

Parish Life

FAITH AND CULTURE
FOR ALL PEOPLE

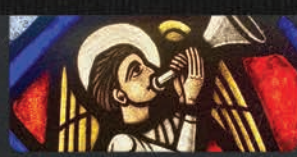


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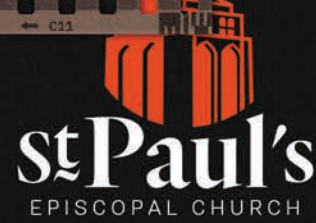


WEDDING



In a year...

STORIES FROM THE PAST 365+ DAYS.



FOR SURELY I KNOW
THE PLANS I HAVE
FOR YOU. SAYS THE
LORD OF HEAVENS FOR
YOUR WELFARE AND
NOT FOR YOUR
GIVE YOU A FUTURE
WITH HOPE.



From the editor:

“You’re never going to kill storytelling, because it’s built in the human plan. We come with it.”

- Margaret Atwood

When we rethought *Parish Life* last year, a primary goal for me as editor was to provide a space for parishioners, staff, vestry, and clergy to share their stories. As Margaret Atwood inferred, sharing our individual stories with our communities is a foundational way to form bonds with each other. Truly, our unique stories help shape the collective soul of our parish.

Jesus loved storytelling. Whether he was talking about lost coin, lost sheep, or a lost [prodigal] son, his parables continue to teach us that we are found in part of a larger, shared story of resurrection.

Contributors for this issue of *Parish Life* were each given a simple prompt: Share an important story that affected you from the last year and explore what it means for you going forward. I wasn’t sure what kind of responses we would get (which can be anxiety-ridden for an editor), and what we did get exemplifies a year of unexpected highs and gut-wrenching lows. The common thread from these stories; the gospel is everywhere. The personal losses, triumphs, challenges, and moments of grace we experience can be moments that bring us all closer to God. As we share our individual journeys, our whole St. Paul’s community gets to walk together in all our diversity so “that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life.”

I hope you enjoy the storytelling.



Jason Franklin
*is the Director of
Communications at
St. Paul's*

Parish Life

VOLUME 49 NUMBER 1

Parish Life, the official publication of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Winston-Salem, N.C., 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

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Laura Burrows, *co-chair*

Chris Runge, *co-chair*

Rachel Brent

Liz Noland

Sheri Masters

Nancy Montgomery

CONTRIBUTORS

The Rev. Sara Ardrey-Graves, The Rev.

Darby Oliver Everhard, Elizabeth Foley,

The Rev. D. Dixon Kinser, Skinner and John

McGee, Joyce Mua, Matthew Phillips, Betsy

Reiners, Peggy Slater, The St. Paul's Vestry,

Margaret Turner, The Rev. Nancy Vaders,

The Rev. Nick VanHorn

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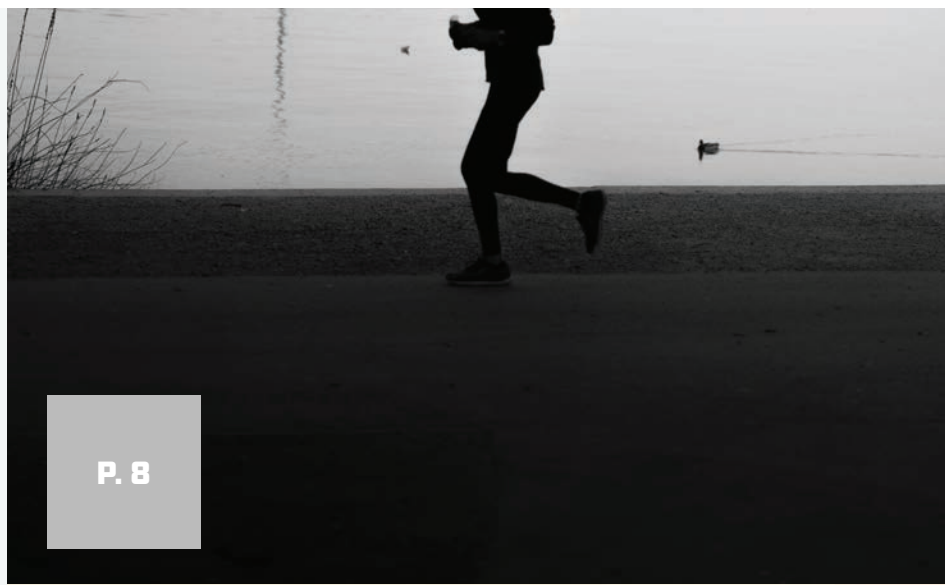
St. Paul's Episcopal Church at

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

SPEAK TO US

jfranklin@stpauls-ws.org

(336) 723-4391, ext. 1402





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reaching people



681.24 hours: The number of hours people viewed St. Paul's services online during Holy Week.¹

feeding the community



150 Dinners: Meals provided for those in need at the *City with Dwellings* overflow shelters in the past three months.²

GOOD

TO



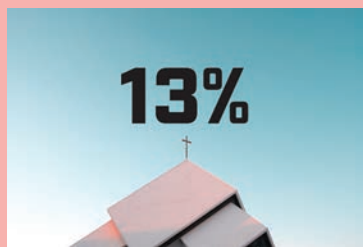
KNOW

Supporting the mission



More than 100%: St. Paul's pledgers exceeded the financial goal for 2021.⁴

returning safely



13 % : Percentage increase of mainline Protestants that returned to in-person worship in March.³

LEARN MORE *Good To Know* is curated by the St. Paul's editorial team with the goal of finding good news across the city, state, and beyond. **1.** Based on analytics from Facebook, YouTube, and Vimeo between March 28 and April 4, 2021. **2.** If you'd like to learn more about St. Paul's partnership with *City with Dwellings* and how you can help, email the Rev. Nancy Vaders, *Director of Outreach*, at nvaders@stpauls-ws.org. **3.** Source: *Life in U.S. Religious Congregations Slowly Edges Back Toward Normal*, Pew Research Center, March 22, 2021. **4.** St. Paul's is still trying to meet our goal of 100% participation. If you have not yet pledged for 2021, contact Margaret Turner, Director of Stewardship at mturner@stpauls-ws.org.

The Sacred Power of Listening

There are few things more infuriating than when you are trying to talk to someone, and it is clear that they are not listening to you. Whether it is a patronizing “Uhuh” from someone distracted by a television or the store clerk who is texting a friend instead of answering your question: When someone does not listen, it can bring out the worst in us.

Conversely, when someone does take the time to listen to us, it can bring out our best. Be it a good friend, loving spouse, or a trusted therapist, having someone demonstrate that they really “hear” your story can be incredibly affirming. In fact, it can even be healing. I see this all the time in my work. One of the most sacred parts of my vocation as a priest is being trusted with people’s stories. Over and over again, I experience God opening up space for grace and new life through the simple act of listening.

What you are holding in your hand is a very special issue of *Parish Life*. Contained in these pages are real stories from your community here at St. Paul’s. They are accounts of events that actually happened over the past year, and as such, not all of them are good. Some of these stories are heartwarming and funny, but others are heavy and reflect real pain.

When we solicited stories for this issue, we did not ask for only happy stories. We asked for true stories, and this issue reflects what we received. They have not been curated or edited. This is a genuine document reflecting what happened to us as St. Paul’s in 2020. For this reason, there will be parts of the issue that are more intense than what we are used to in our parish magazine. I believe this is OK. In fact, it is part of what makes this issue so sacred and where the opportunity lies.

As a reader of this issue of *Parish Life*, you get to join in the sacred act of listening to your neighbor’s story. This is what we do as members of the church. It is part of our Baptismal vocation. My prayer is that as you listen to the stories in these pages, your heart opens to God and that the Holy Spirit makes space in all of us for grace and healing.



The Rev. D. Dixon Kinser,
Rector

Grace and Peace,
Dixon+
Eastertide 2021

“REJOICE WITH THOSE
WHO REJOICE; MOURN
WITH THOSE WHO
MOURN.”
(ROMANS 12:15)

your word is a lamp to my feet

February 25, 2021

by Joyce Mua

Today, after my morning prayers, I picked up my prayer journal and scanned my entries from 2020. Among the year's worth of entries, there were two that stood out, one that I wrote about in my journal and one that I couldn't bring myself to write or speak about at the time it happened. It was February 20, 2021 when I was finally able to bring myself to record it.

During the summer of 2020, I found myself in tears often as I grieved the lynching of Black people by the hands of those who swore to serve and protect, and by the hands of those who perceived the color of our skin to be a threat. I can't begin to tell you how many times I was on my knees screaming internally, "WHY? Why Lord?" My children,

Louis-Patrick and Izoma, planned to attend one of the many Black Lives Matter rallies that were being held in downtown Winston-Salem, and I decided to join them. A week later, John-Paul and I attended another rally on our own. I remember, on both occasions, being astonished and grateful to see such a diverse crowd of people marching with us. When we did the 9 minute kneel I wept uncontrollably, but I could feel, and later, through my tears see, hands on my back and shoulders comforting me.

I used to be a runner, entering into all kinds of relays as a hobby. I eventually stopped running and pursued other hobbies. However, I felt called to pick up running again, to honor those who were lynched while doing something they loved. I also picked up a Black Lives Matter sign and placed it in my front yard. I decided that it was time to claim my voice and speak my truth. I immediately received push-back from two of my neighbors, who incidentally, were new to my neighborhood. One had the gall to ride his bike into my front yard, and came close to my front door while shouting. I guess he thought his aggressive behavior would scare me. He didn't know who he was dealing with. My kids were frantically trying to get me to come back into the house, and the more they called me back, the further out I walked. This is My house, My property, My sign, My family, My voice. I will not be silenced.

On July 3, 2020, exactly a week after the BLM sign incident, I went out for my morning run. It was early and everyone in my



& a light to my path

household was asleep. I ran for approximately 15 minutes when I saw a white man in a white truck heading my way. Since I ran on the grass shoulder of the road against the traffic, I wasn't concerned, at first. I wondered why the driver was so close to the shoulder of the road. I remember asking myself, "Why is this man driving on the white line? Can't he see that I'm here?" I looked at the driver's face and I saw him smirking as he held up his cell phone as if he was recording, and purposely hit me with his truck. He then sped away. I kept on running. If I ran home, then I would have had to run in the direction of the truck that hit me, so I kept running, but in the opposite direction. When I run, I pray. All I could initially say was, "Why?" Later, I said, "God, You know that man's heart and I don't, so I forgive him and hand him over to You." A few minutes later, I prayed for justice and left the matter again in God's hands.

I knew then, and I know now, that I was/am incredibly blessed. I was hurt but I wasn't a statistic, I was able to go home and see my family. What the driver thought of me was a lie and it was his problem, not mine. These incidents served to increase my faith and I found myself running towards God,

not away. If anything, our relationship has deepened and became even more intimate. As I move forward, I find myself walking the path that God has chosen for me. I no longer take anything for granted, and I have claimed my voice and moved past the fear of speaking the truth. I know who I am and whose I am and it is incredibly freeing.



Joyce Mua

is the Junior Warden at St. Paul's.





On Holy Ground: Gratitude

Dear People of St Paul's,

I want to express to you my deep gratitude for all of your gifts given as I left St Paul's late last year. You all are amazing and generous and I thank you for everything. I loved having a drive-by and being able to see some of you that day. Dixon told me that at some point, a tree will be planted on the grounds in thanksgiving for my ministry, and that has touched me deeply. My dad was in the flower business as a grower and wholesaler, and my mom was an expert in the art of Bonsai. My love of gardening and flowers and trees and all things outside comes from them, so I can't tell you how much a tree means to me. Trees also have deep roots and display the seasons, all of which reflect our life together as a church community. We are grounded in love, and sometimes things change and seasons of ministry change. But we remain connected through all of our branches to the main One and that doesn't change. We will always feel a part of St Paul's and carry you with us in our hearts as you are a part of us. Most of all, though, both Tom and I are grateful for the gift of yourselves that you have shared with us – in times of sadness and in times of joy, in times of worship and formation, in times of singing and praying and taking Eucharist together, in times of having fun and sharing meals. We sometimes shed tears, and sometimes spread laughter and joy, but each one of you has enriched our lives over the past eleven years in ways we could have never imagined. So thank you, all of you at St Paul's, and we wish you peace and healing in this new year. May God bless you and keep you this day and always. We really miss you!

Grace and peace,

The Rev. Darby Oliver Everhard



The Rev. Darby Oliver

Everhard is currently
*Interim Rector at St. Mary's
Episcopal Church, High
Point.*

Trauma & Resurrection

by the Rev. Nick VanHorn

Let's be honest, trauma is not something one wishes to read about in their church magazine; am I right?! We hear the word trauma and there are so many reactions. Whether it be personal or impersonal, trauma brings a negative connotation. Now, I am in no way going to perform some kind of theological jujitsu and claim that trauma is a good thing or that trauma is a necessary evil in order to witness good. This would be elementary theology (or theodicy) that could potentially do more harm than good. But rather, I want to explain how a collective trauma creates a level of empathy that we can experience within the narrative of resurrection.

Continued >



(Left) Les Voyageurs

by Bruno Catalano is a sculpture series of fragmented individuals seemingly on an unknown journey. These sculptures appeared around Venice, Italy as part of a new exhibit. Source: mymodernmet.com

Trauma has many definitions but the one that sticks out for me is the understanding that something has happened that takes away any form of security. When there is a car accident, the trauma of the experience may leave someone to question the safety of travel. When we experience trauma to the body, we question our resiliency. When we experience the trauma of a pandemic, we begin to question medicine, social structure or even what we thought we knew about the world. Trauma stays with us — it shapes us.

There are many pillars of God's revelation to the world — Scripture, tradition, reason and of course experience. While the more orthodox view is that scripture is the primary source of God's revelation (any undergrad courses in religion or seminary seminar will support this), Fr. Richard Rohr suggests that perhaps experience, the youngest of these four may be the primary way God reveals God-self to

us. We can spend time debating this, but the point I wish to make is that experience matters. Like trauma, it forms us. Our experience with signs of resurrection in the world remind us of God's good creation. Our experience with brokenness reveals that there is still work to be done and that God's kingdom, while here, is in fact still coming. When trauma comes into the fold, it sends our trajectory of experience in a new sharp direction. We never know when trauma will occur and that is what makes it, for lack of another term, traumatic.

The Bible has many examples of trauma; from the macro dimension of a nation of people consistently being disenfranchised by greater authorities to the micro story of when Jesus witnesses the death of his dear friend Lazarus. The Gospel in no way promises us that, in this imperfect world, trauma will never occur. As a matter of fact, Jesus foreshadows the trauma of his death throughout his tenure as teacher.

**The truth is, when we
God is there with**

Trauma is a reality but Christ also shares with us the hope of resurrection.

When we experience a traumatic incident, it is both our human and Christian condition to wish to understand how God is at work in all of this. There are many Biblical and historical examples of God's people trying to understand why trauma happens. In other words, "why did God do this" or, "why God allowed it to happen." First, we must understand that through our covenantal relationship with God, God does not "do it" to us. God is not a puppet master testing and playing around with us as if we were God's personal action figure collection. If God performed traumatic experiences to us, then it not only becomes difficult to argue a relationship with God based on love and grace but I makes it extremely hard to evangelize. The second question, "why these things are allowed" is more difficult and perhaps a question that will not be answered on this side of creation. The logistics about how or why traumatic

events take place has never been the center of the Gospel but rather, how does a world and a people who experience trauma move forward collectively with God? How do we lift each other up and grant the grace to lament in a healthy way so that we can continue to lean on the promise of resurrection? The truth is, when we experience trauma, God is there with us – weeping and hurting.

God also wishes us to share our emotions with Him in the moment and even when it may not be the kindest of words. In the psalms, there are many examples of people shouting to God in anger, dealing with their frustrations which, I believe, grants us permission to do so as well. Focusing our anger toward God is not a sign of spiritual weakness but rather reveals a more intimate relationship with the Almighty that is founded on trust. Why do we hurt the ones we love? Because there is a trust that they will remain with us even after we expel some of our toxicity toward them...God is no different.

Continued >

**experience trauma,
us weeping and hurting.**

When we experience trauma in our lives in the present, we typically experience it alone or with a few who share this event. The hard part about trauma is that everyone around remains foreign at the moment because they do not share this...but, when it comes to this pandemic, the entire world has had this shared experience. Think about this. When was the last time the entire world shared a traumatic experience together? I bring this up because, as we begin to move toward a new reality; a reality with vaccines, school openings, and work schedules, we will come out of this together. We will forever have this connection of trauma that will link us all for a generation. There may be something comforting in the narrative of, while we grieve the lose of several things, we are grieving it together.

Bringing these thoughts together, we are a community that shares the story of resurrection. It means something and it matters. When we celebrate the Easter story, we begin from different places. We experience the imperfect world from our individual points of view only to gather at the place of resurrection. What makes our experience of unified trauma unique is that while we journey toward the cross, the miracle that follows is that we, at this time, celebrate the risen Lord with a universal empathy. This intimacy that we have inherited by this traumatic event has created an opportunity for us to start anew; realizing the humanity in all of us through a terrifying event such as a pandemic may be a way for all of us to collectively move forward and experience resurrection in a new way. When families experience trauma together, it can sometimes provide an opening to grow even closer. Friends, let us not waste this opportunity.



The Rev. Nick VanHorn

*is an Associate Rector and
the Director of Youth Ministries
at St. Paul's.*


ST. PAUL'S SUMMER SURVEY

We are finalizing plans for Summer worship and want to hear from you! Follow the link below and tell us what you would like to see this Summer as we continue to return to in-person services:

www.stpaulswinstonsalem.org/summer



DIAPER DRIVE



St. Paul's is partnering with Augsburg Lutheran in the month of May to do a diaper drive for Christ Beloved Community

Visit: stpaulswinstonsalem.org/diapers



Delighting in the Chaos

by Elizabeth Foley

The bowl that once held hair bows in our foyer, now holds masks of every color for the girls to grab as they leave for school. Holidays have been spent quarantined away from our extended family. The gathering to celebrate and memorialize the life of a dear friend is held via zoom, when we all wanted to gather in-person to grieve. We have shifted into new ways of doing things, new ways of life in both small details and significant life-changing events.

On Palm Sunday of 2020, I found myself thinking of all the ways that our family could create a meaningful celebration of Jesus's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. I wanted to recreate the traditional church experience for our family while in quarantine.

We found a palm tree in the neighborhood (at Whitaker Elementary) from which we clipped palm branches. We made crosses from the palms, created a small altar with candles and set an iPad on the coffee table to stream the Palm Sunday liturgy. We dressed in the spring outfits that we would have worn if we were attending church in-person.

As the first hymn began, shifting our thoughts toward the service proved to be more difficult than if we were in the sanctuary. The dryer buzzed, all the dirty dishes from breakfast sat on the counter -- but we could, we must, WILL ourselves to pretend that we were in the nave celebrating Palm Sunday.

Someone started talking -- "be quiet, we are in church!" Someone went to get water - "sit down, we are in the middle of a service!" The dog jumped at

the door wanting to come inside. I went to the iPad to turn up the sound, reaching across our make-shift altar my hair brushed the flame of the candle. "Mom! Fire!" The morning's worship ended with everyone screaming, then laughing at Mom's scorched hair.

The fire was quickly extinguished, but the mood of the day had shifted from forced reverence to chaos. I think God may have delighted more in the chaos than in the forced reverence. But elsewhere the service went on as I cleaned the kitchen. The clergy and virtual community continued that celebration, welcoming Jesus to Jerusalem with palm branches, and I felt the corporate worship of our church community carry me, even when I was not actively participating in the liturgy.

Being physically in our church building for worship is important -- being in the sanctuary where my husband and I were married, where my children were baptized, where I have felt community and where I have encountered the sacred. It is an invaluable avenue to deeper encounters with God. YET, being away from the physical church building has led me to expand (maybe relax a bit?) my definition of meaningful worship. And it has led me to deeper worship during the times that I actually can be present on St. Paul's campus -- maybe because so many cannot be there, maybe because I want to hold together the community worship as others have done for me when I could not be there.



Elizabeth Foley is the chair of the St. Margaret's circle, volunteers with ECW, and has served in many ministries at St. Paul's over several years.

A Kairos Perspective

by Matthew Phillips

I like to talk about how much value I put in tradition, but if I'm honest about it, what that often means is that I love routines. I park in the same place every day, I walk the same circuit of my neighborhood each time I exercise, and I feel that it is really critical to drink Cherry Dr. Pepper while eating pizza.

In the early days of the pandemic, there was an absence of routine. I didn't drive anywhere, I couldn't walk around campus, I couldn't say hello to my friends in the coffee shop downstairs from my office. I found that it made it hard to look forward.

Heather and I knew that routine is important for children and families too, and so we looked for ways to build new ones. We started a Saturday "concert night," watching videos of musicians on YouTube as a family. We found out when the good takeout specials happened and punctuated the week with those. I noticed that we talked more about time: when birthdays were coming, what we were doing a year ago, what we would be doing if not for the pandemic.

Paul Tillich popularized the theological difference between *kairos*, a season or an appointed time, and *chronos*, times of day and schedules. Once we were locked

in the house together, time took on a weight: you could almost feel it. Devotion writers typically talk about accessing meaningful time, and they use *kairos* to signify that, but the pandemic dropped us all into *kairos* time. It became really important to break time back down into something less abstract. It felt important to find and even control *chronos* time again.

On day 1 of the pandemic lockdown, March 16, 2020, the Hampstead Homeschool Academy started in our house. There was an assigned time for every class, including PE and music. If kids didn't have content for one of their classes from school, Heather found new material for them. It dawned on us that we could incorporate spiritual life: something that had been absent from our lives at school before that day. The Daily Office at St. Paul's started our day, gave us a pause before lunch, and ended our school and work day. The focal point of our week—the single least changed thing we did—was Sunday morning worship. I can't recall an Easter that felt more impactful, even though we watched church in the den. (Heather did play the trumpet along with piped-in John Cummins on organ, which was a beautiful pandemic moment.)

My favorite thing about the Episcopal Church is our facility with time. Ordinarily the world is trapped in the *chronos*, "what's next" perspective: I sometimes joke that I don't have any idea what I'm doing tomorrow because my iPhone hasn't told me yet. And in that space, the Episcopal Church says, "we have a prayer for that," or "if we do it this way, we can find holiness in the mundane." The church helps us gain some *kairos* perspective.

During the pandemic, I've heard lots of friends complain that time has stopped meaning anything. We all know we're living in the middle of a chapter in history books yet to be written. We've been locked in the unfamiliar *kairos* mode. And the Church says, "we know how to keep time in that space." "Here's how you break it into manageable units." "We have a prayer for that." God is abstract, but God is here living through the week too.



Matthew Phillips, MDiv, has been a member of the parish since 2013 and works as a business law professor at Wake Forest.

AT ST. PAUL'S



AT ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH 1. Parishioner returned to in-person worship in March. 2. Clergy in the middle of a busy Sunday at St. Paul's. 3. Choral Compline in Lent, organized by Dr. Mark Ardrey-Graves. 4. This Christmas Eve, there were multiple outdoor services including the Christmas Pageant shown here. 5. Staff and clergy preparing for Easter and Holy Week. This was one of the first in-person meetings since the pandemic for several people on staff.

AT ST. PAUL'S



AT ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH **6.** Parishioners walk up Pilot View during an outdoor service for Stations of the Cross. **7.** Lighting of the Holy Fire at the Easter Vigil. Two adults were baptized at the service. **8.** St. Paul's was able to offer several indoor, outdoor, and online opportunities during Holy Week and Easter, including online worship on Easter shown here. **9.** The Rev. D. Dixon Kinser, celebrates Eucharist at the Sunday live stream. **10.** Following several months in a hybrid online class taught by the clergy at St. Paul's, 23 adults and 40 youth confirmands will gather in May to be confirmed in the Episcopal Church.

Outreach: Returning to Something New

by The Rev. Nancy Vaders

We have a word that we use in our family called “Nerva-Cited”. It’s a mish-mash between nervous and excited and we use it for occasions like a school play, the first time away at camp, or meeting a new friend. Right now, I’m nerva-cited about the future because it seems like things are moving in the right direction. But it’s been such a hard year, with so much loss, that I’m also nervous in my optimism about the next few months.

I’m excited for important outreach programming to return to campus like Kids Café and Summer Enrichment. I’m excited that we can make plans for more in-person opportunities, but I am also aware that things will not go back to normal overnight. And honestly, that’s a good thing because we have learned so much this year about outreach and about creativity and collaboration. We learned that we could try things that we’ve never done before like remote learning centers and food delivery ministries. We’ve seen the intrinsic value of collaboration with other churches and organizations to get our most vulnerable neighbors what they need whether that be food, rent money, diapers or school supplies.

In many ways, this pandemic has forced us to be brave, to see failure as a place to learn and grow, and to step outside of our bubble and engage more fully with the communities we serve. We all want so badly to move forward, but I’m determined not to forget the valuable lessons that have been learned through all of this. Keeping our memory fresh with what we have learned will only help us to be better equipped to grow even more fully into the work of service and outreach. St. Paul’s, I am so grateful for your generosity and willingness to serve in this strange season of life in a pandemic. I hope you’ll join me in being “nerva-cited” as we move forward and reimagine our shared commitment of serving God and our neighbors.

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The Rev Nancy Vaders

*is the Director of Outreach
at St. Paul's.*

Stewardship: A Life-Giving Legacy

by Margaret Turner and Skinner and John McGee

The St. Paul's 1876 Society is our planned giving society. It offers our members the opportunity to give a legacy gift to St. Paul's in hopes that their yearly tithe can be fulfilled in perpetuity. What an amazing way to support St. Paul's after we are gone.

We are thankful for all our members who have made this very generous and faithful step in their philanthropic plans. Over the past months, several members of St. Paul's reached out inquiring about the St. Paul's 1876 Society. The seriousness and reality of the pandemic may have stimulated deeper thoughts and conversations about their estate plans, or some parishioners may have seen the presentation by Edward Griggs on our website, giving details and benefits about legacy gifts.

Skinner and John McGee are one such couple that has joined the St. Paul's 1876 Society. Read Skinner's words below as to what inspired John and her to leave a legacy gift to St. Paul's:

Just as we have made plans to remember members of our family in our wills, we have chosen to support the St. Paul's 1876 Society because St. Paul's is our church home and our church family.

We have been members of St. Paul's for more than 50 years and many of our dearest, most treasured friends are members of our St. Paul's family.

We have had baptisms, confirmations, a wedding and a funeral. Through joy and sadness, hope and despair, the clergy, staff, and members of our St. Paul's family have "been there" to share our life - to laugh, share tears, comfort, encourage and console - as part of all our entire family life.

We treasure our life at St. Paul's, and it is our hope that we and others will choose to contribute to the ongoing life of our church family. -Skinner McGee

To learn more about the different ways you can join the St. Paul's 1876 Society, please contact Margaret Turner at mtturner@stpauls-ws.org.



1876
SOCIETY

Small Groups at St. Paul's

by The Rev. Sara Ardrey-Graves

Are you interested in deeper engagement with your faith, or rededicating your time to a ministry that is life-giving to others? We have a thriving small group ministry at St. Paul's. Many groups have continued to meet during the pandemic in creative ways, so if you've never been part of a small group before, now would be a great time to join one!

Centering Prayer is a small group which meets weekly to explore and practice contemplative prayer in which we silently acknowledge and rest in the presence of God. Contact Gail Phillips at carolinableu@aol.com to join.

The Friday Morning Men's Prayer Breakfast meets every Friday morning at 7:00 am for Bible study, prayer, fellowship and (before COVID-19) breakfast. We are currently meeting every Friday via Zoom and if you want to join us send an email to jonathan.engram@wbd-us.com and we will send you the Zoom link.

The Faith & Justice Committee explores issues of faith as issues of justice by sponsoring monthly presentations by leaders in our community who are doing profound and inspirational work. Contact Kathy Ausen to join at kathyausen@gmail.com.

Lucy Paynter leads a small group of women who study books concerning our faith. They are currently studying Bishop Curry's book *Love Is the Way*, and meet on Fridays. Contact Lucy at lpaynter@triad.rr.com.

GLADS meets every Thursday night at 7:00 pm. We are dedicated to studying scripture and books that will lead us deeper into our understanding and experience of God's love and the way of Jesus. We embrace LGBTQ+ parishioners and visitors at St. Paul's. Contact Lynn Parsley at lynnparsley@gmail.com.

The Episcopal Church Women is an international organization that gives women a variety of opportunities for leadership, service, and worship in the Episcopal church. If you are a female member of St. Paul's, you are a member of our ECW. We are an umbrella group that offers fellowship through luncheons, dinners, and circles; fundraisers such as our Bazaar known citywide for 70+ years, the United Thank Offering, and Miles of Pennies, plus several outreach programs. Contact Jennifer Bryan, ECW Chair for 2021 at raleighjp1996@gmail.com.

The Caring Community Ministry Group welcomes those who are interested in supporting the nurturing of mental health and well-being throughout the St. Paul's community. Involvement can include fellowship, service opportunities, study, and discussion with the intent to open up the conversation and promote mental well-being in our parish. Contact Nancy Montgomery at montgon@triad.rr.com.

St. Paul's Walking Group walks year-round on Fridays in Reynolda Village. Wearing masks these walks promote fellowship, exercise, and a wonderful way to get to know your church family. Contact Anne Rahn at arahn@stpauls-ws.org or (336) 749-4906.



Men's ministry meets every other Monday at 6 pm for one hour. Meetings switch between devotion, theological discussion, and space to share signs of resurrection and brokenness in our individual lives, creating a community where men can be vulnerable and pray for one another. Contact the Rev. Nick VanHorn at nvanhorn@stpauls-ws.org.

Young Adults (20s-30s) meet on Thursdays twice a month for a book or Bible study - spring of 2021, we're reading essays by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and learning about liberation theology. Contact the Rev. Sara Ardrey-Graves at sardrey-graves@stpauls-ws.org.

Women's Circles:

Typically, circles meet during the school year, from September through May, to socialize and usually, to hear a guest speaker, though many circles have been on hiatus during the pandemic. Some circles also work on special projects and sponsor booths at the Annual Bazaar and Luncheon. Women of St. Paul's are welcome to attend any circle meeting.

St. Agatha/Helena/Elizabeth's Circle, made up primarily of women aged 70 and older, meets the second Monday of each month at 10:00 am in the parlor. Contact Doris Arzonico at (336) 765-8233 or Yvette Simmons at (336) 765-6692 or ymsimmons1@gmail.com.

St. Mary's Circle meets the second Monday of each month at 2:30 pm in members' homes. Most members are seniors in their 70s, 80s and older, who meet for fellowship and personal growth through the study of different subjects pertaining to our Christian faith. Contact Stella Surratt at (336) 725-1119, or jrsurratt@bellsouth.net, or Toni Corpening at (336) 768-6259, or jcorpening@triad.rr.com.

St. Anne's Circle meets the second Monday for lunch and a speaker at 12:15 pm in Colhoun A. Most members are women ages 55-75, who are very involved in many different ministries at St. Paul's, and participate in outreach activities frequently. Contact Lynn Holtzclaw at (336) 761-1098 or lynnhoodholtzclaw@usa.net or Peggy Slater at (336) 829-0172 or peggyplater@gmail.com.

St. Lucy's Circle meets monthly in the evenings at members' homes. Most members are between 55-65 years old. Contact Tricia Vaughn at triciavaughn@aol.com.

St. Margaret's Circle meets monthly on the third Wednesday at 7:00 pm at church or at the home of a member. Members are primarily in their 40s-50s, many with young children. Contact Elizabeth Foley at (336) 624-8430 or epfoley@gmail.com or Lisa Boisture at lisa.b.boisture@gmail.com.

St. Ruth's Circle meets on the second Monday of every month at 6:30 pm. The circle is made up of women in their 20s-30s who seek to empower others to promote loving service in the parish and community through a balance of fellowship, spiritual study and outreach. Contact Megan Marshall-Wicker at marshallmf2@gmail.com or (336) 403-0180.



The Rev. Sara Ardrey-Graves is Associate Rector at St. Paul's and oversees small groups.



Bonnie Flythe: So many positives last year! More time for gratitude, recognition of so many blessings, awareness of others needs, peace from God. Selfishly, my favorite was six weeks with all three of our grown sons at home, an opportunity that I can't imagine occurring without the pandemic.



Laura Edmundson: The resiliency and compassion of so many in the face of the many challenges this past year has been inspirational.

Meet 2021



Diana "DD" Hellebush: The most wonderful thing happened last year when all 3 of our far-flung children and sons-in-law (or almost) spent months with us. It was a gift of deep and abiding relationships.

You may not have seen a lot of our current vestry yet, but they are hard at work!



Chris Lyon: With the challenge of Covid, St. Paul's was able to adopt new technical advances that enhanced our commitments to the parish.



Joyce Mua: One good thing that happened last year: watching my son go off to seminary and my daughter begin her sophomore year in college, and seeing them both thrive.

Elizabeth Lopina: I have spent a lot more time enjoying the outdoors, trying new recipes and getting things organized around the house.





Elizabeth Walsh: This past year, I've learned to be more flexible and relaxed in regards to making any plans. While this does put me out of my comfort zone at times, I've enjoyed the extra time that is not planned down to the second with my immediate family and treasured the time I got to spend extended family.



R. Scott Adams: The additional time at home allowed me to appreciate many small moments - from extra family time, to noticing God's creation all around me.



Jill Carson: I had the joy of teaching one of my nephews to juggle - and now he's juggling torches and passing clubs!



E. Gray Smith, III: The best thing to happen to me [us] in the last year was the news that our oldest daughter is expecting her first child!



Richard Lewis: Due to Covid-19, I was able to spend more time with my family and enjoy the wonderful weather this past year by spending more time outdoors.



J. Er Ralston: Our granddaughter, Addison Catherine Farnell, was born on September 2, 2020!

the Vestry

We asked each vestry person to share one good thing that happened in the last year. Here's what they said.



Currently, St. Paul's is transitioning back to in-person services. While service times are subject to change, we currently offer online, outdoor, and indoor options for worship.

Visit Us

St. Paul's is a house of prayer for all people and you are most welcome. We are located at:

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

Contact Us

Phone: (336) 723-4391
Web: stpaulswinstonsalem.org

Social Media

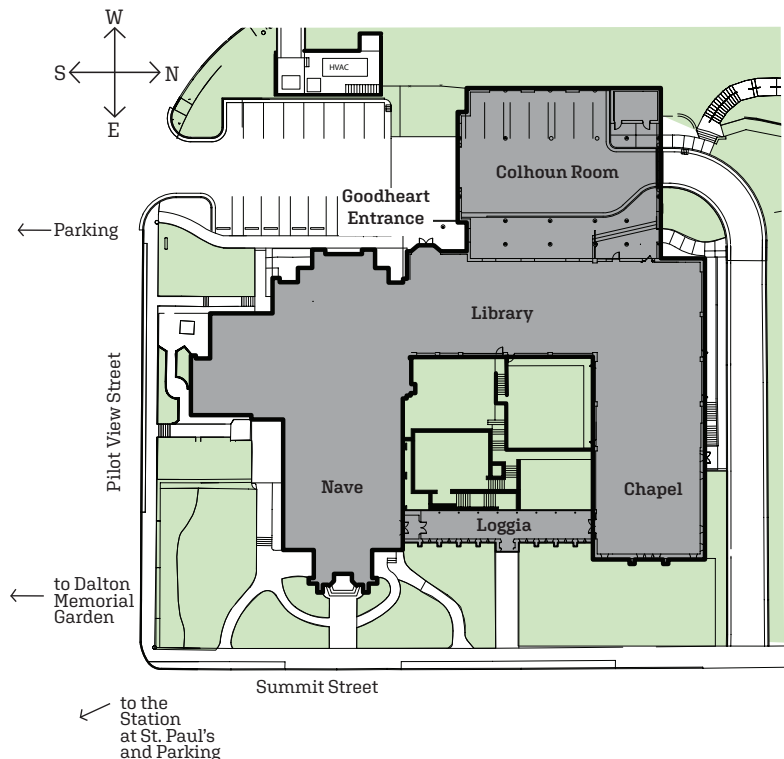
[/stpaulswinstonsalem](https://www.instagram.com/stpaulswinstonsalem)



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.



UPCOMING HIGHLIGHTS

These are just some of the many activities happening at St. Paul's and they are subject to change.

Please visit www.stpauls.ws.org/events/ for the most up to date information.

The Good Book Pt. 3: Sunday School Stories Through Grown Up Eyes

Beginning Sun, Apr 25 at 11 pm

Join us for this fun formation series via Zoom led by the Rev. D. Dixon Kinser.

Young Adult Small Group Study

Twice Monthly at 6 pm

Young adults are invited to this outdoor study of the works of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Young Adult Taco Tuesdays

Last Tuesday of the Month at 6 pm

E-mail the Rev. Sara Ardrey-Graves for information at sardrey-graves@stpauls-ws.org.

Diaper Drive

Throughout May

Visit: stpaulswinstonsalem.org/diapers

A Special Service of Confirmation

Sunday, May 8 and 15

Space for this event is currently full.

Chorister Evensong on the Day of Pentecost

Sunday, May 23 at 3 pm

All are welcome to this outdoor service led by the St. Paul's Choristers.

Newcomer Virtual Coffee

May 23 at 9 am

Email Betsy Reiners at breiners@stpauls-ws.org to RSVP.

Toy Story Online Summer Camp

Coming this Summer

Details coming soon.

Vacation Bible School: Knights of North Castle

August 2-6

Registration for this in-person, outdoor event is coming soon.

Worship will continue to adapt to the conditions of the pandemic. St. Paul's continues to follow CDC, NC state, and Diocese of NC guidelines to ensure the safety of the parish. To that end, the information provided here is subject to change. Please check the website for the most up to date information.

The Daily Office Online

Mon-Fri at 8:15 am, 12 pm, and 5:30 pm on Facebook Live

Join clergy and others in the daily office live-stream on our Facebook page.

Holy Eucharist in the Nave

Wednesdays at 12:10 pm

Worship in the Chapel ¹

Sundays at 8 am

Sunday Online Worship live-stream ^{1,2}

Sundays at 10 am

Streaming on Facebook, Vimeo, YouTube, and the Website. A limited number of in-person space is available.

Outdoor Worship ¹

Sundays at 3 pm at the Porte-cochère

Worship in the Nave ¹

Sundays at 5 pm

Worship

NOTES Upcoming events are subject to change. For the most up to date information, please visit stpaulswinstonsalem.org/events. **1.** Online RSVP is required. **2.** Streaming on Facebook, Vimeo, and YouTube. Information for services are made available via email and Facebook.

TRANSITIONS

Births

Evelyn Magnolia Malmo

December 5, 2020

*Daughter of Carter and Cassie Malmo,
Granddaughter of Deborah Malmo*

Alice Frances Hansen

March 1, 2021

*Daughter of Claire and John Hansen,
Granddaughter of Janice and Mike Ryan*

Lillian Agnes Okulski

April 4, 2021

*Daughter of Alex and former member Jane
(Smith) Okulski, Granddaughter of members
Leigh and Gray Smith*

Baptisms

Claire Thomas McCoy and Lawson

Spencer McCoy

January 12, 2020

Thomas Henry Morales

October 11, 2020

William Byrd Barton

October 25, 2020

Alistair Bryce Hassanah Jinnah Weeks

December 27, 2020

Justin Lee Hoffman

February 7, 2021

Evelyn Mae King

March 7, 2021

Simon Briggs

Easter Vigil April 3, 2021

Jamie Whitfield Petros

Easter Vigil April 3, 2021

Olivia James Tamer

April 11, 2021

Marriages

Deborah Duckett Broyles and Claude Barbour Strickland

November 14, 2020

Shannon Davis Wilson and John Eric Faircloth

December 26, 2020

Miller Simmons Maxwell and Gaston John Bienvenu Dossett

January 23, 2021

Sarah Davis and David Woods

April 17, 2021

New Members

Julia and Ryan Hennessee and daughter
Keira

Griffin and Jane Duncan and daughter
Margaret

Jean Ballagh

Tom Honaker

Charles and Jenny Ryan and daughter Kate

Deaths

Hamilton Earle Russell

November 23, 2020

*Brother of Wilson Russell, brother-in-law of
Marcia Russell*

Nelson Cole

December 8, 2020

Brother of Carole Eastman

Nancy Vaughn Moore

December 9, 2020

*Mother of Kyle Moore, mother-in-law of Yvonne
Moore, grandmother of Molly and Christopher
Moore*

Albert Ray Newsome

December 19, 2020

Jack Thomas

December 19, 2020

Husband of Olive Thomas

Catherine M. Schroeder

December 22, 2020

*Mother of Tom Schroeder, mother-in-law of
Kem Schroeder*

William Campbell Hilleary

December 22, 2020

*Father of Brent Hilleary, father-in-law of Meg
Hilleary, grandfather of Alex and Joseph Hilleary*

Michael Ellis

December 22, 2020

Brother-in-law of Linda Hill

Edna Mills Lippart

December 28, 2020

Mother of Shelby Lippart

Mary Charlie Corpening

January 7, 2021

*Mother of Charles Corpening, mother-in-law
of Sally Corpening, grandmother of Pierce and
Allen Corpening*

Continued >

Kenneth Allen Moser

January 13, 2021

Father of John Moser, father-in-law of Aly Moser, grandfather of Jack, Mary Olivia and Walt Moser

Randall David Avram

January 14, 2021

Son of Pat Avram

Sue H. Cummins

January 29, 2021

Mother of John Cummins

George Wilson Paynter

January 30, 2021

Husband of Lucy Paynter

Wanda Jo Johnson

February 13, 2021

Wife of Barry Johnson

Josephine Stratford

February 17, 2021

Mother of Linda Honour

Carolyn Sharp Hale

March 3, 2021

Mother of Marcia Russell, mother-in-law of Wilson Russell, grandmother of Virginia Russell, Stuart Russell and wife Marley, great-grandmother of Hale and Helen Russell

John (Jack) Arzonico

March 16, 2021

Husband of Doris Arzonico, father of John C. Arzonico, Nancy Arzonico Pulliam, Mary Arzonico, grandfather of Jeff Arzonico, Ben Pulliam, Ross Pulliam, Sam Pulliam, Patrick Arzonico, Alex Ansel and Carolyn Ansel and Great grandfather of Blake and Brooklyn Arzonico

John P. Williams

March 17, 2021

husband of PJ Williams, father of Michael and Valerie Williams, grandfather of Justin and Kennedy Williams

Penelope Dana Broughton

March 28, 2021

mother of David Broughton, mother in law of Charlotte Broughton, grandmother of Winborne, Eleanor, and Shaffer

Martha Lane Hedson Roemer

April 10, 2021

Wife of Jack, mother of Henry and Tori Lane Roemer; grandmother of Suzanna Roemer, Blair Roemer and Jack Roemer.

This list represents transitions since the last issue of Parish Life. If you would like to request a correction or addition to this list, please email Betsy Reiners at breiners@stpauls-ws.org.

JOURNEY WITH US! GET STARTED HERE

Visit www.stpaulsws.org/hello
to learn more.



VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY 2021

FINANCIALS

The Finance Committee recently updated the financial collars for the church, which provide guidelines for when the Vestry should “ring the bell of concern” regarding unrestricted fund balances. For December, the church is far below the collars.

For 2020, pledges were \$30k above budget. Because of the Preschool loss of \$181k, there was a deficit of \$123k, in addition to the budgeted deficit of \$145k. Core expenses, including utilities, were under budget.

STEWARDSHIP

Due to the pandemic, some parishioners have been delayed in returning their pledge cards. Pledges for 2021 continue to come in. Based on these delays, the Vestry elected to wait until next month to close the budget.

RENEWAL CAMPAIGN

The Church has received \$7.2 million in pledge payments. Expenses to date have been \$8.8 million, with the gap financed through the church's credit lines and borrowing from the unrestricted funds.

NEW BUSINESS

The Vestry approved changes to the by-laws that were publicized to the Parish and conform with the Diocesan canons and rules.

The Vestry discussed the second PPP load offered by the government, but St. Paul's is not eligible.

RECTOR'S REPORT

Dixon announced the vestry retreat will be on Saturday, February 13 via Zoom and the February Vestry meeting will be February 24.

Dixon announced Ash Wednesday plans. Ash Wednesday offerings are outside services at 8:15, 12:00, and 5:30. The 8:15 service will be live streamed. Ashes will not be put directly on the forehead but sprinkled. Deacon Lauren is having a service for families outside at 4pm.

SPP was closed at the beginning of January and we are now discerning what the future looks like and when the school will reopen.

Diocesan convention will be held on March 6 in Chapel Hill. Delegates and clergy will attend and stay in their cars.

CLERGY REPORTS

EYC is meeting twice a week, and children and youth numbers are up in programs and formation. Confirmation for youth and adults is going well. Adult Formation has planned offerings through May. Weddings are being scheduled for 2022.

SR. WARDEN REPORT

Henri Brown said the vestry nomination period closed on 01/26/2021 and no additional names were submitted. Our new members will be Er Ralston, Elizabeth Lopina, Jill Carson, and Richard Lewis.

JR. WARDEN REPORT

Bids are still out for the Dalton Garden project. Other projects on the horizon are repairing the paint and plaster in the Nave, which will involve additional funds. The HVAC/humidity issues are continuing to be reviewed.

VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS

FEBRUARY 2021

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Vestry elected officers for 2021. Scott Adams was elected as Senior Warden; Joyce Jacob-Mua was elected as Junior Warden; Rob Wall was elected as Treasurer and Betsy Reiners was elected as Secretary.

FINANCIALS AND STEWARDSHIP

For January, pledges were strong. The church is operating well within the financial collars.

Margaret Turner announced that the 2021 stewardship goal was met thanks to an anonymous donor who reached out with the desire to help meet the goal. A few additional pledges also came in.

The 2021 budget will need to be updated with the additional pledge, and the budget will be approved in March.

Regarding ReNEWal projects, there was no update.

NEW BUSINESS

The Church's PPP loan paperwork and report have been submitted for loan forgiveness.

The Vestry discussed and approved the 2021 Parochial Report.

Tom McDowell informed the Vestry that there will be a few additional Preschool tuition reimbursements.

RECTOR'S REPORT

Dixon announced that based on the Diocese's latest direction, we are getting closer to indoor, in-person services. Dixon and the clergy are planning to implement this on March 14 and are exploring what this will mean for Holy Week and Easter.

Diocesan convention will take place on Saturday, March 6 in Chapel Hill in the parking lot of the Friday Center. Delegates and clergy will stay in their cars and vote by car horn.

The Vestry will meet Bishop Anne for lunch on Sunday April 18 via Zoom. She will be at St. Paul's for her yearly visitation and will preach, teach, and meet with the Vestry.

Dixon encouraged for those who had not yet seen it, to go to the Preservation Forsyth Facebook page to see the story about St. Paul's. This story illuminates the architectural role of St. Paul's in the community.

The Nave interior project is still in exploratory stages and expense numbers are being gathered.

CLERGY REPORTS

Confirmation at St. Paul's will occur on two Saturdays, May 8 and 15, and will be outdoors. Many adults and youth from 2020 and 2021 will be confirmed. Adult Formation continues on Sundays, and the current class is called 'Words that tell the Truth' and is about scripture and poetry. Sara is working with small group leaders and what the future looks like meeting inside. The clergy hopes to catch up on baptisms this spring. Nick announced that the youth, after EYC on Sunday nights are participating in Compline through Lent.

SR. WARDEN REPORT

The Vestry will assist with Congregational Care Calls to check on parishioners. The Vestry is also working to contact members who have not yet pledged for 2021.

JR. WARDEN REPORT

Joyce Jacob-Mua said the Dalton Garden project is still gathering bids. For the interior Nave project, various options are being priced and considered, including the HVAC and ductwork. The Vestry received quotes for initial consulting, but due to questions from the Vestry, the votes were postponed.

LIAISON REPORTS

The Vestry heard reports from Adult Formation, Building and Grounds and Children's Ministries.

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August 2-6, 2021

OUTDOOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Registration coming soon



stPaul's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH