

Volume 46, No. 9

November 2020

From the Rector:

Rev. Walter Hobgood



Reflecting on the Future using my Rearview Mirror

In these unsettling times I find myself thinking of the past and reflecting on those things that have influenced my life and who I am. My generation had the Vietnam War and anti-war protests, civil unrest, and the threat of the Cold War. My parents reminded me they survived the Greatest Depression and World War II. Today we are facing a pandemic, political and civil unrest, and racial and gender injustice. In my lifetime we have landed men on the moon and sent satellites and robots to the far reaches of the cosmos. Our handheld devices have more computing power than the computers used to send people to the moon. We have gone from the “our” generation to the “my” generation. The common denominator in all of this is “change”. The world has changed around us, just as it did in the times of the Old Testament, Jesus Christ, the emergence of Christianity, the Reformation, and the war to end all wars.

When I look at the future in my rear-view mirror, I see constant change. I also see a God that has provided us with the gifts we need to survive, influence and even thrive in change.

I believe this is an accurate view of the future. With God’s support, grace and unconditional Love, we will continue to experience change now and for generations to come.

God has given us the gifts we need to Love and Serve our Neighbor. Part of that is supporting the ministries at St. Paul’s that are important to us and to our community.

St. Paul’s is a gift that allows us to be a part of God’s unconditional Love in the World. If you have any doubt about how you can serve God and serve your neighbor, contact someone at church and ask how you can help.

Blessings to all of you,

Walter+

A Personal Perspective about serving on Vestry...

I have enjoyed serving on St. Paul’s vestry the last 3 years. I’ve learned so much from our fellow parishioners and developed friendships I didn’t have before. We have been challenged and had lots of fun all at the same time. I’d encourage everyone to consider serving on our vestry - three years really does fly by!
 Mary Helen Morgan

I can't believe my three year term on the Vestry is coming to an end. I have learned so much about St. Paul's and its members while serving. I especially enjoyed working on the Ladles of Love committee. Watching this ministry bless so many on a weekly basis has really touched my heart. Being on the Vestry has been a very rewarding experience for me!
 Shanna Aderhold

It has been a privilege and a blessing to serve our Lord and the parishioners of St. Paul’s for the past 3 years. The partnering of the vestry, priests, and staff, to ensure the business of the parish is tended to, has allowed me personally to develop deeper, meaningful friendships and also a more thorough understanding of the inner workings of our church and its rich history. Even though I have been a member of this church for 44 years, I now feel so much more connected to my church family and the Diocese of Georgia. I hope if you feel called to serve in this capacity, you will consider allowing your name to be placed in nomination for the 2021 election.
 Pam Reynolds

Being on the Vestry of St. Paul’s has been a rewarding and revealing experience. It is truly a great study of persons and personalities with mutual interests working on behalf of the Church. Through God’s direction and by His hand in our decision making process, we always knew that solutions could be found. It has been an awesome and humbling experience I’ll always remember. Thank you people of St. Paul’s for the past five years.
 Roy Brown

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Vestry Meeting
Monday, September 21, 2020, 5:00 PM
Parish Hall

Present: Senior Warden Pam Reynolds, Junior Warden Carol Fullerton, Roy Brown, Ned Newcomb, Dunn Stapleton, Shanna Aderhold, Annabelle Stubbs, Angie Barber, Jim Hendricks Absent: Mary Helen Morgan

Also present: Fr Hobgood, Dave Orlowski, Treasurer, Nealy Stapleton, Clerk

Fr. Hobgood called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM. He began the meeting with a prayer.

Treasurer's Report

Dave Orlowski reported tithes and offerings for the month are \$7,281.03 over budget. Year-to- date tithes and offerings are \$9,834.18 over budget. He reported the Lucy Yancey Walters account has reimbursed the Grounds and Maintenance account \$1,466.68. The Building and Equipment Maintenance account is over budget and Dave said he needed a better breakdown of these funds. **Dunn Stapleton made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented; Shanna Aderhold seconded, and the report was accepted as submitted.**

Rector's Report

Fr. Hobgood complimented the vestry on its progress in the areas of finance and systems it had set in place since the last time he had served at St. Paul's. He also complimented the vestry on opening the church to in-person worship. He said many churches in the diocese still were not having in-person worship with the exception of St. Patrick's and Calvary, Americus, along with St. Paul's. Fr. Hobgood then asked what the vestry had in mind for services at Christmas? Angie Barber suggested a "giving festival" in which children would bring gifts for needy children. She also asked about having the traditional Christmas pageant, but offering it virtually. Ned Newcomb said the pageant would have to be handled carefully. Annabelle Stubbs suggested partnering in some way with First Methodist to offer a Christmas program. Fr. Hobgood said he would be glad to hold two services Christmas Eve. Pam said there were 125 people at church for the family service Christmas Eve 2019. Fr. Hobgood said he and Carol Fullerton will speak with the Fletchers about organizing the Christmas pageant.

It was suggested the December vestry meeting should be held earlier in the month. The new date will be discussed at the November vestry meeting.

The Thanksgiving dinner for Malone Towers residents was discussed next. It will have to be offered in a new way, perhaps delivering meals to Malone Towers residents. Roy Brown will talk to the Men's Chill and Grill group about their participation. Angie said she will talk with Albany Housing Authority to ask if they could pick up meals at St. Paul's and deliver them to Malone Towers.

Youth Sunday will be held November 8, 2020.

Junior Warden's Report

Carol Fullerton reported she had purchased new floor mats and placed them in front of the kitchen sinks. She said the church fire extinguishers and smoke alarms have been checked and serviced.

Senior Warden's Report

Pam Reynolds said she received an assessment from the diocese stating St. Paul's owed \$38,000 for its 2020-2021 assessment based on Operating Revenues. Pam determined the figure was high and asked the diocese to refigure the amount based on actual rather than a three-year average. Her contact did re-figure the amount based on actual operating revenue, which lowered what the church owes the diocese to \$36,461. Pam said this is an estimate and that we won't know the true figure until January 2021, when our 2020 year-end financial reports are complete.

The assessment letter from the diocese also stated St. Paul's will owe the diocese two percent of Operating Revenue for Honey Creek. This amount had been appealed last year and waived, so we won't have to pay it. Pam suggested if we have left over funds at the end of the year we might send money to the diocese for Honey Creek.

Pam asked the diocese if once St. Paul's receives loan forgiveness for the PPP funds, will those funds be considered Operating Revenue? She was told the diocese will not make that decision. The Episcopal Church of the United States will make that decision.

Pam reported Amy Jones has agreed to rent her pool house to Fr. and Mrs. Hobgood for \$750 per month.

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Old Business

Roof Update

That portion of the September 2020 minutes dealing with the roof report is amended as follows:

Annabelle reported the new report submitted by Michael Clark, PE, did not meet our needs. Annabelle is now looking for another roof expert. She said bids for repairs to the parapet are currently being submitted.

Virtual Diocesan Convention Delegates

Pam said one person, Leigh Brooks, has volunteered to be a Diocesan Convention delegate. We now need two more volunteers. Several additional names were discussed. Pam Shanna, Annabelle, and Fr. Hobgood were requested to contact these people.

New Business

Stewardship

Fr. Hobgood reported he had met with the Stewardship Team. The first Stewardship mailing has been mailed and the second mailing will go out the week of September 21. Beginning September 25 there will be short videos posted on FaceBook with parishioners speaking about what is meaningful to them about St. Paul's. Brad McEwen will write a "white paper" on ways parishioners can send their pledges to the church. Angie asked if the church could offer "auto draft" as an option.

Blessing of the Animals

The Blessing of the Animals is scheduled for Sunday, October 4. A special e-Pistle will be sent out to promote it. Plan A is for the service to take place in the garden. Reservations will be required with space for 58 people. If necessary, Plan B will be developed.

Barney's Corner

Pet burials will take place Saturday, October 17 at 4:00. Those interested should call Penny at the church office.

Resolution for Marcus, Inman, and Daniel Wealth Advisors (MID)

A proposed resolution (see attached) was submitted authorizing Pam Reynolds as our Senior Warden, and Carol Fullerton as our Junior Warden to sign for the Vestry's accounts recently transferred to MID. **Dunn made a motion, seconded by Jim Hendricks to pass the resolution. It passed unanimously.**

The next vestry meeting will take place Monday, October 19, 2020, at 5:00 PM in the Parish Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Nealy Stapleton

UPDATE from your St. Paul's Ladles of Love Ministry

We are wide open every Thursday from 11:00 to 12 noon handing out lunch bags of ; 1-PB & J, 1- Turkey & Cheese sandwiches, breakfast bar, 2-3 pieces of small sweets, bag of chips, tangelo or mandarin orange, face mask and napkin—oh, and a bottled water. Actually, that can be enough for 1 or 2 meals a day. Word has gotten around and according to our guests, we put together the "Best PB & J sandwich in Town". Now, that's something to be very proud of! We have also been asked when we would start serving that delicious beef vegetable soup again? Well, we are working on that for colder weather, but not sure right now, as we are not letting anyone in our church. Let's see what the future has in store for us.

Now for the present time, do you remember the iconic song "Bye, Bye, Miss American Pie"? Well, Ladles of Love would like to "Buy, Buy, Some Thanksgiving Pies" for our guests as a special treat at Thanksgiving. Walmart makes delicious mini pies of various flavors for only .50 cents each. My husband loves them all. We would concentrate on Pecan and Pumpkin. If you would like to donate towards the purchase of these pies, you can send a check to St. Paul's—memo— LOL Pie Drive. Any extra money will be used to purchase socks, sock hats, gloves, in adult and children's sizes for our Christmas bag treats. We are now serving about 60 to 80 guests weekly. Any modest amount will be a blessing. May God Bless you and yours—Stay Well, Safe and Strong in your faith.

Deborah Johnson and Patty Woodall

Any questions—Call Deborah Johnson at 229-854-9503

P.S. If you would rather donate socks, hats and gloves personally, we will have a drop off box located at St. Paul' starting about November 15th. THANKS! DLJ Location will soon be announced. OX

NAMI WALK YOUR WAY 2020 by Debbie Richardson

Thanks to everyone who supported Albany Episcopalians for NAMI by joining our team, participating in the activities, donating to NAMI Albany and praying for the effort. One goal of our team was to raise money for NAMI Albany enabling them to continue providing help for people and their families with mental health needs. The second goal was to bring awareness and understanding of mental health and to reduce stigma. I am pleased that both goals were accomplished.

Our Team met the \$5,000 goal with contributions of \$1000. each from St Paul's, St Johns and St Marks, and St Patricks and 45 donations from members of the three churches. During the week of the walk 75 of our members participated in some way supporting NAMI and working together, making new friends, and learning more about the mission of Nami. Activities included handing our NAMI literature about mental health at a drive through Health fair, walking the Labyrinth and making Anglican prayer beads at St John and St Marks, and a youth event at St Paul's, making posters for the walk, distributing NAMI literature with bag lunches to friends who come to the soup kitchen at St Paul's, knitting a scarf for a neighbor in need, and walking from St Paul's to Riverfront Park.

Karla Heath-Sands interviewed Rev Nick Roosevelt, Jere Brands, and Tosha Dean for the Dialogue program. The focus of the presentation was NAMI Walk Your Way, NAMI programs, and the churches role in supporting people with emotional pain. If you were unable to view the program you can access the interview at the links below. All did a wonderful job presenting the information about NAMI.

<https://www.walb.com/video/2020/10/04/dialogue-part--3/>

<https://www.walb.com/video/2020/10/04/dialogue-part--2/>

<https://www.walb.com/video/2020/10/04/dialogue-part-/>

The Albany Herald also published a wonderful editorial on September 29 written by Kelly Wesselman, as well as a front page NAMI article on Oct 6 to educate our community about the role and programs offered by NAMI.

I am proud of all my fellow Episcopalians or supporting and educating our community about NAMI and fighting the stigma associated with lack of understanding about people suffering from Mental Health symptoms and recovery and treatment.

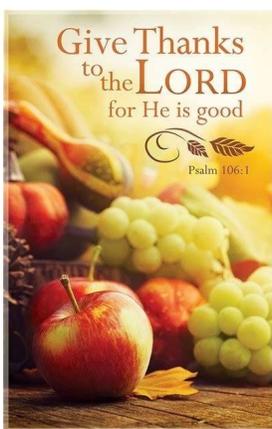
Happy Birthday!

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Jim LeVaughn
- 3 Calista Langstaff
- 6 Macee Marcus
- 9 Jennings Marcus
- 10 Bonnie Sharpe
- 16 Patty Woodall
- 21 Parker Orlowski
- 24 Meagan Fiorito
- 25 Jo Jones
- 28 Jacob Blakey
- 29 Adaline Miles

November Anniversaries

- 9—Steve & Bronwyn Hinton
- 11—Brandon & Jessica Rutledge
- 12—Bob & Sue Fletcher
- 19—Jason & Evie Carter
- 22—Dan & Kay Wheeler
- 28—Mitch & Elaine Mercer
- 28—Ned & Mary Newcomb



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH Income and Expense SEPTEMBER 2020 \$(000s)

	2020 ACTUAL	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	YTD DEVIATION
Pledge income	46.0	293.3	271.3	22.0
Other income	4.3	39.7	38.0	1.7
Total Income	50.3	333.0	309.3	23.7
Total expense	23.7	234.1	316.5	-82.4
Net income	26.7	98.9	-7.2	106.1

Dear St. Paul's Friends:

The table above for September 2020 and September YTD is from the financial report certified by the Vestry at its meeting of October 19. *The Ministry* publication of financial summary will always be dated one month back because of the accounting and approval cycle.

The bottom line for September is that YTD pledge income is running \$293K vs. budget of \$271K, or \$22K over budget (108% of budgeted amount). Pledge giving has remained steady, in spite of COVID-19. Giving, both Pledges and Other income, coupled with advance pledge payments has kept budget on track which reflects good stewardship on the part of our members.

Expenses for September YTD are running \$234K vs. budget of \$316K, or \$82K below budget (74% of budget). This reflects good cost management by the vestry and staff, as well as below budget level of activity due to the virus-related suspension.

As mentioned in the May report, the Federal Payroll Protection Program loan in the amount of \$33K is being applied to May and June staff employee compensation, but the loan face value is not included in the YTD financial extract above. Part or all of this will be convertible to a grant under certain conditions being monitored by Finance Committee and Vestry.

As always, copies of vestry minutes and vestry financial reports are posted on the bulletin board in the same corridor as the St. Paul's Room. We are also mailing to your home and/or publishing in *The Ministry* copies of the minutes. This abbreviated financial summary is published so that members will understand the financial health of the church.

Faithfully and for the vestry,
Pam Reynolds

October Memorials

Eugene "Genie" Clark
Robert & Marianne Moss

Memorials to Barney's Corner

In memory of **Rascal Darby** (the Darby Family)
by Bill & Molly Swan

In memory of **Skittles Steiger** (the Steiger Family)
by Bill & Molly Swan