



ST. PAUL'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Befriend, Believe, Be.Loved.

Annual Reports for 2022

A Celebration of Beloved Community in Action!

ANNUAL MEETING HANDOUTS

Please note: Due to the length of this report, you will need to click on the button: [view entire message](#) found at the bottom of your screen in order to read it all. Special events are there as well as Remembrances.

Reports from our leaders

Rector's Report



The pandemic changed my style of being your rector. I have my office at home. I go to the church episodically throughout the week, but now I see the building very much as a tool for ministry, not the center of it. I have found my relationships to be as fulsome and enjoyable as ever. But I perceive them to be less rigid. There is a kind of closeness that we've gained by sharing a national tragedy alongside many of our personal ones. I'm grateful for that.

In 2022, I took two Cultural Sensitivity and Immersion courses: one through the National Church, and one through the MO Department of Juvenile Corrections. I also took a class on the Gospel of Luke through the Lutheran School of

Theology. Over the year, I read several theology and church-related books. I cultivated my relationship with God by memorizing Psalm 46 and reciting it often, engaging in Morning Prayer, and singing gospel music at the top of my lungs regularly. I will admit there are hard times in this job. Evicting our tenant from 6522 was one of the hardest in 2022. Another was witnessing the deep grief of several parishioners who have lost loved ones in the last two years.

I experience so much consolation in the love and laughter we share! Sunday mornings are my favorite time of the week – even when I have two preps: Class and Sermon! Diving deep into scripture and walking over that “sermon-cliff” every week has made me profoundly aware that God is with me and filling in the gaps. I am incredibly grateful for the leaders guiding our community. My colleague, **The Rev. Barbi Click's** wisdom, humor and candor have blessed me in ways I can't even articulate. I'm so grateful to **James Ammon** for serving two years alongside me as Sr. Warden. James's calm under fire and deep wisdom were so helpful as we navigated a pandemic and emerging from it. Kim Boelling, our retiring treasurer, was infinitely patient and gentle as I asked questions and texted her at work. Our Vestry members were fantastic to work with and took their responsibilities seriously. I am thankful for the gift of each one who calls St. Paul's a place of solace.

A guest staying here during our pop-up shelter scrawled a message on the back of one of our worship songbooks. I am pretty sure they meant to write “Book of Lies,” but instead, they wrote “Book of Lifes”. We are writing a *Book of Lifes* to the world: a story of St. Paul's Church in Carondelet. The genre is Adventure, and the unfolding events are entirely engaging. And the ending is a happy one. I'm so glad to be a part of our unfolding story!

-Pastor Rebecca

Deacon's Report



In 2022, in addition to my ordinary liturgical duties, I preached five times at St Paul's, including Christmas Day where I led Communion from the Reserved Sacraments. I also participated in the planning and liturgy of the Celtic Eucharist we held outside of St. Mary and Joseph property on Easter Eve. The rising moon at that service was spectacular. That was the first of our monthly Rising services held in that place. Our last one for the year was in November. We held a successful Voices of the Nativity on December 11. It was well attended. I organized a meeting with **Dr. Kanika Cunningham** to teach a number of parishioners and neighbors about the use of naxolone (Narcan) for overdose victims. She talked to us about Harm Reduction and ways we

could help the people of our community. I also participated in the Requiem or Renaissance diocesan program as we determine as a parish where we have been, are now, and hope to be in the future.

-Deacon Barbi Click

Sr. Warden's Report



It's been my absolute pleasure to serve as the Senior Warden for the last two years. It's been like taking care of my extended family and I hope that all of you have felt loved and cared for. While I won't be serving on Vestry this year, I will still continue to find ways to serve around here and I encourage all of you to do that as well. I hope that all of you will take the opportunity to serve on the vestry also, everyone's input is valuable and welcome. Over the course of 2022, we have continued to recover and grow after the worst of the pandemic in 2021. Our membership has maintained nearly the same as we have said goodbye to a few members and welcomed new ones into the family. We have recently launched La Misa successfully due to **Derek O'Chiu's** efforts. With our funding from the La Misa program, we were able to

hire a communications director and we dramatically increased our online and social media presence. The Diocese has implemented the Requiem and Renaissance program and St. Paul's has been held up as an example of Renaissance during the program. We have worked at being good stewards by continually lowering our operating expenses while still serving our congregation and neighborhood. We served our neighbor's to-go meals and then shifted to in-person events as it became safer through our Thursday evening dinners. We have also started hosting art shows to bring in new people. We have worked to care for our St. Paul's family by upgrading and expanding the coverage of the security system, and added video monitoring for less than the cost of years of monitoring of the old system, especially with the false alarms we were being charged for by the STL PD. The new system will continue to save the church money in monitoring fees every year. We are also hosting an air monitoring system to study the air quality in the neighborhood. In my eyes, 2022 has been a year of restoration and growth for St. Paul's. We have emerged from the lockdowns, and grown into a stronger congregation. We have strong traditions as our foundation while we look forward to the future. We have some challenges to face in 2023, the budget will continue to be an issue, the Heigham House needs attention, we also need to continue to focus on serving our neighbors and each other in love and our reflection of Jesus will hopefully attract new members.

-James Ammon

Jr. Warden's Report

Highlights of the year include the church clean-up days before Easter and before Christmas. We also had a service day to spread mulch and clean-up the flower beds and exterior of the church. One noticeable change is that the door to the church was painted red. We received a \$10,000 matching grant from the diocese to use toward making repairs. We spent this on spot tuckpointing the Heigham House and tuckpointing the bell tower of the church. The work on the church seems to have eliminated visits from birds and bats. We also had the metal railing by the awning repaired, The Heigham House was inspected for asbestos; a small amount was found in the basement on the duct work, this has been removed. It was my pleasure to serve as your junior warden.

-Tom Schroede



Honoring Kim Boelling



In 2018, St. Paul's was transitioning from one Rector to another. **Father Al Jewson** was interim. And **Kim Boelling** was an innocent member of the congregation. Then it happened: Fr Al asked her to be treasurer. And **Kim, ignorant of what lay ahead, said yes! That was the beginning of a heroic journey for our former treasurer. Kim had a huge learning curve to acquire the skills to be treasurer, and she was assuming the role in a church that needed to transition from written ledgers and QuickBooks, to a more fulsome financial platform. She navigated quarterly reports, and designated funds. She revamped a more fulsome account number system for our budget, created accountability measures for counting and tracking money, established profit and loss reports, generated budgets, enabled us to on-**

line giving, as well as navigated payroll, insurance, taxes, and a 200K renovation with the concomitant invoicing and check cutting. Tired yet?? After hundreds of volunteer hours, workshops, and training, Kim laid the foundation for our financial well-being for decades to come. There is no way to overstate this: Kim is a superhero. We cannot compensate her for the gift of her time, talent, and perseverance. Only God can. And God will. Well done, good and faithful servant, enter your reward: your five-year term as treasurer is over! Thank you Kim!

-Pastor Rebecca

Treasurer's Report

2022 Income and Expense vs Budget

Pledge income for the year was 58,605 which is 99.3% of the budgeted amount.

Total contributions: Pledge plus plate and non-pledges were 73,050 which is 104.96% of budget.

Total Revenue was 107,344, which was 97.96% of the budget.

In all, revenue was about 2% below budget because the gain in contributions was offset by the fact that we received 5,000 less from the diocese than we expected and we only received rent of the rectory for half of the year.

Expenses totaled 146,055 which is 13,711 less than budgeted.

The largest line items that were under budget were:

Church Maintenance 4,385
Supply musicians 3,250
Rectory Maintenance 2,220
Utilities 2,028
Mission & Outreach 1,261
Professional Fees 1,245
Music 840

Expenses that were significantly higher than budgeted include:

Salaries and Related Expenses 3,167
Insurance 1,606
Financial Expense 882

Overall the net deficit (revenues – expenses) was -38,711 which was 11,066 (22.23) better than the budgeted deficit of -49,777.

2022 Income and Expense vs 2021 Actual

Total Revenue of 107,344 was 9,473 (9.7%) higher than last year.

Total Expenses were 146,055 in 2022 compared to 158,498 in 2021. This is a reduction of 12,443 (7.85).

The largest reductions in expenses were in Church Maintenance, 4,958 and Rectory Maintenance, 6,088.

The net deficit of -38,771 is 21,915 less than last year's deficit of -60,626.

-Tom Schroeder, Treasurer

Ministry Reports

Adult Spiritual Formation

Sunday mornings at 9:30 AM have become our "go-to" for community and spiritual formation for adults. Over thirty people have participated in classes. Under the leadership of **Pastor Rebecca**, **Deacon Barbi**, and **Richard Byrne**, we covered topics from personal spiritual formation, to church history to Bible study.



Altar Ministry

A wonderful rotation of altar ministers kept our worship safe and smooth this year! Thank you **James Ammon**, **Richard Byrne**, **Debbie Wheeler**, **Erik Rahe** and **Gilbert Swank**!



Altar Guild

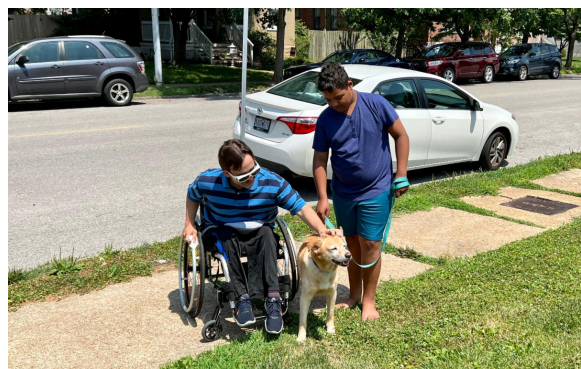
The altar guild is a ministry of service. In 2022, members prepared the altar, set the credence table with the elements to be administered during the service, and ordered and arranged flowers for Christmas, Easter, and special events. Laundered and ironed altar and worship linens, polished brass, and filled candles. They also ensured the altar was dressed in the liturgical calendar's proper color and cleaned up after services. On ordinary Sundays, we will change from oil-fed candles to battery-operated ones on the high altar. The smoke from the candles causes soot damage to the icons, and the battery-operated candles are also inexpensive. We need new altar cloths and will be exploring options. The candle sticks, pews, and altar were cleaned and polished by many on our annual cleanup day. Thanks to all. Your Altar Guild is **Peggy Schroeder**, **Barbi Click**, and **Debbie Wheeler**. We give thanks for the wisdom and guidance of long time Altar Guild leader, **Maryellen Bell**. The guild is open and needs volunteers - men or women are welcome!. Please join us!

-Peggy Schroeder



Children's Ministry

St. Paul's has a growing cohort of children! We continue to discern ways to meet their developmental and spiritual needs. In 2022, we offered a one time after-church gathering called "Taste and See: a child's introduction to Holy Communion". Three children participated. In the Spring, **Leanne Rahe** and **Sybil Fisher** worked with helpers to provide twice monthly children's chapel during worship. After a few months, the effort was abandoned due to erratic attendance.



Subsequently, parent feedback indicated that attending worship with their children was meaningful and important. We continue to discern other effective ways of supporting children and families.

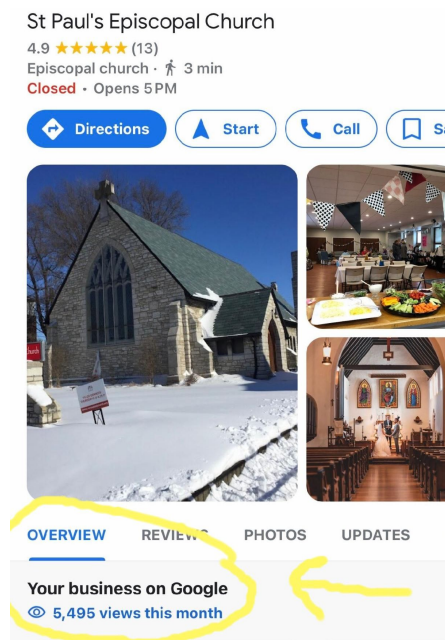
-Sybil Fisher

Communications

Under the leadership of our new Communications Specialist, **Metal Priestess**, we have significantly increased our social media presence. We have more Instagram and Facebook followers, our presence on targeted group sites has increased, and the number of subscribers to our newsletter has gone from 1 every 3 months to 1 -2 a month. In December alone, over 5,000 people viewed our Google Business sight!

Emily O'Chiu dedicated precious volunteer hours to improving and updating the website and creating our Annual.

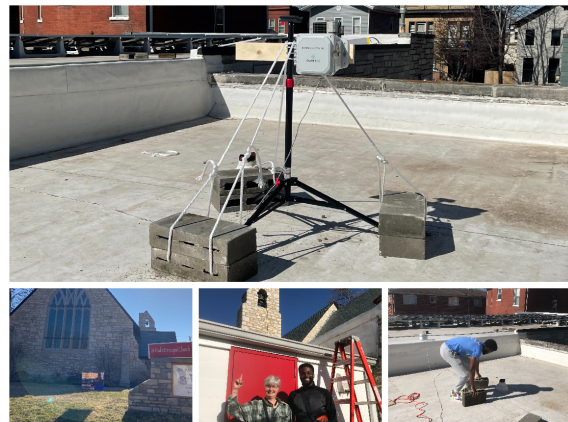
Larry Throgmorton served as editor of the newsletter final copy.



Environmental Justice

2022 was the first full year we enjoyed the benefits of our solar panels! Our electric bill is seldom over \$32. In addition, to date, we have saved 36,605.8 lbs of CO2 emission, and 277 trees! (Solar Edge app data).

In April, we installed an air quality monitor on our roof. We were the only south city church to host a monitor with Metropolitan Congregations United. In October, we hosted a neighborhood meeting to share the data and engage the community.



Harm Reduction

In October, nine people gathered at St. Paul's to learn strategies and gain resources for helping people with chemical dependence. **Dr. Kamika Cunningham** from Family Health Center provided the training. Subsequently, through NoM0Deaths and other agencies, we received Narcan, Fentanyl Test Kits and resource bags that provide guidance on seeking recovery. We place these materials in the Little Free Pantry as well as provide them at First and Third Thursdays. **The Rev. Barbi Click** has been instrumental in this work. Volunteers who received training include, **Peggy Schroeder, Metal Priestess, Laura Shields, Sybil Fisher, and Deb Myles**, among others.



La Misa

After nearly a year in the works, La Misa finally launched! Your faithful committee members consisted of **Pastor Rebecca, Deacon Barbi, Cindy Combs, Sybil Fisher, Metal Priestess, Kathy Watts, and Derek O'Chiu** with the consultation of **Brother Luis**

Hernandez Rivas. The undertaking faced a couple of hurdles, however, with patience and with the guidance from the Holy Spirit, months of work finally came to fruition. The mass featured a visit from the three magi, live Spanish music, activities for the children, and a meal provided by Dos Reyes Mexican Restaurant. Whereas the average Sunday mass attendance of 2022 was twenty-eight people, the day boasted an attendance number of nearly fifty people to see La Misa off. Your faithful committee is excited by all the momentum generated to continue its mission for future services.

-Derek O'Chiu



Little Free Pantry and Library

In 2022, over 900 sandwiches were placed in the Little Free Pantry, and too many canned meals to count! Special thanks go to **Barry Maurer, Peggy and Tom Schroeder and James and Sarah Ammon** for adopting the pantry and stocking it regularly.

The Library gets an incredible amount of activity! In 2022, it's safe to say that over 1,000 volumes were placed and taken.

Pastor Rebecca purchased large supplies of children's and adult books from St. Vincent de Paul (cheapest used books in town!) and many people donated. Thank you!



Meal Ministries

From January to June, St. Paul's volunteers prepared meals for 30 people every single Thursday. Other volunteers arrived at the church, received the food, boxed, and distributed it. At least 720 meals were served during that time. Approximately 20 volunteers assisted.

From August to December, two meals a month were served through our First and Third Thursday program. Over 15 volunteers assisted. Special shout out to **Laura Shields, her son, Matthew Shields, Chef Jack West MacMurry** (chefjackmac.com) and his team of volunteers that prepare incredible food for us each time!



Music Ministry

2022 saw some healthy changes in the music program at St. Paul's in the form of new members and a new schedule of rotating musicians. **Stacey Smith** officially stepped back after almost ten years as music director to gratefully share the leadership role with **John Birdsong** and **Karin Moore**. We're so thankful for this generous gift from both of them. Each month sees St. Paul's rotate through these three leaders on different Sundays with YouTube music on one Sunday per month. We continue to act as a "free range" choir, where the choir members come as they are able and



rehearse before each service, providing some wonderful music throughout the year. A big thanks to all our new members and especially **John and Belinda Birdsong** for showing up right when we needed them and willingly learning the Episcopal service and music and **Karin Moore** for helping lead music regularly. Thanks also to **Scott Ragland, Evan Smith, Ed and Erik Rahe, Karen Watts, and Owen Ragland** for helping us be heard both in person and on the livestream.

-Stacey Smith



Pastoral Care

The parish includes two households who receive Eucharist through clergy visits. In addition, episodic home and hospital visits were made.

The parish celebrated its first wedding in several years! Congratulations to **Ollie and Anthony Weatherford**! One funeral was held for long time member, **Margaret "Marge" Polcyn**. (see below)



Proud Dad, James Ammon, with the Bride!

Risings

Beginning in October, we enjoyed full moon Eucharists through the end of the liturgical year. The service is designed as a means of hospitality to "nones." The outdoor setting, and liturgy are intended to offer easy access and connection points to creation spirituality and Christian faith. Special thanks to **Laura Shields** and **Melissa Ketcherside** for giving reflections.

Risings resume on Holy Saturday (April 8, 2023).



Summer Barbecues

Blessed with good weather, St. Paul's was able to host five summer BBQ's on the third Friday evening of May, June, July, August, and September. Tasty hotdogs, hamburgers, and brats were grilled outside by **Chef Richard Byrne** then served along with various sides, desserts, and lemonade. On average 50 people from the community / church attended each night and enjoyed a good BBQ dinner, good fellowship, and good music played by **DJ Whiz**. Thanks to all our volunteers: talented grill man **Richard Byrne**, shopper **Melissa Ketcherside**, coordinator **Justin Vitale**, **Laura Shields**, **Tom & Peggy Schroeder**, **Rebecca & Scott Ragland**, **Dawn McMurtry**, **DJ Whiz**, **Owen Ragland**, **Paul Steward**, **Derek & Emily O'Chiu**, **Barbi Click**, **Deb Wheeler**, **Angela Breeher**, **Debbie Myles**, **Maddie Nador**, **Sybil Fisher**, and anyone else who contributed to the success of these BBQ's. Highlights were getting to feed and connect with members of our St Paul's community. We look forward to BBQ season starting up again next summer.

-Justin Vitale



Special Events



Art Installations

In January, we installed the final icon above the high altar. **Evan Smith's YHWH** was dedicated to all who died during the Pandemic, many of whose names are written on the back. During Lent, parishioners adopted a station of the cross and created original artwork reflecting moments in Jesus *via dolorosa*. Artists were: members of **Deaconess Anne House, Diana Fisher Bagnall, Sybil and Madison Fisher, Pipa Fisher, Melissa Ketcherside, Emily and Corrine O'Chiu, Peggy Schroeder, Sue Steptoe, Tom Schroeder, and Paul Steward.**



Art Shows

In January, June and October, we installed artist's work in our parish hall and held an art opening for each. Many visitors attended. One happy result of the openings was that Pastor Rebecca's son met the love of his life!

[Check out the Shows](#)



Coat Drive

St. Paul's collected 47 coats for women, men and children. The coats were distributed to our guests at First and Third Thursday and the Pop Up Shelter. By January 1, we had one child's coat left. It was taken to Goodwill.



Cookie Swap

Several members and one puppy-dog enjoyed the annual cookie swap. Cookies were shared after service and among our neighbors with plenty left to take home!



Costume Sunday

This is the second year people were invited to wear costumes on the Sunday nearest to Halloween. We had some 'cool cats' at the service!



Episcopal City Mission

This year St. Paul's partnered with ECM by providing the supplies and gifts for two



celebrations at the St. Louis County Detention Center. In September, we provided for the monthly birthday celebration. We donated ice cream, pizzas, candy, soda and birthday gifts! We delivered all this to **Chaplain Deborah Burris** at the Center. Due to continuing pandemic cautions, we were unable to celebrate and play bingo with the youth. Reports back however, indicated they thoroughly enjoyed themselves! In December, we set up a Giving Tree and participated in the annual Holiday Giving for Youth in Detention. A great variety of games, puzzles, notebooks and coloring books and candy were collected for the youth, as well as generous gift cards! We joined other churches in the diocese so that every child in detention will know they are NOT forgotten, there IS hope for a good future, and they are BELOVED children of God! Many thanks to **Angela Breeher, Leanne Rahe, Tom and Peggy Schroeder, Maryellen Bell** and **Kathy Watts**.

-Kathy Watts



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

ANNUAL BENEFIT CONCERT

Celebrating songs, poetry and the power of creativity to bring us together!

Saturday, October 8, 7 pm

Attendance is free. Donations will benefit the St. Paul's music program.

6518 Michigan Avenue, South St. Louis City
(east of Loughborough Avenue exit on HWY 55)



Music Benefit Concert

On October 8, we gathered for the 9th annual event. While we didn't have a lot of people in the audience, we did have friends and families of our several performers, as well as church members who were able to join us on a Saturday evening. We raised \$110 after expenses which was contributed to our food ministry, which was the highest total in several years. Our featured guest was Dr. Ken Haller, who is well known in the Cabaret community here in St. Louis for his several entertaining shows. We also had talented church members who shared their gifts—**Paul Stewart** and **Karin Moore** with other accompanists, a humorous performance of "Jabberwocky" with **Mary Comeau** and **Eric Rahe**; and friends of St. Paul's who have been with us before: **Larry Meyer** (tenor), **Arthur Jordan** (bass-baritone) and **Jody Clegg** (pianist/accompanist). Special thanks to **Scott Ragland** for technical help and sound production.

-Richard Byrne



Pet Blessing Sunday

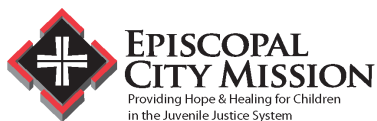
Our furry friends joined us for worship and a blessing on the lawn. Two visitors joined us with their dogs.



St. Paul's Pet Blessing

Pop-Up Shelter for Winter Outreach

St. Paul's became home to 27 guests and 15 volunteers during a cold snap over Christmas. For four days and three nights, we provided refuge for our guests. Even a guest's dog found refuge. YAY!



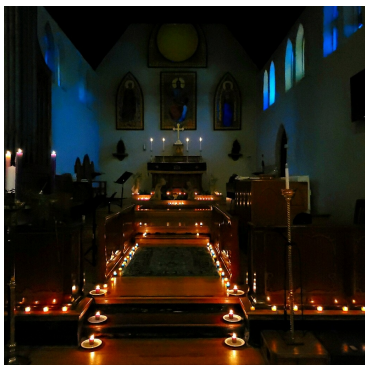
Survival Bags

Early in the year, **Angela Breeher** organized an ingathering and creation of Survival Bags. We created 50 bags together and we all worked to distribute them to folks along the roadside.

A few months later, **Richard Byrne** organized a repeat! We gathered supplies, wrote notes of encouragement, made the bags and carried them with us to share.

One volunteer mission opportunity from Episcopal City Mission (ECM) is for local parishes to provide activity/treat goody bags around each holiday of the year to the youth currently in the detention centers. St. Paul's learned in mid-June that there was a need for such joy-spreading for the 4th of July holiday. Our parish rallied. We provided activities and treats to fill enough bags for all of those in both the county and city detention center at that time. We also provided a few extras for the Chaplains to use with others they minister to throughout the month. Our goodie bags included decks of cards, word searches, puzzles to complete and then color, crayons, stress relievers, and snacks such as candy, chips, and granola bars. After services, many stayed to fill the bags and make sure we had them organized. These goodie bags show the youth that others are thinking of them, praying for them, and encouraging them. The ECM Chaplains expressed thanks to St. Paul's for this support of their ministry in this tangible way. Special Thanks to **Kathy Watts** and **Pastor Rebecca** for their let's make it happen support! Thanks to **Angela Breeher** for alerting us to this service opportunity. If we would like to do this again, Kathy or I can reach out to ECM to take a holiday in 2023 for this ministry.

-Leanne Rahe



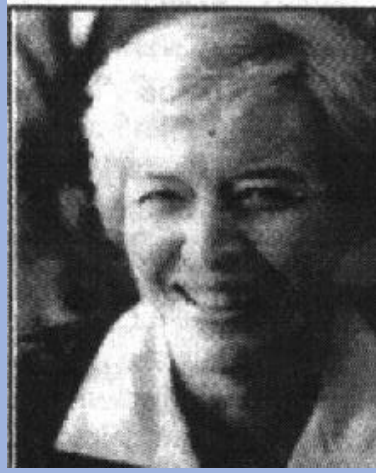
Voices of the Nativity

Over 20 people, including members of Episcopal Church Women attended this bi-annual serving imagining the experiences of the first witnesses of the Nativity. Special thanks to **Deacon Barbi** for coordinating the readings and event.



The Rev. Al Jewson

Interim Rector 2017 - 2018, beloved
Supply Clergy, and spouse of The Rev.
Dayna Jewson.
Died All Saints Day, 2022



Margaret "Marge" Polcyn

Long-time member of St. Paul's died
February 5, 2022. Her funeral was held
at St. Paul's and her ashes were placed
in the memorial garden.

**ANNUAL MEETING NEWSLETTER
Remembering 2022**

BELIEVE. BEFRIEND. BE. LOVED.

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