

parish life

Good Works



parish life

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Parish Life, the official publication of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Winston-Salem, NC, seeks to share stories from parishioners, staff, and clergy that examine society, challenge conceptions, and build compassion for our neighbors.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:

Jason Franklin, *Director of Communications*

ISSUE CONTRIBUTORS:

Nancy Grantham
Dr. Mark Ardrey-Graves
The Rev. Sara Ardrey-Graves
The Rev. Dr. D. Dixon Kinser
Aleisha Oakes
The Rev. Nancy Vaders
The Rev. Nick VanHorn
The Rev. Lauren A. Villemuer-Drenth

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St. Paul's Episcopal Church at
520 Summit St., Winston-Salem, NC 27101

SPEAK TO US:

jfranklin@stpauls-ws.org
336-723-4391, ext. 1402





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*Command them to do good,
to be rich in good deeds*

and to be generous and willing to share

1 Timothy 6:18



*(above) Watercolor by
Melissa Rogan*

GOOD WORKS AT ST. PAUL'S

The Rev. Dr. D. Dixon Kinser

Six years ago, I did something I had never done, and I recorded a Welcome Video for newcomers to the church. We featured the video on the front page of our website, but I could never have known that the final line I delivered, "We are St. Paul's, and this is what we do," would become an unofficial motto for the parish. Since then, I have used this line during the announcements in church, at annual meetings, and in numerous ParishLife articles. I think it remains relevant because St. Paul's is a "doing" kind of church.

I am never more aware of this than at the end of each summer as we head into a new program year. The anticipation of new ministries launching, current ministries returning, and choirs rehearsing again fills the campus with a crackle and kinetic energy. However, it is important to remember that all things we "do" at St. Paul's are ways we join in something bigger than ourselves. The ministries we engage in and the work we do is not our mission per se, but instead the way we participate in God's mission in the world.

I hope you will take time to consider how you might join God's healing work through a ministry at St. Paul's this year. In fact, if you have not already, this issue of ParishLife is geared to resource you for that discernment. The articles herein feature new programs like "The Lantern Initiative" and returning ministries like VBS and Outreach and reflect just a sliver of all that God is doing in and through the parish. In all of it, however, I never want to stop giving thanks for God's good work in Jesus Christ. The good works we get to do join in that work and as a result contribute to the healing of the world.

We are St. Paul's, after all, and this is what we do.

Grace and Peace,

Dixon+



The Rev. Dr. D. Dixon Kinser is Rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church.



SUMMER ENRICHMENT: A REFLECTION ON GOOD WORKS

Aliasha Oakes

As I reflect on more than two decades of affiliation with this parish, the genuine compassion shown by those who seek to be God's hand and feet resonates most profoundly in the Summer Enrichment Program. My first encounter with the program must have happened by divine appointment. I was in the right place at the right time in 1995 when Mandy London invited me to volunteer to do a fitness activity. We were in a registration line for classes at my beloved Winston-Salem State University, and even there she was doing the good work of this ministry, looking for enrichment opportunities for the children of the program. She did what needed to be done behind the scenes, and just like that, I was right outside the current choir loft teaching aerobics to a group of enthusiastic young people.

Working as a middle school teacher years later, I was made aware of the need for an assistant director of the Summer Enrichment Program. Needless to say, I was moved to apply and interview for the position. Vernon Cloud was the program director at that time, and he made it crystal clear, during that interview, that I was asking to participate in fast-paced, rigorous summer work with children and young adults. There would be administrivia including meetings

to attend and lots of phone calls to make. I would hear Matthew West's song, *Do Something*, years later, and I believe that whatever I said or did in that interview must have reflected my desire to become aligned with this community of doers.

It was up to Gena, Anne, a vestry representative, and a few other pillars of the Summer Enrichment Program to offer me the position. They did, and I would go on to assist two directors in two summers. The first is retired. The second resigned. Gina and the others remained constant, carrying out the work of what was then the Summer Enrichment Board. The director position was now open. I applied, and so, my divine appointment continues.

The day of the interview, I noticed another applicant, who I had met days prior at a basketball game where his daughter and mine were playing on opposing teams. He ran the clock for his team, and I kept the books for mine. We were seated at the same table for both that game and the subsequent interview. Rhett and I have been on the same team, praying the same prayer, working for the same purpose ever since as leaders of the Summer Enrichment Program.

Every spring since the new millennium, Rhett and I have held interviews, telling young people of The Rev. Dudley Colhoun's vision to extend St. Paul's ministry to the Thurmond St. community. In 1972, that vision became the Summer Enrichment Program, now celebrating fifty-one years of sharing willfully where generosity is needed. In an article I once read in Forbes Magazine, Nell Derick Debevoise, Senior Contributor, attributed success to this formula. $Success = (Growth \times Purpose) \wedge Self$. The St. Paul's community clearly understands this formula.

The Summer Enrichment Committee, headed at different times by Gina, Carol, Vicki, and Lisa exemplifies the turbocharged ability for which the success of the program can be attributed. One would marvel at the efficient collaboration of this committee in the oversight of program pre-planning. Similar acts of selflessness permeate throughout the St. Paul's community. Volunteers who give selflessly to prepare meals, facilitate classes, chaperone field trips, or make benevolent contributions, and the church staff who take calls from families, prepare meals, fuel the buses, and ensure a beautiful facility for programming are all significant community members and contributors to the success of the Summer Enrichment Program.

Rhett and I have been privileged to have been embraced by this loving St. Paul's community and grow in compassionate leadership of this ministry. We remain in constant reflection of our role in making every summer meaningful for the children, their counselors, and the community of volunteers who contribute to the success and longevity of the program. Through the lens of discipleship, we lean into our professional experiences in classrooms to see the value of each participant and the communities they represent, welcoming them to celebrate their place in the kingdom as it is written in the gospel of St. Matthew 19:14.

This past summer, Jaylen, a rising tenth-grader who has participated in the Summer Enrichment Program since first grade, tearfully shared what being part of this program has meant to him. He had asked days prior to share a devotion as part of our closing day celebrations. This had never happened before. Participants are not expected to lead devotions. Nonetheless, as he prepared to share his devotion, Jaylen said, "This camp has really brought me a lot of happiness and joy... I love you all." His devotional question, "What in the world gives you guys hope?" Replies back included Christmas and making somebody happy. For Jaylan, "Hope in the world is seeing people overcome their differences... and watching the smile on their face when they do." Reading from Romans 15:13, Jaylan left us all filled with hope.

Societal shifts, community changes, and family dynamics can require this community of Summer Enrichment Program workers and supporters to make divergent investments of time and resources to remain relevant and engaging. Still, the work goes on, all to the glory of God, and the reach of the Summer Enrichment Program continues, extending the kingdom in communities where we have been called to leave our footprints. The work lives in the songs and chants of the children, like Jaylen, who will teach their children and also tell the stories of those four weeks in July at St. Paul's. "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." Ephesians 2:10



Aliasha is Director of Kids' Café and Summer Enrichment Program

THE LANTERN INITIATIVE
a light for your path



THE LANTERN INITIATIVE

The Rev. Sara Ardrey-Graves

“The spiritual life of any individual has to be extended both vertically to God and horizontally to other souls; and the more it grows in both directions, the less merely individual and therefore the more truly personal, it will be.” - Evelyn Underhill

If you’ve been at St. Paul’s for any length of time, you know that we are a busy church, full of opportunities to engage. We understand innately, as the quote above states, how the spiritual life involves a horizontal movement toward the wellbeing of other people. We are so good at building relationships not only with our friends and neighbors, but those who are different from us. We serve as outreach ministers and volunteer our time to serve the needs of marginalized communities. We create ministries for affinity groups. We build programs and camps for children and youth. We attend classes, and we use what we learn to go and build bridges and be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ in the world. It’s invigorating and exciting.

Our ever-present urge to action, however, leaves us spiritually dry at times. We feel overwhelmed. We get exhausted. We don’t leave a lot of space in our lives for silence, for contemplation, and for prayer. We forget that our spiritual lives must involve a vertical movement, that is, in the direction of awe and adoration, one that seeks stillness in the presence of God’s power, mystery, and love.

A church is a community passionately grounded in outreach, social action, and fellowship, but if we forget God’s part in that work, we are not very different from any other service organization. We might offer some usefulness to the world, but we are untethered, disconnected from our source of inspiration and unable to articulate the deepest desires of our hearts. We need places within the church where we can be vulnerable and tell the truth, to yearn for God’s presence and to rest in his goodness. The balancing of action and contemplation are two sides of the same spiritual coin, and everybody needs both.

Continue >

Starting in 2019, Dixon Kinser and I began to brainstorm comprehensive ways to address our church's spiritual needs. We envisioned a totally new ministry apart from our regular Christian formation offerings and fellowship gatherings – we saw a need for a focused initiative on spiritual growth. We started to include other leaders in the conversation, people in our congregation who are equally passionate about this kind of work. The group was comprised of priests and laity, teachers and spiritual directors, extroverts and introverts. Our gatherings would consist of a substantial time in prayer, and then we would dream together. Our conversations generated a bucket list of all the things we'd like to see St. Paul's offer for spiritual growth. We realized that we needed to widen the circle to include more voices, and starting in the fall of 2022, we hosted several "listening sessions" with a variety of people from the parish. These sessions involved dozens of members from St. Paul's who expressed desires for going deeper in their faith. Here's a glimpse of some of what was shared at our listening sessions, when the groups were asked the question, "What are you looking for?"

Villages with lots of connections. A place to tell our stories safely, For people who want to go deeper in their spiritual **journeys**, a broad array of programs for the support of spiritual development. seminars, pilgrimages and small groups. Ways to meet the spiritual needs of individuals **where they are**, on their own unique **paths**. A place to go at St. Paul's to find out what's next, after Sunday morning. resources for deeper discipleship and for taking the **next step** with God. A gathering of **pilgrims**, interested in growing closer to god through community and prayer. Everyone included: all ages and genders, in different **paths in life**. We want to learn from different perspectives and witness the **movement** of Christ in each other. Group spiritual direction and spaces for fostering spiritual friendship, retreat, and ways to **grow** through a Rule of Life. A place to find your **path to God**. We are about nurturance and wholeness, we foster growth in connection within ourselves and in the commu-

nity. A place of presence and hospitality. The **journey** aspect is important, as well as healing and **growth**. Discernment of lay ministry, ecumenical work, contemplative practice, prayer with and for each other, mentorship. A pilgrimage where I can be **transported** into thinking differently. For young parents, a desire for protected quiet time. A need to be fed, to have space to just be instead of leading. A way for us to get **creative energy**, to fill ourselves back up. A peaceful, quiet **refuge**.

The highlighted words reveal where our project began to take shape. We were supported by the talented guidance of Jason Franklin, who helped us see images in the recurring words above. Connecting the words journey, growth, path, and movement, a theme emerged. We realized we were meditating on a shared journey in faith, one that needed the support of God's illumination. We decided to name our work *The Lantern Initiative: A Light for Your Path*.

The Lantern Initiative will provide a focus for stillness and spiritual practice at St. Paul's, as we learn to let God be God in our messy and busy lives. There are several different formats to engage with this challenge, from Sunday afternoon seminars, to new small group encounters, and an annual parish-wide pilgrimage. Each fall and spring will also feature a Saturday retreat time together. Details of these offerings, with descriptions, dates and commitment level, can be found in the next few pages, and if these opportunities interest you, come join us! Everyone is invited to participate. Have you met a newcomer who wants to grow closer to God? Or maybe a long-time member who needs a different way to engage? Do you know of someone who doesn't go to church here, who hungers for spiritual growth? Invite them! This is truly for everyone that wants to go deeper in their faith. We would like to see the Lantern Initiative grow and blossom into a spiritual renewal for as many people as possible.

I am indebted to the work of the Lantern Initiative team for realizing this dream together: Jane Litzinger, Martha Harper, Bill Wells, Kathy Ausen, Skye Harvey, Julie Smith, Lucy Strandlund, Martha Metzler, Jason Franklin, and Dixon Kinser. Each of these gifted leaders will serve the Initiative in some way, whether by facilitating a small group or leading a Sunday seminar. We are also thrilled to announce that our first Saturday retreat on October 14 will be led by Bishop Porter Taylor, on the theme of Christian vocation and discernment. Plan to join us - you won't want to miss hearing from Bishop Taylor and taking some time to rest and retreat as we head into the fall. In all the opportunities of the Lantern Initiative, I hope that you will find a way to take the next step with God. Whether you attend a seminar once or make a deeper commitment with a Saturday retreat, small group or a life-changing pilgrimage, I hope that you might find within this work a light for your path.



Sara is an Associate Rector at St. Paul's and leads adult formation.

LEARN MORE



Want to learn more about offerings through the Lantern Initiative? You can learn more online at bit.ly/SPLantern or scan the QR code with your cell phone.

FUNDING THE FUTURE OF GOOD WORKS: THE 2023 STEDMAN GRANT RECIPIENTS

The Rev. Nancy Vaders



In 1931, Porter Stedman established the Rufus T. Stedman Memorial Fund to honor his father. Managed by the Winston-Salem Foundation, this fund is intended to support organizations in our local community that offer services for the physical, mental, and spiritual health of our neighbors. St. Paul's directs and administers the distribution of these funds through our Outreach Funding Advisory Committee (OFAC). Each year the committee selects seven local organizations to receive funds for both new and ongoing programs in our community. The committee receives applications, completes site visits, and votes on the distribution amounts each year. Below are this year's recipients. Thanks to the diligent work of the St. Paul's OFAC members, these funds continue to make an incredible impact in our community.

Crisis Control Pharmacy: Established in 1987, Crisis Control Ministry's Pharmacy was the first licensed free pharmacy in North Carolina. Today, it is the largest free pharmacy in Forsyth County. In the last year, the pharmacy has provided clients with medication assistance totaling over 1.2 million dollars and filled 17,907 prescriptions. 2023 Distribution: \$11,500.00

Hawley House: Only state-licensed residential recovery treatment center for women in Forsyth County. Our grant will fund the wide spectrum of services and living expenses for women in treatment. This includes substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment, job readiness training, help finding employment, as well as transportation to employment, services, medical appointments, and more. 2023 Distribution: \$20,000.00

Forsyth Jail and Prison Ministries: The Grant will support the counseling services of their re-entry program, Transition to Work, as well as trauma healing classes for offenders. These programs prepare inmates for a successful transition back into the community by addressing their physical, emotional, mental, and behavioral health. 2023 Distribution: \$10,000

Samaritan Ministries Project Cornerstone: Project Cornerstone is an extensive 12-18 month program for those who are ready and determined to break the cycle of poverty, addiction, and homelessness. The program includes case management and counseling along with the AA 12-step program. Health services include physicals to determine needs, dental care, eye care, medications, and mental health counseling through community partners. 2023 Distribution: \$10,000.00

Shepherd's Center: Grant funds will support the Faith In Action Care Program to support the health-related initiatives of medical transportation, minor home repairs, and support for family caregivers. This program area is devoted to serving lower-income older adults who wish to remain independent in their own homes. 2023 Distribution: \$8,500.00

Community Care Center: Grant funds will be utilized for a new dental voucher program that will serve low-income residents of Forsyth County, making it possible to add more participating dentists and increase the capacity for much-needed dental treatment. We will be joining other community partners including the Forsyth Tech Dental education department, Centenary UMC, and the NC Dental Society to help CCC launch this new program, expanding dental care to the underserved in our community. 2023 Distribution: \$5000.00

H.O.P.E. currently distributes over 1,000 meals and over 2,500 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables via 30 distribution points and partners each weekend. Two years ago, St. Paul's funded their new pilot program to provide family cooking classes, which continue to take place every Tuesday on their campus. This year the grant money will help fund their new nutritional goals to avoid more processed foods and engage with more nutritionally dense meals. St. Paul's will once again partner with H.O.P.E to help them expand their nutritional goals and offerings. 2023 Distribution: \$5000

If you're interested in learning more about St. Paul's OFAC distributions, and being a part of this good work, contact the Rev. Nancy Vaders.



Nancy is the Director of Outreach and a Deacon at St. Paul's.

REFLECTING ON STEWARDSHIP

Nancy Grantham

Earlier in the summer I recalled a conversation while walking with a friend and saying that I missed working and I need to get more involved in my church. Then came the call from Dixon.

The call came at a time when my life was full and I was certain there was no room to squeeze in one more thing, especially in summertime when we are vacationing and enjoying time in our beloved North Carolina mountains or spending precious time caring for my almost two year old granddaughter as her parents work from home.

Regardless, with much thought and prayer it took very little time to graciously accept Dixon's request to serve as Interim Stewardship Director. And I have had no regrets since.

My time spent this summer at St. Paul's has been a joy beyond words. I have reconnected with staff from my previous Stewardship days and have come to know those who arrived since. I have gained a renewed view of how our church supports our parishioners and the vast number of people beyond our walls. I have reflected on the years of raising children here and their participation in ministries which I am sure shaped their lives as much as they did mine. In looking back at over thirty years of membership at St. Paul's, I have pondered on the number of joyous occasions we have experienced as well as the saddest days of our lives. And all along the way, St. Paul's has stood steadfast and faithfully at our side.

I am grateful and amazed how simple it has been to make time this summer to return to St. Paul's as they search for a new Stewardship Director. It will be a time that I will treasure forever.

So just remember, when Dixon calls...



*Nancy Grantham is
Interim Stewardship
Director at St. Paul's.*





GOODWORKS

ABOUT PLEDGING FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Each fall, St. Paul's asks every parishioner to make a financial commitment to support the ongoing ministries of the church during the coming year. If you are new to the church or about to make your first-ever pledge, we hope these questions and answers will be helpful.

What is pledging?

Pledging is your heartfelt, faithful spiritual practice to financially support St. Paul's ministries and programs in the year ahead. It is a personal example of gratitude that you have for all our God has given to you and your family.

Why not simply make non-pledge contributions?

Pledges provide the Vestry with an estimate of expected income essential to the preparation of the church's annual budget. St. Paul's simply cannot operate and thrive without a reasonable estimate of its financial resources. Your pledge reinforces the importance of God and St. Paul's in your life.

How much should I pledge?

Your pledge is a personal decision between God, you and your family. It should be grounded in your faith, love and commitment to God's work through St. Paul's. It requires reflection, prayer, and priority.

Is my pledge confidential?

Yes. Pledges are kept confidential.

How do I submit my pledge?

You can mail in the pledge card included or go to the St. Paul's website and click on stewardship. There is an option to submit your pledge online.

How can I pay my pledge?

There are several convenient ways to honor your pledge, including recurring Tithe.ly payments, monthly bank draft payments, personal

checks using pledge envelopes or payments of appreciated stocks and IRA payments. There are details on our website about how to initiate these options.

How do I set up a Tithe.ly account for make a recurring monthly payment?

Visit tithe.ly/give or download the free Tithe.ly Giving app from the Apple or Android app store to create a Tithe.ly giving account. With a Tithe.ly giving account, you can set up recurring gifts, give to multiple funds at once, manage multiple payment methods, and view your giving record at any time. Even if you are setting up your pledge payments via Tithely, we ask that you still return a completed pledge card.

Do you accept pre-payments for next year's pledge?

Yes. We are glad to accept pre-payments. Please let us know on your pledge card that you plan to pay your 2024 pledge in advance.

What if I need to update and change my pledge amount?

We understand that life's circumstances do change, often unexpectedly. Contact the church to have your pledge amount adjusted at any time during the year.

Want to know more?

Contact the Director of Stewardship, at 336-723-4391, ext. 1210, or stewardship@stpauls-ws.org. Council available upon request.



AT ST. PAUL'S

ON PILGRIMAGE TO ENGLAND

The Rev. Nick VanHorn and Dr. Mark Ardrey-Graves

The Rev. Nick VanHorn

This trip has been over eight years in the making. When I first came back to St. Paul's, Dixon and I had talked about doing youth trips each summer that would build up to an England pilgrimage - then Covid happened and just like most things, it got put on hold. The blessing that came from this is that we had time to recalibrate what this trip would eventually become. Out of these discussions came the revelation that Mark was planning on taking a choir trip to England within the next few years so we decided to take our inaugural trips together showing the Brits what St. Paul's had to offer.

Though there were two different paths on how to conduct this trip, we worked to make sure that they were as parallel as possible. While the choir prepared by practicing the hymns and anthems

that would be sung, our non-choir youth would do liturgical preparation - practicing various parts of leadership in worship gaining experience and practice during the school year which culminated in a multi-day workshop studying the Book of Common Prayer inside and out at the beginning of the summer. When we had finished, our youth receive pins that said "Master of Liturgy". Some may have even worn theirs the England.

When the trip had finally come, everyone knew what was expected and St. Paul's sent a choir and liturgy leaders fully prepared to lead worship in a foreign land. During our days, everyone would spend our time together experiencing different towns, churches, and worship opportunities. When we returned to Exeter cathedral in the afternoons, the choir began practice while our youth worked on versing and reading - in other words, St. Paul's ran the services in their entirety



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at Exeter cathedral for a week. Each night, we gather together and concluded our days with reflections and compline.

It was such a privilege to witness the choir practicing while our youth worked on the rest of the liturgy each day knowing that they knew what it meant to be a worship leader. I was also honored to spend a lot of one-on-one time with our youth, some choir kids and even got to develop relationships with our choir adults reflecting on what St. Paul's has meant to each participant and to hear their faith journey's while away together.

This trip was such a transformative moment for each one of us and, thanks to the support of our church, we gained a lifetime of experiences, renewed love of liturgy, and a newfound respect of our heritage while St. Paul's gained a new level of worship leader. Our choir is coming back with

new energy, our youth are equipped and willing to participate in worship now more than ever and we may even get a verger or two in the future...

Dr. Mark Ardrey-Graves

For one week in late July, twenty-three singers from St. Paul's (twelve youth Choristers, with eleven adult members of the Schola and friends), along with Drs. John Cummins and Mark Ardrey-Graves, entered into an ancient and timeless pattern: sung daily worship at an English cathedral. Every day of the year, the cathedrals of the Church of England observe an unbroken cycle of worship: Morning Prayer, Holy Communion, and Evening Prayer. In nearly every cathedral, the daily evening service is



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sung by the choir, as are the principal Eucharists on Sunday mornings and other feast days. We had the great privilege to be the choir in residence at the Cathedral Church of St. Peter in Exeter, Devonshire (“Exeter Cathedral” for short) during one of the weeks that the Cathedral Choir was on its summer break. Following our week in Exeter, we traveled to London where we were invited to sing one additional evening service at Southwark Cathedral. Thus, our choir offered musical leadership (as our Youth Pilgrims offered spoken and read leadership) at Choral Evensong each day, along with the Sunday morning choral Eucharist.

Our choir was responsible for preparing, rehearsing, and singing all of the constituent parts of the daily choral services. For Evensong, this includes a setting of the Preces and Responses (the core responsorial prayers of the Daily Office), the Psalms of the day, the evening Canticles (Magnificat and Nunc dimittis), an Anthem, and on many

days, one or more hymns. At the Sunday morning Eucharist, the choir sang an Introit, four hymns, a communion anthem, and a choral mass setting: Gloria in excelsis, Sanctus, Benedictus, and Agnus Dei. All in all, over the course of the week our intrepid singers prepared and sang nearly three hours’ worth of music! Meanwhile, Dr. Cummins worked his tireless magic every day on the cathedral organ, offering voluntaries, improvisations, and beautiful accompaniment to the choir and congregation.

Each day that the full choir led Evensong, we sang the choral setting of the Preces and Responses composed by St. Paul’s own Dan Locklair. As a special and exciting gift, Dr. Locklair composed an additional set of prayers (known as the Final or Concluding Responses) for our choir to take and sing at Exeter and Southwark. It was a wonderful honor for us to be able to premiere a new work by Dr. Locklair in England – and we’ll have the



AT ST. PAUL'S

opportunity to give his Final Responses their American premiere at our Choral Evensong at St. Paul's on September 17.

The choral pilgrimage was a transformative experience for everyone who took part. Singing our prayers on a daily basis changed our hearts from the inside, even as it was a gift to those who prayed alongside us. We also were able to make this pilgrimage thanks to the impossibly generous gifts of so many supporters here at home: your contributions made this transformative experience possible! Our Choristers and adult singers worked incredibly hard, and the immediate fruit of that labor was offering praise to God in the beauty of holiness, on behalf of everyone who passed through the cathedral doors.



*Nick is Associate Rector,
Director of Youth
Ministries*



*Mark is Master of the
Choristers & Schola*

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

The Rev Lauren A. Villemuer-Drenth

One of the most excitement-filled happenings at St. Paul's is our Vacation Bible School. We have anywhere from 85 to 115 children filling our building with songs, joy, laughter, adventure, faith, and spiritual growth. For many of these children, it is a on-ramp to exploring faith, church as a place of love, and hearing about a God who has open arms for them. For some of the children, it is a place to do ministry work (without thinking about it as ministry.) For some it is a place to just feel like another child attending VBS.

Newcomers or people who are not very familiar with church, yet feel comfortable bringing their child into this fun and action-packed week. They meet other families and experience an open invitation. When we talk about God loving them just the way they are, there is always a parent who feels they have found a place they want to come back to. Their children leave asking, "When are we coming back?"

The ministry work is seen in the way our children accept all the children, whether they have seen them on a Sunday morning or not. Each child entering the room is a friend and becomes a part of our family. One of the most beautiful sights was seeing the children lovingly welcome children from the family homeless shelter.

For the children from the shelter, it is a place where they belong, experience joy and feel loved. They get to just be another child in our wonderful church.

Each year we choose a ministry focus. Loving others through giving a helping hand is an important part of Vacation Bible School. This year, we collected and made sixty shower kits for the Dwelling. These kits included t-shirts, socks, washcloths, and all the hygiene needs. We collected items for the Domestic Violence Shelter for Women & Children. We collected over thirty razors, shaving cream, socks, toothbrushes,

toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, wash clothes, hand sanitizer, combs, deodorant, soap and Kleenex boxes. It was wonderful to see the children's excitement as they brought in items each day and on Friday, packed the kits. In the past, we have collected items for Hope Center, collected books for Read WS, made meals, created prayer boxes, made placemats for different organizations to use, created cards for the homebound, collected money for Episcopal relief & Development, collected school supplies, and much more.

"Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share" (1 Timothy 6:18), was not only lived by the children; the good works were evident by the many adults who worked to put together a memorable programming, feed the children daily, and create memories they will cherish. It was seen by the many adults who worked as station leaders, teaching the children songs, crafts, science experiments, games, Bible adventures, and lessons on mission. These station leaders brought the Bible to life and gave the children memories that will make the stories stay with the children. It was evident in the adults and teens, who gave their time to act as guides to be with the children and support them on their VBS journey. The guides acted as a mentor to each young person, giving them a person that they always remember as loving them, cheering for them, and comforting them.

As time passes, one of the things we hear over and over, is how the children still sing the songs, share the stories or tell of a memory from VBS. Sometimes years have passed, but it is still a wonderful memory.

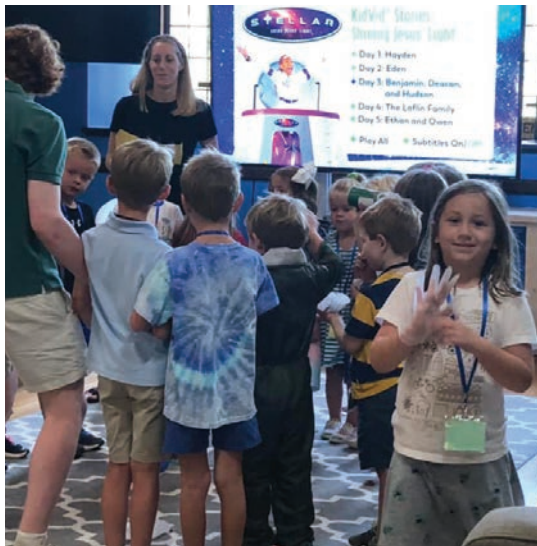
For the adults, we get to cherish the memory of the shy child who opened up to us, the child who joyously shared God's love with others, or who encouraged their families to help others. We

remember the child who took another child's hand, who felt a little lost. We take with us the love that showed in the children's eyes as they came in excited each day. We developed friendships and appreciation for the other adults giving their time and heart.

Vacation Bible School is a ministry where all do and receive good works. It is a week where we all get to see the world through the lens of love for all and be a part of living out the Kingdom of God. It is a week that we easily live out our Baptismal vows and come away singing (and dancing) to new songs.



Deacon Lauren is the Director of Children's Ministries





ST PAUL'S EPISCOPAL

Currently, St. Paul's has many ways to worship, both in-person and online. Our regular Sunday service times until Memorial Day are 7:30 am (Rite 1), 9 am (Rite 2), 11:15 am (Rite 2), and 5 pm (Rite 2 or Evensong). Online Sunday worship is at 11:15 am.

VISIT US

520 Summit St.
Winston-Salem, N.C. 27101

CONTACT US

Phone: (336) 723-4391

Web: stpaulswn.org

Email Sign-up:

bit.ly/3CSs9mj

SOCIAL MEDIA

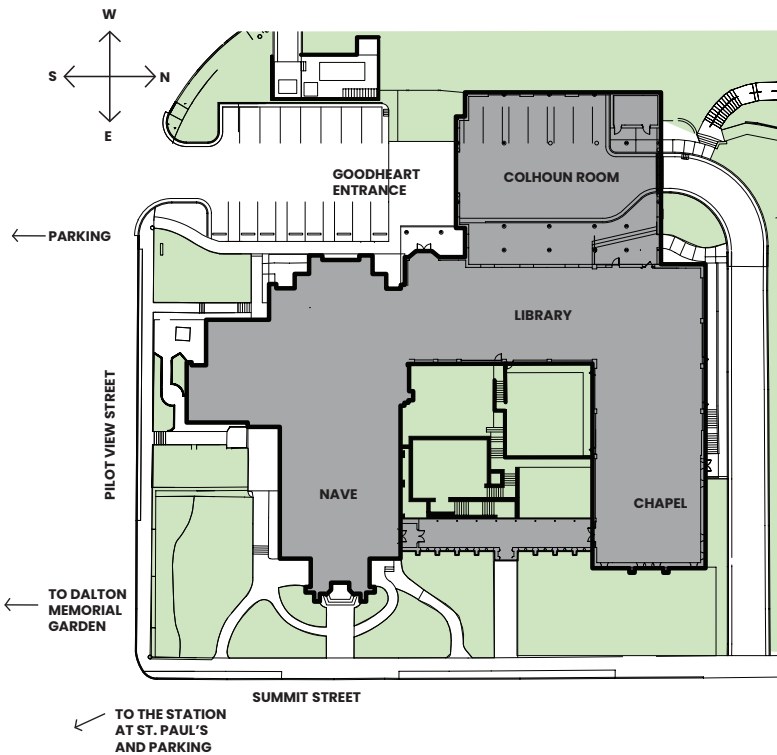
[/stpaulswinstonsalem](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulswinstonsalem)



ABOUT ST. PAUL'S

Glorify, Inspire, Serve, and Transform

St. Paul's is a vibrant parish family that strives first to follow Christ. We are a large, downtown congregation in Winston-Salem, North Carolina with a long history of moving worship, active Christian formation, and transformational outreach. St Paul's offers both sanctuary and challenge. It is a church grounded in the grace of God that seeks to bring God's love and light into the world. We gather together so that we may go out into the world, radically loving our neighbors.



TRANSITIONS

BIRTHS

Walter Hutchinson Saunders
May 16, 2023
Son of Carolyn and Rob Saunders and brother of Ridge Saunders

Charles Lee Winburn
June 6th, 2023
Son of Meggie and Lee Winburn, grandson of Bonnie and Ed Colhoun, great grandson of Sarah Hill Colhoun, nephew of Kabler and Mark Meyer and cousin of Freddy and Lucy Meyer

BAPTISMS

Charle Lucian Crockett
July 9, 2023
Son of Sarah and Lucian Crockett

Ada Marie Addison
August 20, 2023
Daughter of Marie and Jay Addison

Louise Barlow Clark
August 20, 2023
Daughter of Alice Day and Ken Clark

Lucy Joyner Clark
August 20, 2023
Daughter of Alice Day and Ken Clark

Emma Grace Sherwood
August 20, 2023
Daughter of Kathleen and Garrett Sherwood

Anna Chandler Taylor
August 20, 2023
Daughter of Melissa and Michael Taylor

NEW MEMBERS

Betty and John Earle

Julia and James Cooksey

Faith and Brandon Cooksey and son Lincoln

Kathleen Sherwood and children Rhett, Mary Margaret and Emma Grace

Cameron Rodriguez-Hunter

Christy Cramer and children Sloane and Zach

Meredith Barnes and Kay Garcia

MARRIAGES

Katherine Claire Gwyn and Townes Alston Mickel
June 3, 2023

Elizabeth McNair Stover and William Tidwell Anderson
June 17, 2023

Kathryn Sandridge Oldham and Hamilton Charles Drucker
August 26, 2023

DEATHS

Nancy Neill Spencer
February 20, 2023
Wife of Jimmy Spencer

Elizabeth (Betsy) Treadway
June 5, 2023

Ted Fisher
June 9, 2023
Father of Samantha Franklin, father in law of James Franklin, grandfather of Corrine and Grace

Willam McCall, Jr.
June 22, 2023
Step father of Julie Smith

June Gregory
June 22, 2023
Mother of Sydney Falken

Michael D. Newman
June 24, 2023
Husband of Tog Newman

James (Jimmy) Carlton Eller
June 28, 2023
Husband of Doris Eller

Mary McLean Armfield Sherrill
DOD July 17, 2023
Daughter of Everette and Jean Sherrill and sister of Carolyn Sherrill Fuller

Jane Graves Johnson
July 18, 2022
Mother of Susan Johnson Hedgepeth

Donald Charles Sims
July 23, 2023
Father of Robin Webster

Ronald J. Short
August 4, 2023

Kay Victor Smith
August 4, 2023
Brother of Chuck Dale Smith

Agnes Barden Sabiston
August 5, 2023
Mother of Agnes Butler

Ruth Clark Wendell
August 6, 2023
Mother of Jane Wendell Turner, mother in law of David Turner, grandmother of John and Chase Turner

Helen Howie
August 11, 2023
Sister of Tog Newman

Kemble McKinnon Oliver
August 12, 2023
Brother of Robert Oliver

Myrtie B. Davis
August 14, 2024
Wife of Bill Davis.

Anne Skinner
August 15, 2023

Caroline Kester
August 16, 2023

Ashley Dozier
September 1, 2023

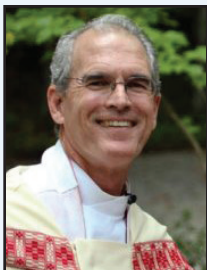
Lady Tombekai
September 9, 2023
Mother of Comfort Pearson

parish life

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NEXT, NO, AND NOT YET: A RETREAT ABOUT MAKING HOLY CHOICES



Oct 14, 2023

The Station at St. Paul's, Winston-Salem

9:30 am to 3 pm

Join the Rt. Rev. Porter Taylor and members of the St. Paul's clergy for a day retreat on how to pay attention to what is "next," what is "no, and what is "not yet" in your life. The retreat will include keynote sessions with Bishop Taylor and breakout sessions designed to teach tools for discernment in everyday life. This retreat is for anyone discerning questions about God's invitation for their life; there will also be a special track for anyone curious about ordained ministry in the Episcopal Church. The retreat cost is \$20, which includes lunch.



Register at bit.ly/FallRetreatSP or scan the QR code.



the lantern initiative