spirit. Dr.

Jeanne is a constant source of wisdom and support for so many, and her ministry is a key part of the life of the church and school community. The two newest faces on our staff are Linda Bogacki, Facilities Manager, and Todd Simmons, Organist-Choirmaster. Linda brings a wealth of experience in managing church facilities, and a deep sense of stewardship to our properties. Todd has fit seamlessly into our community over these past few months, and brings years of choral and instrumental experience to our music ministries. I am so grateful to work with such a talented and inspiring group of leaders.

Other lay leaders like Micki Robards and Holly Abbott, who share the duties of directing the Altar Guild, along with all of their volunteers, have been so patient about the ups and downs of the last two years, and are so faithful and attentive in helping us to offer beautiful and meaningful worship. Kristin Tompkins and the flower guild have been eager to step in when we returned to church, and continue to create such lovely accents to our worship space. Greg Williams, who teaches classes on the Bible and church history; Chad Brown, who is serving as our general contractor during the rebuild, leads an early morning men's Bible study each week, and chairs our stewardship team; Miriam Swift who has offered us design and architectural consulting; Jared Hotard and others who produce our weekly online worship streams; and . . . and . . . . Regretfully, I know I'm leaving people out, and I could keep going on and on because so many of you are stepping up into lay leadership roles, living into the responsibilities of your baptism, and growing in service in countless ways. Thank you, thank you is all I can say. You are what makes our church such a special community.

What's next then? What will our focus be in 2022? I foresee a few important areas of attention. Since we have Linda our new facilities manager, and we are completing a full renovation of the facilities, I believe it's crucial to develop a new comprehensive maintenance schedule. This is an important work of stewardship, and will help us better prepare for future storms and other facility challenges. The vestry are also beginning to explore some mission opportunities that our facility offers around sustainability.

Secondly, I believe the work that Irene Ziegler, Jackie Shreves, Ryan Kelley, Emmitt Lockard, and a fairly large team of you are working on around diversity, equity, and inclusion is vital to our mission. I continue to be inspired by your enthusiasm for the work of personal learning and growth around issues of creating what Martin Luther King called a "beloved community," a community more reflective of God's radical and inclusive love. Nothing makes me more excited than seeing our people take the lead on important mission-oriented issues. Their efforts call us to a deeper reflection on and commitment to the promises of our Baptismal Covenant to "love our neighbors as ourselves," and "to strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being."

Next, the vestry's decision to invest in our youth, children, and families ministries by enlisting the help of the Ministry Architects firm will be a major undertaking over the next 18 months. Mtr. Liz is working closely with our consultant Elaine Pendergrass to create a sustainable model for ministry that is designed specifically for the hopes and dreams of the St. Paul's Community. This will be an excellent opportunity to capitalize on the energy so many of you have shown around stepping forward to be a part of transformational ministry in the life of our church. Making a commitment to our children and youth is necessary not because they are the future of the Church (though they are), but because they are fully and completely a part of the Church *right now*. I will also point out that this opportunity is possible thanks to a special bequest left to us by Sheila Williams. Her love of and commitment to St. Paul's will continue to resonate because of her planned financial gift that will enable this work.

Finally, before Hurricane Ida our Renewal Works Task Force issued a report based on 2020's congregational spiritual life survey. Two of their primary recommendations were to develop a skills and interests inventory of the entire congregation, and to develop clear pathways for spiritual growth for new and ongoing members of St. Paul's. The primary work of the Church is to help you develop in your spiritual life, and it's important for all of us to have support in discerning useful next steps at any point of your journey. I am committed to working with you on creating this inventory and developing clear pathways. It will take some time, and your help, but you will be hearing more about this over the coming months.

There is a lot for us to put our efforts into in 2022. Because so many of you are involved in helping to move us forward, and because Mtr. Liz is such a capable leader, I've never felt more comfortable than I do at this point in my ministry to take a sabbatical this year. I will be away May 22 - September 18. The general recommendation of the Church is that clergy undertake a 3-4 month sabbatical every 7-8 years of ministry. This year marks my 14<sup>th</sup> year of ordained ministry, and Dec. 2 of 2022 will mark my 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary at St. Paul's. I've never taken a sabbatical before, and especially after the tumultuous last two years it feels particularly overdue. One author I've read named Christopher Huertz talks about the four "R's" of self-care: Sabbath is for Rest, vacation is for Recreation, retreat is for Reflection, and sabbatical is for Renewal. I believe strongly that sabbaticals should not simply be a 3-4 month vacation. My time away will contain elements of all four R's, as a sabbatical should, and what I hope is that I can return refreshed and renewed, and with some new insights and energy to offer St. Paul's going forward. This time is not just for my benefit, but for our benefit as a community. You deserve to have me fresh as I cross this 10-year threshold. I'm grateful that the vestry has been more than supportive of me undertaking this sabbatical. Some of my sabbatical schedule is still emerging, and I'm excited to share more over the next couple of months about what I'll be focusing on during that time. I'm also relieved to be able to step away with the utmost confidence in Mtr. Liz and our vestry's capable leadership.

This pandemic has been a difficult season for the Church at large. While there are many challenges ahead, I feel energized and encouraged about the life of St. Paul's today and in the future. I am excited about my time of sabbatical renewal, and eager and hopeful about the next phase of the journey. God is not even remotely done with St. Paul's, and continues to work through our community in life-changing ways, and for that I am most grateful. We may all have some resiliency fatigue, but it's clear to me that God is still strengthening and upholding us when and where we need it most.

Please reach out to me if you have questions or concerns. My door is always open. May the God who has been our help in ages past continue to be with us in the days ahead, and in the age to come give us life everlasting. In Christ,

The Rev. Rob Courtney Rector

# Meet Your Vestry Nominees



### Holly Abbott

I have lived in New Orleans all of my live, and grew up, baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran church where my parents were very active in church ministry. I began attending St. Paul's with my husband, Walter, before we were married in 1979. I was confirmed at STP in 1984, my husband was received in 1985. We have two thirty something sons, and our family has enjoyed celebrating the many sacraments of the Episcopal church at STP from baptisms to funerals.

I graduated from LSU in 1977, did post grad work at Tulane University, and worked in hospital financial management and IT project management at Baptist Hospital for over twenty years. Post Katrina I worked with my husband to re-establish his medical practice and remained with the practice until his retirement.

At STP I have been a member of the Altar Guild since the mid 90's and currently serve as co-captain of the AG ministry. Pre-Katrina I was participated in youth Christian Ed and was a co-leader of Rite 13. I also served on the vestry for two terms, one in the mid 90's and the other in the early 2000's, including Senior Warden in 2004. Pre-Covid I participated in the following ministries: Lay Eucharistic Minister, Lay Eucharistic Visitor Minister; Diocesan Lay Eucharist Hospital Visitor assigned to Touro Hospital.

Community service includes; Ambassador for the Alzheimer's Association assigned to a member of the Louisiana Congressional delegation advocating for federal legislation in the fight to end Alzheimer's; Episcopal Church Public Policy Advocate participating in advocating for federal legislation supported by the Episcopal Church; member of the Lambeth House Foundation board since 2016 and currently serving as President of the LHF board.



### Jason Burge

I was born in Michigan, raised in North Carolina and Ohio, and lived in several states before settling permanently in New Orleans in 2007. I graduated from Ohio State with a B.A., Loyola with a B.M. in Music Composition, and received a law degree in 2006 from NYU. I have practiced law in New Orleans for the past fifteen years at the law firm of Fishman Haygood, LLP, where I am a litigator. I currently serve as president-elect and secretary of the Musical

Arts Society of New Orleans, which hosts the bi-annual New Orleans International Piano Competition.

I was raised in the Catholic Church, but I have been attending St. Paul's since 2010. My sons, Jonathan and Simon, have both attended St. Paul's Episcopal School since 2010, and Jonathan will graduate 8<sup>th</sup> grade this Spring. I have been a member of the St. Paul's men's club, and have played piano during church services and for special events at St. Paul's including an investiture and a funeral. This May, I will be married at St. Paul's to Rebekka Veith, who, along with her parents Robin and Bob Veith, are members of St. Paul's.



### Susan Robinson

I am a life-long resident of New Orleans who was raised in the Roman Catholic faith. After college graduation I attended Evangelical churches because of a desire for more of God. There I served in a variety of capacities from leading a Prison Ministry to teaching home Bible studies to singing in a choir. I first visited St. Paul's in 2007 and immediately knew this is where God intended for me to be. In 2008 I was received into the Episcopal Church. I served as President of St. Paul's chapter of the Episcopal Church Women's (ECW) and coordinated and hosted the diocesan ECW convention at our church. I served as Vestry Secretary and Senior Warden under

Fr. Scott Albergate. After Fr. Scott's departure during our search for a new rector, as Sr. Warden I was responsible for running Vestry meetings, representing St. Paul's at meetings with the Bishop and for some level of church oversight while the church was served by temporary, interim rectors. I facilitated the interview process and contract negotiations to bring Fr. Rob Courtney on-board as our new rector. At the request of the members I remained on the Vestry for an additional year under Fr. Rob. I have served as a Reader and Eucharistic Minister. I was previously Head of the Hospitality Committee helping our team with monthly themed church-wide luncheon meetings. I have served meals at Covenant House often in the capacity of kitchen lead. I have worked on annual fish fries and served as kitchen staff coordinator when requested. I currently serve as Vice President of the Lakeview Shepherd Center for Seniors and have scheduled and coordinated two donation dinners at Ye Olde College Inn for that organization.

I was a Magna cum Laude graduate of LSU with a BA in English and a minor in Psychology. My career as a Human Resources professional spanned 44 years and several industries including large law firms. As a Christian my desire is to serve God in all aspects of my daily life and to be transformed little by little into the image of Christ as I grow in relationship with him. I hope to use whatever talents, gifts and experience I may have to serve Christ as He may direct.



### Miriam Swift

I was born and raised in a suburb of Atlanta-- Lilburn, Georgia. I was baptized and confirmed in the Presbyterian Church but had a early affinity for C.S. Lewis, which foreshadowed my Episcopal adventure. I went to college at Rice University in Houston, TX, where I received a

Bachelor of Arts in Architecture and Art History, and a Bachelor of Architecture. I practiced architecture in Houston and Atlanta until the birth of my children, Sam and Harry, after which I took a few years "sabbatical." Our family moved to New Orleans in 2012. My children consider themselves natives despite their technical birthplace. I now work at Kennedy Kraft Architecture, a small firm in Midcity which specializes in healthcare and higher education facilities.

I was brought to the Episcopal church by my son Harry, who insisted that we attend the same church as Wick Courtney. My husband Graham and I fell in love with St. Paul's, and officially became members in 2016. I have volunteered with Sunday School and the Young Families committee, and have worked with the church over the years with various space planning and design issues. This community is truly a treasured part of my life. I am excited to become more directly involved as St. Paul's builds back!

### Sr. Warden's Reflection



### *Is the Vestry a mystery?*

In the 1960's my father was a Vestry member here at St. Paul's. He spoke sparingly of the actions of the Vestry so it was always a mystery to me what they did. I remember him speaking of one of the leaders at that time – Attorney Phil James. It appeared to me that they made some significant decisions of the running of the church, but again, no details.

- Did you know that the Vestry approves the annual budgets for the church and school?
- Did you know that the Vestry recommends annual salary changes for our Clergy?
- Did you know that a committee of the Vestry approves "gifts" to the church?

...and in chaos such as we recently experienced with Hurricane IDA recovery, that the Vestry was involved in reviewing and where appropriate approvals of repair aspects? Plus, members of the Vestry acted as sounding boards for the rector who led the all aspects of the repair else he would be on an island where millions were being spent with decisions that our church will live with for generations to come.

So, what has the Vestry done to recognize the need to lessen the mystery with the hope that everyone will feel honored to be asked to join the Vestry – and will be comfortable with what is a significant experience? We have for several years invited members to attend a Vestry meeting and to be comfortable in asking questions of our process and of any decision made or being made. In the future we have a plan to invite Vestry members to pray with the congregation each Sunday so that each Vestry member will be more familiar to you.

Bottom-line, during these many months we met using Zoom conference calling; joined Fr. Rob via telephone when appropriate to stay in contact with what our church needed to survive this long viral separation; and took an active role where needed to work together with our clergy in the operation of the church. This has been an inconvenient year, but an active year and I wish to personally thank the individual Vestry members for giving up personal time despite their own family needs to recover from either the virus or the hurricane.

Next year will prove to be just as active, and just as rewarding both on a personal level and spiritual level. If you are interested in someday attending a Vestry meeting, or in joining and serving a term on the Vestry, just speak with Fr. Rob or Mtr. Liz. God bless everyone on the Vestry, and our congregation and our spiritual leaders, and I look forward to cheering our progress in 2022-2023 and future years from the sidelines.

Lastly, thank you all for allowing me to serve two terms of six years on the Vestry. God bless everyone.

Respectfully submitted,

Eston Fain

# Associate for Congregational Development



The past year has been difficult for our children and youth ministries. Pandemic, zoom fatigue, and hurricane displacement have greatly hindered our ability to meet. This year, however, our church leadership have made an important commitment to the future of these ministries. After being waylaid by Hurricane Ida in August, St. Paul's officially began working with Ministry Architects to renovate our children, youth, and family ministries to be sustainable, vibrant, and life-giving to all involved. Elaine Pendergrass, our lead consultant, identified our history of success with these ministries, incredible facilities, great school,

beloved leadership, young families ministry, clarity of need, and the fact that kids are welcome here as our assets. She also identified challenges we need to work on; lacking critical mass, no roadmap, hurricane huddles, parent commitment, inconsistency, missing milestone celebrations, lack of support for parents, and volunteer vacuum. You can read the whole report at our website, www.stpauls-lakeview.org/ministry-architects.html. Ministry Architects will spend the next 18 months working with St. Paul's to address these challenges and help us renovate our children, youth, and family ministries to fit the dreams and hopes we have for them. The phrase, "It take a village to raise a child," perfectly describes the way the church should work together to form and raise faithful Christians from childhood to adulthood. This work requires all of us to participate in some way, whether it's out-front leading a mission trip or serving on the prayer team that holds our leadership, children, youth, and young families in intentional prayer. Please pray about how God is calling you to serve the kingdom here at St. Paul's by participating in our ministry renovation.

The Rev. Liz Embler-Beazley

# Center for Counseling and Education



I now have had the privilege to serve St. Paul's as Director of the Center for Counseling and Education for a decade! This experience has been truly amazing. I have laughed with you, cried with you, and gone through struggles, challenges and great changes with you. I've been blessed with the task of helping prepare many for marriage. I am grateful for the enormous gift of sharing your lives in very special and unique ways.

Thank you.

What has 2021 year been? In many

ways it was a re-run of 2020. Quoting last year's report: "To say that 2020 was an unusual year is a vast understatement! However, the Center's mission to provide counseling, support and a place to share your burdens in a confidential environment of compassionate listening has not changed. The setting is different. I'm in my office, and I see you on Zoom, connect via email, text or phone call." Of course, for several months of that year I was out of

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my office, Zooming from home before resuming Zoom from my office.

2021 progressed much the same way. I Zoomed from my office, then just as I returned to in-person visits (perhaps 2), Ida struck and displaced us for nearly 5 months. Back to Zoom from home, email, texts and phone calls. I've made a house calls, outdoor visits, and trips to coffee shops to see you. I'm finally back in my beautifully repaired office continuing the mission of the Center.

There is some relief from the struggles of these last 2 extraordinary years. I've needed help from others to cope with all the changes and grief of so many things. **WHAT about YOU?** Have you had help? You have struggled! **Everyone** has a great deal more stress than usual and it has gone on for a very long time. I've see huge divides experienced with extended families over Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, tensions in relationships, more depression and anxiety....

### The Counseling Center is open.

What does that mean for you? It means that I am here to listen, to care, and to help with whatever you are dealing with - any and all changes and chances life presents.

Who are you? Everyone/anyone who is part of St. Paul's Church and School Community: if you attend church, are a member, member's adult child, school parent, grandparent, or school or church employee – it means you!

**Why now?** The stress may seem diminished, but the impact is still taking its toll. It's time to take care of your own needs.

**What can you do?** First, recognize that you may be feeling overwhelmed. Are you more emotional than usual? Are you having outbursts that are louder, or more frequent, or for more reasons? Are you more withdrawn than usual? Are you drinking more? Are you having relationship problems, sleep problems? These may be signs of Covid stress overload or what others have called Emotional Motion Sickness.

Next, find help. The Counseling Center is here for you.

### Common topics are still here:

**Depression and Anxiety** – finances, marriage concerns, illness, divorce, custody, children (young or adult) **Change** – job change, new baby, new marriage, old marriage. Even good things can be difficult to navigate. **Parenting** – different ages mean different challenges, even alterations in the ways we parent. Letting go! **Extended family** – visits, trips, in-laws, death, adult children.

**Addiction** – alcohol, drugs, gambling, pornography. Where is the line between what is healthy and a problem? **Communication** – Do you "fight fair" with those you love? Do you say Yes even when you want to say No? **Feeling overwhelmed or trapped** – it happens to all of us at times. You don't have to get "stuck."

What is the cost? Showing up! There are no fees. The Center is a ministry of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. It is funded through donations. Donations are both appreciated and tax deductible!

I continue to find this work very fulfilling. You are amazing people and it is such a joy for me to share in your lives, even the sad and hurting moments. Thank you for sharing yourselves with me. I pray that by God's grace, my work is beneficial. Remember, no concern is too small or too large.

Call or text: 504-330-2549, or email jrobertson@stpauls-lakeview.org.

All counseling is confidential. Only you can share what is said here.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Robertson, Ph. D., LPC, MFT Director of the Center of Counseling and Education



And this is what I have received from all of you at St Paul's.

Thank you. Dr. Jeanne

# St. Paul's Episcopal School



Head of School Report to the St. Paul's Community February 2021 – February 2022

School Events February - May, 2021

**Fine Arts Week** – We had several virtual performances for our students. We enjoyed puppets, comedy, and dance, and our students were inspired to create some of their own puppets, both in art and in their classroom.

**Little Saints Mardi Gras Parade** – Our Little Saints teachers worked hard to continue this tradition in a safe, socially distant environment. Little Saints 2s and 3s paraded on the turf with their wagons. Kate Hanemann was the queen and Weeks McLean was the king.

**COVID-19 Vaccines for Faculty/Staff** – LCMC New Orleans East facilitated vaccines for faculty and staff who wished to receive the vaccine. Dr. Takeisha Davis, parent of 8<sup>th</sup> grader Waymon Davis and CEO of the hospital, scheduled our teachers to receive the vaccination.

**Fish Fry** – Our school and church Fish Fry was a great success on March 26. We sold 307 plates of fish. It was a great community building event. School and Church each earned \$1200 for outreach.

**7**<sup>th</sup> and **8**<sup>th</sup> grade boys' basketball team – Our boys won the Championship game and were the New Orleans Athletic League Champions!

**8th Grade Play** – Eighth graders worked hard to memorize their lines for their performance of *Alice in Wonderland*.

**Easter Feast** – Since we could not have a Thanksgiving Feast, we planned an Easter Feast for April 9. Pigeon catered the lunch.

**Faculty In-Service** – Faculty and staff enjoyed a full-day in-service which primarily featured a five-hour workshop from ASCD on social/emotional learning.

**Assemblies** – Each first grader researched and presented information about one of the types of animals they were studying, including amphibians, reptiles and birds. Kindergarteners studied the continents and presented information about interesting animals, food, and places found in each continent. Fifth Graders worked very hard on their Hall of States projects.

**Music Room Dedication** – On April 30 we released a video tribute announcing the dedication of the music room to former music teacher and middle school principal, Myers McAllister. Here is the link if you haven't seen it. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pOvTbyya2Ds

**7**<sup>th</sup> **and 8**<sup>th</sup> **grade boys' baseball team –** For the second year in a row, following a 13 year hiatus, St. Paul's has a baseball team!

GiveNOLA Day - Give Nola Day had 83 participants and we raised \$14,340! Great job everyone!

**Kindergarten Breakfast** –Our kindergarteners were very excited to be on the turf for their moms and dads to share breakfast together!

**Jazz Jam** – On May 6 the middle school choir and studio band performed at the Jazz Jam. This event was outside on the deck and turf and only the families of the children performing were able to attend. It was filmed so the school could enjoy their hard work.

**Genealogy Project Assembly** – On May 7<sup>th</sup>, the 6<sup>th</sup> grade shared their research about when their families came to America. This was filmed for the school to see.

**Memory Chapels** – During chapel, each class had a turn to tell about their favorite memories of the year. They also described the new objects on their class banners.

**Baccalaureate Eucharist** – On May 11, 8:00 AM, 8<sup>th</sup> graders were honored at the Baccalaureate Eucharist. Bishop Thompson presided and the students' parents attended this special event. Seventh graders sat in the balcony of the church and the other classes watched the event on live stream in their classrooms.

**Gala** – The Game Changer Gala was completely outside using the turf and the deck. The Gala earned approximately \$48K for the school.

**Coastal Roots** – On May 13, our 6<sup>th</sup> graders enjoyed their Coastal Roots trip to plant Bitter Panicum grasses at Buccaneer State Park in Mississippi.

**Graduation** – 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation was May 20, in St. Paul's Church. There was a reception on the deck after the graduation.

**Fun Day/Swim Day**— On May 21, grades 1-3 went to Land-o-Pines. Grades 4-8 went go to Green Acres Country Club for swimming and tennis. Little Saints, Pre-K and Kindergarten stayed at school to enjoy water fun with slides.

**Staff Retirements** – Micki Robards, our registrar, and Barbara Lyons, Executive Assistant, to the Head of School both retired at the end of this school year. This was also the last school year for Jennifer Wood, our facilities manager.

**Summer Adventure Camp - Adventure Camp -** Adventure Camp occurred for 7 weeks this summer with Coach Dale, Lauren Brennan, and Edie Martinez.

### School Year 2021 - 2022

**COVID – 19 Protocols for 2021-2022 School Year –** This school year began the third school year impacted by COVID-19.

**Enrollment** – We began the year with 252 students enrolled for grades **Pre-K-8**. We enrolled 40 in Little Saints and 17 in the babies/toddlers classes.

### Faculty/Staff

Dr. Kellie Camelford is our new School Counselor! She holds a BA in psychology, a MS in Counseling and a Doctorate of Philosophy, Counselor Education and Supervision. She is a certified school counselor, registered play therapist, and a parent-child interaction therapist.

Edie Martinez is the new Director of Little Saints! This is Edie's eleventh year at St. Paul's, and she holds a Masters in Early Childhood Education.

Taylor Jennings joins the three-year-old class. Taylor holds a BS degree and has been a kindergarten and pre-kindergarten teacher.

Sarah Perez is a third first grade teacher that the 2 sections share. Sarah has worked as a kindergarten teacher, pre-kindergarten teacher and fourth grade teacher.

Seamus McMenamin is our new visual art teacher for grades first-eighth. Seamus holds a BA in Fine and Applied Art from the University of Belfast. He has taught in both Ireland and previously in New Orleans at Lafayette Academy Charter School.

Jamila Moujir is a Baby Saints teacher. She has worked as a nursery school teacher for 3 years and has an Associate's Degree in Care and development of Young Children.

Olivia Blanchard is our registrar, and she is also working with the Development Office. Olivia's employment history includes working as the Office Manager of Dr. MLK Jr. Charter High School and as a television News Producer in New Orleans and Lafayette.

Dorothy Childress is my Administrative Assistant. She previously worked as the Front Office Administrator at First Line Live Oak School in New Orleans and as a Project Assistant at Tulane University.

Linda Bogacki is the Facilities Manager for both St. Paul's school and church. Linda worked as the Facility Manager at Christ Church Cathedral for several years and last year as the Office Manager at New Orleans Academy of Fine Arts.

### Here is the order of events related to Hurricane Ida:

- The hurricane hits August 29, and during the next few days it seems the damage to St. Paul's was simple roof leaks and wind-driven rain.
- Insurance claim is filed, and insurer, Church Insurance, sends HydraDry to assess the damage.
- It is determined that the scope of damage, compounded by the time without power, requires each building to be remediated before use.
- Strongbuilt Construction, Chad Brown, kindergarten parent and church member, is hired as contractor.
- Virtual classes are held for grades Pre-k 8<sup>th</sup> starting on September 14.
- Four locations are found in the Lakeview area to hold 17 of our 21 classes.
- Permitting and inspections are obtained and leases are signed for the alternate sites.
- In-person school begins September 20 for grades Pre-k-8<sup>th</sup> at alternate sites.
- Dunn building opens on Sept. 27 for the 2 yr. old class, the 3 yr. old class and adds the toddler class. We are unable to find a licensed location for the 6 babies in the Baby class; however, 20 of our 21 classes have an in-person location.
- The plan is for the reconstruction of the Lower School building first, then Hemenway Hall, then the main building.

#### Alternate St. Paul's Locations:

**Louisiana Children's Museum** – Grades Pre-K – K (44 students) shared a large, partitioned room on the second floor. Our students had full access to the museum. Eight teachers were based here and enrichment teachers visited throughout the week.

**Harbor Collective Community** – 6100 Canal Blvd. Grades 1-3 (92 students) used 6 classrooms, one enrichment classroom, the auditorium, 4 offices including the school nurse, and 3 rooms for our learning specialist and outside therapists. Nine teachers and 3 staff members are based here. We used Lakeview Presbyterian for most recesses.

**KC Hall** – 6254 Vicksburg – Grades 4-5 (43 students) Students used the partitioned hall and the upstairs room as classrooms. They were able to use the St. Paul's playground and turf. Four teachers and 2 staff members were based here.

**Former Capital One Building** – 7033 Canal Blvd. Grades 6-8 (62 students) used 3 classrooms and 2 partitioned areas. There was a band room, a copy room, a teacher's office and 4 staff offices. Eight teachers and 5 staff members had offices here.

Our enrichment teachers, learning specialist, school nurse, school counselor, sustainability coordinator and head of school rotate to all campuses. Coach Dale took each PE class to our turf by bus.

**Chapel –** Chapel rotated in-person between the campuses and was very successful.

**VIP Fall Fest** – Oct. 26-27, our students enjoyed many fun activities on the turf. They loved the witches' obstacle course, pumpkin painting, wrap the mummy, story time, and much more.

**Overnight Trips** - We were especially excited and grateful that we were able to keep a few of our important curricular overnight trips. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade journeyed to North Carolina in October, hiking, camping, rafting and working on leadership skills and team building. The 7<sup>th</sup> graders went camping and canoeing to Bogue Chitto State Park in November. After reading the book, *Treasure Island*, the 4<sup>th</sup> graders enjoyed a pirate overnight adventure also in November.

Men's Club Golf Tournament – was Friday, November 12. Enthusiasm was at an all-time high and sold out with 120 players. Andy LoCicero is our Men's Club President this year and Mike Swiatkiewicz is the Tournament Chair.

The Tournament Sponsor this year was MOPHO with Platinum Sponsors being Galloway Law Firm, Gulf Point Advisors, HydraDry, and Southern Oral Surgery. Gold Sponsors are Boykin and Utley, Forman Watkins and Krutz LLP, LoCicero Family, Steven McPherson, MD, Sidecar Patio and Oyster Bar, and the Waltz Law Group. We also had many Hole Sponsors. Thank you to everyone! We earned \$19K.

**Thanksgiving Brunch** – The Thanksgiving Brunch was held on Nov. 23 on the turf under a tent. We enjoyed bacon, eggs, and grits and this special time to be together.

**Holiday Performances** – Ms. Davis arranged for lower school class performances to be filmed again into one Holiday Treat! Middle School bells and Studio Band were also filmed. The studio band and the choir performed for the students at each location.

**Trustee/Vestry Christmas Social** – We had excellent attendance for the Christmas Social in the Dunn building. Everyone recognizes the importance for school and church leadership to build relationships.

**Upgrades to main building – 2<sup>nd</sup> floor** – The Strategic Plan Committee's goals for the second floor renovation of the main building have been completed.

**Science Lab** – We will be upgrading the science lab to include the installation of gas and new cabinetry. This will not be complete before we return to campus.

**COVID -19** – We have had 32 students test positive for COVID-19 since our return to school after the Christmas holidays. Some of the students were already being quarantined. Unfortunately, our Toddler class, Little Saints 2s and Little Saints 3 have all needed to quarantine. Only students who are not fully vaccinated are required by the Louisiana Department of Health to quarantine if they have been a close contact.

**Day of Service – Jan. 11** was held for 8<sup>th</sup> graders at the Lakeview Shepherd Center. 7th grade devoted their service afternoon to working in the school garden.

#### Return to St. Paul's:

- All went smoothly for the first day back on campus for Pre-K and kindergarten on Tuesday, January 18!
- Friday, January 21, we welcomed 1<sup>st</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> graders back to campus!
- The 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders first day back on campus was Tuesday, January 25! Hurray!
- Baby Saints and Toddler Saints return to St. Paul's main building on Feb.1.
- Fifth Grade returned to the main building on Thursday, Feb 3.

We are using Hemenway Hall, the Lower School building and the first floor of the Main Building for grades Baby Saints through 8<sup>th</sup> grade until the second floor of the main building is complete.

"Let's Race Back to School" was a color fun run around the perimeter of the campus that the Parents' Association hosted upon our return on February 5.

**St. Paul's School's 60th Birthday** – We have been planning many activities to celebrate our 60<sup>th</sup> birthday this 2021-2022 school year, including a birthday party! This is our diamond jubilee!

Respectfully submitted, Charleen Schwank

# Organist-Choirmaster



I am honored to join the staff of St. Paul's Episcopal Church as the Organist-Choirmaster. Although my time with St. Paul's has been short, my welcome has been incredibly warm, and I already feel like a part of the family. My first official Sunday was supposed to be August 29—the day Hurricane Ida struck. The next several months were filled with a lot of uncertainty, but we were excited to start choir back for Advent with Saturday Evensong services. If you weren't able to attend these beautiful and worshipful services, I invite you to plan to attend next Advent. We were all thrilled to return to the sanctuary on Christmas Eve which was an emotional experience for all of us. Since my time has been so short,

there's little more I can share about the past year, but I can share with you a bit about myself and share ideas for the next year.

I've spent the last 35 years as a performer, educator, and administrator. I'm currently the Executive Director of Jefferson Performance Arts Society, a position I've held since January 2020. I relocated to New Orleans with my family in 2010 to assume the position of Executive Director with the New Orleans Opera Association after residing in San Diego, California, for thirteen years where I was Chorus Master and Assistant Conductor for 13 years.

My career began in my early teens when I excelled as a pianist, giving concerts around the country and competing as a pianist, violinist, and singer. By the time I was 17, I had won over 100 awards in both national and international competitions. My interests changed around that time toward pursuing opera. I graduated with honors with my Bachelor of Music degree from Cameron University in Lawton, Oklahoma, with a major in Vocal Performance and minor in Piano Performance. I entered Indiana University as a Masters student in Vocal Performance, but eventually converting my major to Choral Conducting, in which I received my Masters while minoring in Vocal Performance and Opera Conducting & Coaching. At Indiana University I also taught as a Music Theory Assistant Instructor for two years and served for one year as an Opera Coach/Rehearsal Pianist for the Indiana University Opera Theatre. I was also very active as a recital accompanist and vocal coach. While maintaining a private coaching studio at IU, I was a vocal coach and recital accompanist at DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana, for two years and served as vocal coach and assistant conductor with the Des Moines Metro Opera. In 2008, I received my Master's in Business Administration which led to my relocation to New Orleans to be with the New Orleans Opera.

I've held several prominent church positions over my career as music director, organist, and conductor, managing large music departments and conducting many great choral pieces. In 2007, I became the Director of Traditional Worship at Torrey Pines Christian Church where I remained until relocating to New Orleans. TPCC was in a period of rebirth at the time, reestablishing themselves as a leading center of social outreach in the community when I was brought on to develop a flagship department for outreach—conceptualizing and designing programs to benefit both members and the community, and leading a corps of dedicated volunteers in order to fulfill the goals and objectives of the Board of Directors. Within the first two years the department was thriving as special programs were implemented. TPCC continues to build and grow, establishing themselves as a leader of outreach in La Jolla, San Diego, and the surrounding communities.

I personally believe that any church's music ministry can be a cornerstone of connecting to the community. Over the next year, I'm looking forward to expanding that effort in several ways as I've done in the past. We have an incredibly dedicated group of volunteers singing in our choir. I'm amazed at them and their dedication, but that doesn't mean we wouldn't welcome more members. If you love singing and fellowship, please think about joining the choir and being part of this truly powerful part of worship.

Sincerely,

Timothy Todd Simmons Organist-Choirmaster

# **Outreach Ministry**

### St. Anna's/Covenant House

Even during Covid our church continue to support St. Anna's Food Pantry. In April we collect over 100 bags of groceries for 35 families which included 75 boxes of Girl Scout cookies that were donated by our school's Girl Scout troop! There are approximately 10 volunteers (besides the church members that supported by donating the groceries) j of that continue to support the food pantry--from additional shopping to transporting to home deliveries.

In the Fall due to Hurricane Ida we were unable to store food donations--so a decision to make a financial collection of \$40 per family to feed 35 families. (I don't know how much money was collected or given to St. Anna's)

As for Covenant House--the organization continued to keep volunteers from being in the center due to COVID. There was a change in management and while contact was made--there has been no community outreach with the Covenant House for this year.

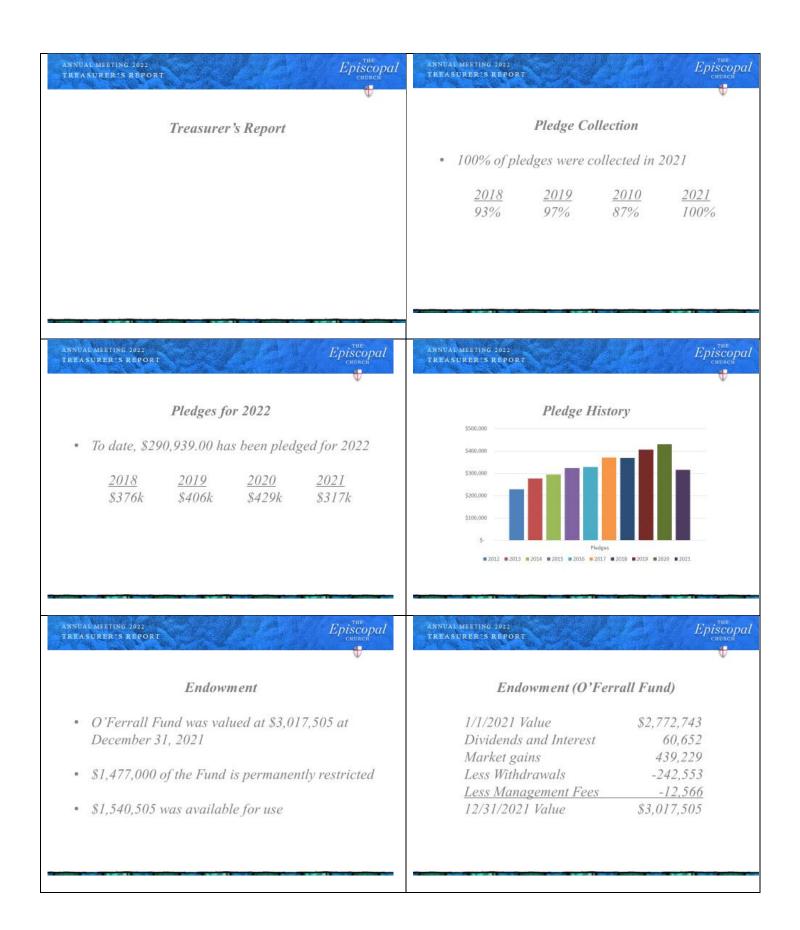
Respectfully submitted, Betsy Stoner

### Lantern Light

During 2021, thirty-seven St. Paul's parishioners donated time and efforts to the Lantern Light feeding ministry located in downtown New Orleans. Over the course of the year, St. Paul's community members prepared and delivered over 1,000 meals to members of the New Orleans community in need. Due to COVID, we did not personally serve the meals each month like we have in past years, but we did during two of the months when the Rebuild Center (where the Lantern Light feeding ministry is based) allowed us to do so and look forward to doing so again in 2022. In the wake of hurricane Ida, the St. Paul's Lantern Light team also prepared about 100 meals to donate to St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Paradis, LA for St. Andrew's volunteers and other Paradis community members recovering from Hurricane Ida.

Respectfully submitted, William Barousse

# Treasurer's Report





### FINANCIAL REPORT FEBRUARY 13, 2022 ANNUAL MEETING

### 2022 Stewardship Report

Total Pledges Received:	78	units
New Pledges for 2022:	14	
Increased Pledges for 2022:	26	
Decreased Pledges for 2022:	11	
Same amount as 2021:	27	

Total amount committed: \$ 290,939.00

Changes in Investment Fund Balances		<u>2020</u>		<u>2021</u> <u>Change</u>		
O'Ferrall Fund	\$	2,772,743	\$	3,017,505	\$	244,762
<b>Note:</b> Pursuant to the motion passed at the 2011 Annual Meeting, and in addition to the normal expenditure of dividend & interest income of \$60,560, principal of \$70,000 was withdrawn for operating and capital purposes.						
Memorial Endowment Fund		3,627		8,553		4,926
Note: Donations to this fund totaled \$290.						
Bequest Fund		31,476		32,808		1,332
<b>Note:</b> The Building Fund is housed in the Bequest Fund, but accounted for separately. Donations to the Building Fund totaled \$2,850.						
Altar Guild		6,645		2,317		(4,328)
Note: Use of these funds includes purchases of altar/worship supplies as well as net flower costs.						
Eastwood Fund		22,779		23,406		627
Note: Donations to this fund totaled \$27	70.					

14,456

14,459

3

### **School Indebtedness**

**Columbarium Escrow** 

The school loan had a balance of \$2,582,092 at December 31, 2021 compared to a balance of \$2,796,488 at December 31, 2020.

# **Annual Meeting Minutes 2021**

St. Paul's Episcopal Church 6249 Canal Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70124 Annual Meeting Minutes February 21, 2021

### **Clergy and Vestry Present**

Stephen Kepper, Jr. Warden

Rev. Rob Courtney Ryan Kelley, *Treasurer* Cherie Bolner Rev. Liz Embler-Beazley Jean Pritchett, *Clerk* Irene Ziegler Laura Beth Ramirez, *Sr. Warden* Eston Fain

Alison Quayle

The 2021 annual meeting (attended by some parishioners in person and others via Zoom) began with a prayer and a review of the rules for Annual Meeting Bingo. Clerk Jean Pritchett declared a quorum (at least 25 members in attendance). Fr. Rob announced the new candidates for Vestry: William Barousse, Lori Parault, and Melissa Carnall. With no additional candidates raised, Natalie James moved to approve the new Vestry members by acclamation, David Russell seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. A motion to accept the 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes was made by Jason Akers and seconded by Ryan Kelley, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

### Senior Warden Report - Laura Beth Ramirez

- God has been with us throughout all the changes required due to the pandemic.
- The Vestry met in December at the Solomon Center and wrote a new St. Paul's vision statement, as follows:
  - St. Paul's strives to live the Gospel of Christ by inviting all people, as they are, to grow in faith within an Episcopal community committed to a more loving, hopeful, and inclusive world.
- Streaming our services online allows us to meet people where they are. For example, our December Lessons and Carols service was viewed 730 times; and the number of views of our Sunday services in January 2021 far surpassed our pre-pandemic weekly attendance.

### **Head of School Report - Charleen Schwank**

- This is Charleen's tenth year as Head of School.
- In January 2020 Charleen began researching "coronavirus" based on information from the World Health Organization and immediately started to plan what to do if the virus hit New Orleans. At first people thought she was crazy, but her early planning paid off, and St. Paul's School was ready with their virtual "St. Paul's @ Home" as soon as the Governor closed all Louisiana schools.
- With loosening restrictions in June, SPES was able to open a 6-week Summer Camp, which turned out
  to be excellent practice for opening school in the fall. Currently, all school railings, doorknobs, etc. are
  cleaned every hour; students in PreK 4 and older wear masks and stay in pods of 25, and everyone is
  extremely happy.
- The school also hired a nurse, who has been extremely valuable helping to identify who should isolate, etc. To date, nine students have tested positive for coronavirus, with most being asymptomatic. Fr.

Rob echoed how impressed he has been with the school's handling of the pandemic, to the point that the church has largely piggybacked on the school's plans and procedures.

### Treasurer's Report - Ryan Kelley

- Eighty-seven percent (87%) of 2020 pledges were collected, which is understandable given the financial outfall from the pandemic but is down significantly from recent years.
- To date, \$309,000 has been pledged for 2021, which is quite a drop and is similar to pledge levels from 2014/15. As a result, our 2021 budget includes larger draws from the O'Ferrall Fund to meet operating expenses.
- The O'Ferrall Fund was valued at almost \$2.8 million at the end of 2020 (\$1,477,000 restricted).
- Fr. Rob thanked Ryan for his tremendous work as Treasurer, as well as the crucial role he played in getting our online streaming up and running.

### Associate for Congregational Development Report - Rev. Liz Embler-Beazley

- With regard to our Children and Youth ministries, the key words have been adapting and flexibility.
- We brought back single-use activity bags for our Sunday services.
- Mtr. Liz has conducted some porch visits with St. Paul's youth and plans to conduct more in the near future.
- Confirmation will be held on Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>, and Mtr. Liz encouraged all to attend to show the youth who have been very faithful in their preparation how much we care about them.
- All were encouraged to go online and watch the adorable Children's Christmas Pageant.

### Parish Life & Outreach - Rev. Liz Embler-Beazley

- A big "thank you" to Betsy Stoner and William Barousse for continuing our outreach efforts to Covenant House, Lantern Light, and the St. Anna's Food Pantry. Throughout the pandemic, St. Paul's has been faithful to our mission partners.
- Also "thank you" to Lori Parault for bagging donut holes to continue our post-Sunday service tradition, as well as for organizing the annual meeting luncheon.
- Also of note, Melissa Carnall, Lauren Homer, and Kate Wasson started new Bible studies/women's groups to meet parishioners' needs during the pandemic.

### Rector's Address - Rev. Rob Courtney

- Fr. Rob began by underscoring how well the church and school navigated the crisis. We had tried online worship before, but the necessity brought on by the pandemic propelled us forward.
- As a church, we will continue to focus on spiritual practices and discipleship.
- A big "thank you" to Mtr. Liz, Lori Lavelle, Dr. Jeanne Robertson, Mr. John, Matt Wood, and Kristen Wheeler, who do so much for St. Paul's.
- Also a big "thank you" to outgoing Vestry members Tom Oliver, Alison Quayle, and Jean Pritchett.
- In response to a question from Gillian Eggleston as to how we can help those in our congregation who are hurting financially as a result of the pandemic, Fr. Rob noted that he's been using his discretionary fund for such needs. He added that the Vestry has set aside about \$8,000 for Outreach.
- Speaking from a parishioner's perspective, Jim Kepper thanked Fr. Rob, Mtr. Liz, and everyone involved in responding to the pandemic for their imagination and creativity.

Fr. Rob closed with a Litany for the Church. David Russell then moved to adjourn the annual meeting, Eston Fain seconded, the motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted, Jean Pritchett April 19, 2021







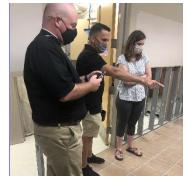


















# St. Paul's Episcopal Church

### The Rev. Rob Courtney

Rector rcourtney@stpauls-lakeview.org (504) 655-7756

### The Rev. Liz Embler-Beazley

Associate for Congregational Development lembeaz@stpauls-lakeview.org (865) 604-0178

#### Dr. Jeanne Robertson

Center for Counseling and Education jrobertson@stpauls-lakeview.org (504) 330-2549

### **Eston Fain**

Senior Warden

### Stephen Kepper

Junior Warden

### **Todd Simmons**

Organist/Choir Master

### **Lori Lavelle**

Parish Administrator

### John Joseph

Sexton

www.StPaulsNOLA.org