The Mission of Saint Paul’s Church
is to proclaim the Good News of God in Jesus Christ in greater Augusta and beyond.
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Today I celebrate the fifth anniversary of the Muirs’ arrival at Saint Paul’s Church. I had no idea then that I would still be serving this wonderful parish that we all love so deeply. As of this past January 1, as you now know, I will no longer be serving as your Interim Rector but I am now your Priest-in-Charge. I have to admit that is a bit of a misnomer. I don’t feel “in charge.” I feel as though I am working within a community of people sharing the leadership and commitment to this parish. The mission and ministries of Saint Paul’s are something we share and for that I am thankful.

We continue to reach out and serve those in our larger community and serve one another. We are truly being the Body of Christ in and for the community around us.

As we look forward, we are all aware of the tremendous growth that is taking place in our community. More and more people are moving to the CSRA. Downtown is seeing a resurgence of vitality and here we are ready to continue our vital ministry of presence.

In 1916 Saint Paul’s Church burned, but that was not the end. In 1918, 100 years ago, this building we call home was completed and consecrated for its continuing work. Notice the window at the back of the nave. It depicts the Conversion of Saint Paul. At the top of the window is depicted the phoenix rising from the ashes. What a wonderful symbol of who we are.

Now with stability in leadership and the deep commitment of our parish we are beginning “The Next 100 Years” capital campaign. We need to be ready, both physically and spiritually, to meet the needs of the burgeoning area around us. Roofs and ramps and restrooms may not seem exciting. Updating technology and optimizing the use our existing space for the exercise of our ministry doesn’t exude enthusiasm but it is necessary. As we build on the firm foundation of those who rebuilt after the fire, we now refit and refurbish to meet the needs of a new generation.

How blessed we are to have inherited such a wonderful gift. How blessed and honored we now are to take that blessing and add our part for the building of God’s kingdom.

It’s been a great five years. The next five will be even better empowered by the Holy Spirit that is so evidently among us.

George
I am deeply mindful of how many people in our community—the Saint Paul’s community, that is—are struggling with illness or what I call un-wellness. Un-wellness includes all manner of experiential struggle, and so is by no means limited to physical disease but encompasses those experiences and challenges that diminish the fullness of our lives. To say that I am deeply mindful of this is not a quantitative statement about how many more of us are suffering this year over last year—NO! It is a statement about the quality of our relationship—between you and me, pastor and people. More and more of you have invited me into the reality of your lived experiences—the joys and sorrows, but more often the latter.

Time provides the necessary space for us to test and learn to trust one another, so as I approach the close of my third year in ministry with you, more and more of us have reached a depth of trust that admits and permits deeper pastoral relationship to emerge. As a newly ordained priest, I could ask for nothing more than the privilege to earn your trust and confidence in the work of the Gospel that calls each of us to new life the work of faith in Jesus Christ. Authentic Christian community always is a work in progress, and I am writing to say that as I look back over 2017 I see much progress in the work that matters—the work of spiritual formation in the image of Christ.

There is an energy and enthusiasm in this parish that has an outward direction. The warm and open welcome that you are so ready to offer to strangers is rarely found in Episcopal parishes. The eagerness with which you receive challenging teaching and preaching means that you feel safe and secure enough in this faith community to wonder about what the Holy Spirit is calling you to be, change, or do today that you may never have previously considered.

So, we are in a place of high potential like a loaded spring. The Gospel calls us to realize our worth and potential in Christ for the healing and blessing of the world. It is in healing others that we are healed; feeding others that we are fed.; loving others selflessly that we come to know God’s inestimable love for all of creation.

“For the journey that brought you here—THANKS BE TO GOD. For the journey yet to come—THANKS BE TO GOD. WE BLESS YOU, WE PRAISE YOU, WE GIVE THANKS UNTO YOU, O LORD, OUR GOD.”

In Christ,
John+
We celebrate with all of Saint Paul’s Church an agreement with the Bishop to allow George Muir to remain as our Priest-in-charge/Rector for the next five years. Along with Monty Osteen, we visited Bishop Scott Benhase in Savannah in mid-February 2017, and with further correspondence through the summer, the agreement was secured on October 24th for the five years which began January 1, 2018.

In 2016 and continuing in 2017, we began, with Fr. Muir, to build the scaffolding for a capital campaign. With Saint Paul’s Church and Parish Hall Buildings approaching their 100-year anniversary, several areas need repair, replacement, and improvement; and we must add to our Endowment. Billy Badger and Catherine Boardman have agreed to co-chair the capital campaign. Multiple meetings have included church staff members, Cheatham, Fletcher, and Scott Architects, four general contractors, and a slate roofing specialist. Preliminary bids have been received from two construction companies and the roofing contractor.

The roofs of the Church and Tyler Hall have deserved special attention: first they were surveyed by camera from a drone, thanks to John Robertson, then measured from Google Earth and finally, in person, by a roofing contractor, who has sent slates for laboratory testing and has submitted a re-roofing proposal.

Today we officially begin the campaign to ready Saint Paul’s for the next 100 years!

In May, we coordinated CPR training of our Vestry and staff through the American Red Cross and learned how and when to use a defibrillator.

With the help of Erick Montgomery and Richard Manning, we have forged a closer relationship with the Augusta Fire Department. All of the firefighters and EMTs from Station 3 on Reynolds Street have toured the entire facility -- crypt, Bell Tower, boiler room, electric panels and all, and under the direction of Lt. Braden, we have installed special lockboxes for the AFD to be able to enter our buildings quickly in case of a fire.

We have begun (more than half done) cleaning out the basement/boiler room. We have stacks of boxes full of files ready for shredding with a shredding truck scheduled for the Week of February 12th. Continued cleanout will be scheduled in the Spring.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, we have met with committees and guilds to develop insights about how they work, what they envision and care about, and how to encourage and facilitate their work. We welcome the newly formed Creation Care Committee, chartered last month by the Vestry.

Serving Saint Paul’s Church is an honor and a privilege; in these endeavors we have received help from many quarters. We thank you all.

Brad Sandbach & Leslie Lambert
**Five-Year Statistical Summary**

<table>
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<td>$667,000</td>
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* Number of Pledges received for the following year

**Estimated Number of pledges

*** Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) is calculated using all services held on Saturday night or Sunday. Christmas Eve fell on Saturday last year and Sunday this year contributing to an increase in ASA. ASA without the “Sunday” of Christmas equaled 276 in 2016 and 272 in 2017.
2017 Ministry Reports

Adult Christian Formation

MORE might best describe the trajectory of adult formation over 2017. While “formation” can be seen simply as “classes” offered, in truth it refers to all activities that form us as people of faith. In that sense, we must acknowledge the important role of the Daughters of the King, who increasingly offer the ministry of intercessory prayer and opportunities for spiritual enrichment during quiet days offered at Saint Paul’s.

The Education for Ministry (EfM) program continues to deepen and grow in our parish. EfM is a four year program of Christian formation offered through Sewanee’s School of Theology at the University of the South. We have two small groups that meet on Sunday evening and Tuesday morning throughout much of the year to practice theological reflection and explore different topics of study from the Scriptures, church history, and theology. Open enrollment always is offered in the summer for the beginning of the term in September.

There are two notable signs of growth in the Sunday formation hour offerings. In past years programing at Saint Paul’s has halted for the summer, but in 2017 the clergy chose not to follow that pattern. Instead, formation continued and to our surprise drew as large a following throughout the summer months as during fall and winter! Clearly there is a desire for learning, and the clergy invite and encourage not only your participation in formation offerings but also your input about what your soul desires and needs. The second sign of growth is most exciting. Lay members of the Creation Care Team (since then they have become a committee of the parish) organized and led a robust fall offering about the theology of creation and our call to act on behalf of God’s creation. The growth was in the leadership of the laity, who were the driving force behind this program, and who will continue to offer creation-focused formation programs in the future, adding depth and diversity to what the clergy alone can offer the parish.

If you are interested in a bibliography of books and videos utilized over 2017, please contact the Associate Priest, John Jenkins.

--Submitted by The Rev. John Jenkins

Building & Grounds Committee

The committee has day-to-day small “projects” that keep our facilities safe and, we hope, comfortable. Our significant changes and completions in 2017 were:

- Bell Tower repair and painting completed.
- Agreement with an appliance repair company to inspect and service all kitchen appliances biannually.
- Exterior of parish house windows scraped, sanded, and painted. This completed the second and final phase of this project.
- New electrical dimmer control panel for the chancel and nave installed.
- Repairs and ‘discrete’ moisture control corrections were made to the exterior of the River Room facing the river.
- Windows on the E. and W. side of the church were caulked and primed on the outside.
- Knox Boxes, containing contact information and access keys were mounted at the front of the church and W. entrance to CMC. These allow the fire department immediate entry into the buildings.

Committee members: Clay Coleman, Allen Harison, Leslie Lambert, Dick Manning, Erick Montgomery, Tom Robertson, and Keith Shafer. Ex-officio: George Muir, Brad Sandbach, Ann Ewell, and Mary Jackson

--Submitted by Dick Manning, Chair of the Building and Grounds Committee
CHILDREN’S CHRISTIAN FORMATION

How does Saint Paul’s Church utilize the time, talent, and financial resources of its members to fulfill the vows we make in the liturgy of Holy Baptism to do all in our power to support our children in their life in Christ?

First and foremost, we honor children in the common life of our church, especially in the liturgy. We welcome and encourage their presence and engaged participation in worship and in the sacraments. For children to feel comfortable, safe, and included in our unique way of worship is among the most formative and loving gifts we can provide, so that they know they are valued and that they always have a home in the Episcopal Church.

Over the past year, our youngest children have participated in a profound method of children’s formation called Godly Play. The program is outstanding in its design, content, and methodology, but the difference it makes to our children happens because of the teachers who lovingly give their time (EVERY Sunday, and to training and program certification!) and talent in service to our children. Godly Play is a Montessori-inspired program that honors children’s inherent knowledge and connection to God and equips them with the stories, symbols, and language of our church and tradition. Each Sunday, the children gather, listen to foundational stories, and then practice the art of making meaning (i.e., theological reflection) that is age appropriate and profound. Godly Play is growing at Saint Paul’s because the children love it and tell their parents about it. The exciting news is that we have lots of space and capacity to welcome more children.

Over the next few years, we hope to expand Godly Play for all of our children through the age of 12, yet the challenge and the invitation to the people of our parish is that we do need two to four more teachers in this ministry.

To all those who give their time and energy in ministry to teach our beloved faith to children, I speak on behalf of the parish and of the church: you have our thanks and gratitude for what you offer in ministry to our children.

--Submitted by The Rev. John Jenkins

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY COMMITTEE

It has been an incredible year for the Children, Youth, and Family Committee. 2017 has seen the continuation of our Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinners, and they have been very successful. We welcomed Janet Ferguson as our caterer, and have experienced some incredible meals. We are averaging 70-75 people, young, old, and in-between, on the second Wednesday every month. The committee feels confident that this program will continue to grow.

We sponsored several other events in 2017, like the Saint Paul’s Night at the Ballpark. Eighty-four members of our church family gathered for a wonderful evening of baseball, food, and fellowship at the Greenjackets’ game. We hope this event will continue in 2018.

The weekend of July Fourth, we held our second annual BBQ contest, — again, a very successful event. We will continue the BBQ event with some tweaks this year.

In September, we sponsored our first annual Parish Low Country Boil, to kick off the new church year. Six wonderful gentlemen braved some mighty winds to cook enough food for 250 hungry souls after the 11 AM service. Parishioners brought sides to supplement the Boil, and it was a great success. The event is already in the works for a return in September 2018!
The committee strongly believes that the participation of children, youth, and families will continue to increase, and there will be multiple events throughout the upcoming year for this to occur.

--Faithfully submitted by Todd Shafer, Chair of CYFC

**CREATION CARE COMMITTEE**

The Creation Care Committee was officially chartered by the Vestry in December, 2017.

The mission of the Creation Care Committee is to engage the congregation, staff and clergy in compassionate service to God’s Creation through inspiration, education and initiatives.

The membership of this committee is open. The committee’s current officers are Bryan Haltermann Chairman; Bob Rollins, Treasurer; Nancy Cercy, Vestry representative; and Rev. John Jenkins, clergy representative.

In June 2017, the group had a theologically based visioning session facilitated by Rev. Deacon Leanne Culbreath of the Diocese of Georgia.

This was followed by a 6-session Christian formation class by led by the Rev. John Jenkins centered on A Life of Grace for the Whole World, a pastoral teaching from the House of Bishops of the Episcopal Church which calls Episcopalians to care for God’s good creation.

At the end of October, the group held a Night on the River celebration in the River Room and its adjoining patio. The event featured local food, local music, an art wall, testimonies by youth, and a concluding Vesper service. Attendance was a robust 150.

Currently, the Creation Care Christian formation class is discussing several films concerned with Creation Care and beginning several book studies.

The group, which meets at the church on the first Wednesday of every month at 5:30 PM, is in the planning stage of some projects around Saint Paul’s downtown location focused on recycling, trash clean-up, gardening, and special educational events.

--Submitted by Bryan Haltermann, Chairman

**THE ST. RUTH BYLLESBY CHAPTER OF THE ORDER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE KING**

The Membership:

- Prays daily for the concerns of our congregation to strengthen the spiritual life and growth of the parish and to support the Mission of the Order of the Daughters of the King to spread Christ’s Kingdom throughout the World.

- Hosted two Quiet Days led by Rev. George Muir – One at Saint Paul’s in February and one at the Convent of St. Helena in October.

- Provided a Discernment Class (April-July) and admitted two new daughters into the Order in October.

- Hosted a reception for High School Seniors in May as part of the College Student Ministry.

- Provided a workshop on “Exploring Your Spiritual Gifts” for chapter members in August.
• Sent 21 “Care Packages” to college students from Saint Paul’s just prior to the Fall Semester Exam Week as part of the College Student Ministry.

• Sponsored the Advent Prayer Trees in Tyler Hall and the Narthex throughout the Advent Season.

---Submitted by Suzanne Crotteau

**Evangelism / Marketing Committee**

The Evangelism committee met monthly to focus on two main objectives: 1) to create opportunities for Saint Paul’s parishioners to engage in evangelism, and 2) to develop a communications and marketing plan for the church. Our accomplishments include:

**Evangelism:**

- Two members of the committee attended an Episcopal Evangelism Training session in June that was sponsored by the national church and held at St. Peter’s Episcopal Church in Savannah. Ways to incorporate some of the content of the training session are being considered by the committee.

- Two programs were offered during March and September that explored 1) how congregants could become more welcoming to visitors and 2) how the church and its members could use social media more effectively to connect with each other and the community.

- Invitation cards were designed for Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Blessing of the Animals, as well as, generic Sunday and Celtic Service invitations and offered to parishioners as an easy tools to invite others to attend Saint Paul’s with them.

**Marketing:**

- The committee hired a videographer to produce a video that could be used for church promotional purposes. The videographer shot approximately 25 minutes of video footage in addition to drone footage and also conducted a number of interviews. The committee then determined a plan for placing the video on social media and with other outlets. The video now serves as an introduction on the Saint Paul’s Facebook page, Saint Paul’s You Tube Page, and the website, “I’m New” page.

- We created advertising images for four annual events: Blessing of the Animals, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter, and placed advertising in the *Augusta Chronicle, Augusta Magazine,* and *Augusta Family Magazine.* In addition, we are planning to produce more generic images that will be useful in promoting other church events.

- Members of the committee also reevaluated the church’s media plan. While customary ad placement in *The Augusta Chronicle* and *Augusta Family Magazine* will continue, ads will also be placed in the *Metro Spirit* as it attracts a downtown audience. In addition, the committee has determined to spend more time and resources on developing a digital presence.

- An awareness of the need for better digital marketing has led the committee to become more adept at using data analytics, such as Google and Facebook. A more thorough understanding of visitors to our digital sites will enable us to more effectively target web traffic.

- The committee initiated steps to improve our on-site marketing in the form of more effective signage.
• Best of all, the committee added two individuals, Lillian and Christopher Huber, to our committee who have years of professional experience in programming, web-design, social media, event planning, and design of digital marketing campaigns. We look forward to their input in 2018.

-- Respectfully submitted, Barbara Coleman

HISTORICAL HERITAGE COMMISSION

The mission of the Historical Heritage Commission is to preserve and publicize the history of Saint Paul’s Church and to illuminate and illustrate its historic role in the life of Augusta and the Episcopal Diocese of Georgia. We are currently engaged in surveying the parish archives to make recommendations for their improved storage and preservation and for updating the official history of Saint Paul’s Church. In 2017, the Historical Heritage Commission:

• collected articles related to the activities of Saint Paul’s Church from local media
• started a Wikipedia page titled Saint Paul’s Church (Augusta, Georgia)
• updated the time line of Saint Paul’s history linked to the parish website.
• supplied items of historical interest for the Weekly Postings
• began indexing parish records related to slaves and free people of color to preserve the memory of their participation in the body of Christ at Saint Paul’s Church.

-- Submitted by Susan Yarborough, Chair

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Leadership Development Committee was formed by the Vestry in March of 2016 to work on the goals of identifying, expanding, and strengthening the leadership base in the parish and to actively encourage new members to assume leadership positions. Their charge was expanded in fall of 2016 to include incorporating newcomers.

Much progress was made by the group which included Carolyn Dolen, Kathy Enicks, Michelle Hawkins, Pat Nuessle, Claiborne Porubsky, John Robertson, Martha Scroggs, and Rex Teeslink. Committee members were energetic and dedicated to the task of raising up new leaders for Saint Paul’s. The Newcomer Committee, spawned through this group and co-chaired by Kathy Enicks and Claiborne Porubsky, took on the Newcomer initiative. Their goal is to welcome potential members and shepherd them into becoming active parishioners.

Additionally, the tri-fold board in the Narthex featuring parishioners involved in our various ministries continued to be maintained by Rex Teeslink and the church staff.

Martha Scroggs continued her group’s work of generating names of people who might be recruited for various ministries and brainstorming possible future leaders.

The clergy continued recognizing from time to time during services the major accomplishments of various parishioners and committees.

The committee and clergy continued to encourage church committees to rotate leadership and to recruit new committee members to take on leadership positions.

The Leadership Development Committee met three times in 2017, and then reported to the Vestry that it had completed all the strategies that it felt could be effected by the committee at this time. It suggested that the committee change from being a committee of the Vestry to being an advisory committee to
the Rector, to be convened as needed. The Committee further suggested that the Newcomer Committee report directly to the Vestry, and the tri-fold board, the leadership identification, and the recognition of major accomplishments continue, guided by the lay or clergy persons responsible.

However, leadership development in a church is an ongoing activity, and the group left open the possibility of reconvening if the Vestry were to see the need to pursue additional strategies.

--Respectfully submitted, Lee Robertson, Leadership Development Committee Chair

**NEWCOMER MINISTRY**

The Newcomer ministry is a new ministry of hospitality and welcome started on December 3, 2017. A team of two Saint Paul’s members warmly welcome newcomers and visitors on Sunday mornings at the 11 AM service in the Narthex or on the front porch, weather permitting. The team answers questions, show visitors where to go if needed, and makes Saint Paul’s Welcome literature available. We invite our visitors to share their names, contact information and story, if they would like.

--Respectfully submitted, Kathy Enicks, Newcomer Committee Chair

**OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

“‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’ Matthew 25:40

Outreach activities in 2017 centered on feeding, clothing, and helping our neighbors in the community and the world:

- More than 900 families received 30,696 pounds of pantry staples, purchased and distributed bi-monthly through our Manna Pantry.

- Saint Paul’s supported the Masters Table Soup Kitchen with financial assistance and volunteers who prepared more than 1,000 hot meals for hungry Augustans.

- As a member of the Downtown Coalition of Church ministries, Saint Paul’s contributed board members as well as financial support for needy families. Through DCCM, more than 250,000 pounds of food were distributed to more than 30,000 individuals, 45% of whom were elderly, and 30% of whom were children under the age of 18.

- With our financial support, Saint Paul’s partnered with St. James United Methodist Church to aid elderly, disabled, and unemployed neighbors with rent, utilities, medicine, and more.

- Saint Paul’s provided a pre-race pasta dinner and opened its doors on Ironman Sunday with coffee, snacks, and respite areas for athletes and their families—offering a loving, Christian welcome to participants from around the world.

- Children from Craig-Houghton school received one-on-one assistance, school supplies, and love from Saint Paul’s tutors and mentors throughout the year. Our congregation provided gifts and a gala Christmas breakfast for the children and their families through our Angel Tree program. Children also received bookbags and coats through annual parish drives.

- Internationally, our church sponsored an orphan in Honduras and gave farm animals to families in honor of our newly-baptized.
• Parish outreach provided more than $3000 in disaster relief to victims of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

• Saint Paul’s reached out to our forgotten heroes with visits and quarterly ice cream socials for veterans at the Georgia War Veterans’ Nursing Home.

• Our church provided a board member and financial support for St. Stephen’s Ministries, purchasing a much-needed hot water heater.

• On June 21, “The Longest Day,” Saint Paul’s hosted a program of music and memories to help raise funds for the Alzheimer’s Association.

The Outreach Committee actively increased Saint Paul’s impact in the community in 2017 by spearheading a parish-wide Mardi Gras that raised more than $20,000 for outreach activities.

--Submitted by Marilyn Grau and Anita Tanner, Co-chairs for Outreach

**PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE**

Our strong community is what draws and holds people here. There are many opportunities to deepen our relationships with one another and increase our sense of belonging as a parish family. During 2017, Parish Life offered many events for fellowship and extended our hospitality to others in the community with the following activities:

• Prime Time Parties for the Over- 50 crowd
• Not Ready for Prime Time Gatherings
• Sunday Birthday Celebrations in Tyler Hall
• Celtic Receptions
• Newcomers Parties
• Rose Sunday Reception
• Two Evensong Receptions
• Brunch in the River Room for the Annual Meeting
• Pentecost Picnic

--Anita Tanner, Hospitality Coordinator

**RIVER ROOM**

2017 was a wonderful and profitable year for the River Room and Berlin Room. Most of our rented events were from wedding receptions and other social events such as rehearsal dinners, birthday parties, and high school proms. Kiwanis met 45 times on Mondays at lunchtime in 2017 and is on track for another busy 2018. Tuesday’s Music Live hosted Tuesday luncheons 12 times for the 2017 – 2018 season and The Augusta Choral Society rehearsed in the Berlin room throughout the year on Tuesday evenings. The River Room and Berlin Room also stay busy with the many parish groups and activities such as EYC, adult formation classes, Annual Meeting, parish luncheons and picnics, Ironman, Outreach Dinners, birthday parties, various receptions, etc.

2018 is shaping up to be as full if not more than 2016 and 2017. As of today, we only have 10 Saturdays available for events. As in 2017 we are beginning to fill Fridays due to our Saturdays being booked. With the cyber industry growth that we are having in Augusta we are already seeing new cyber companies booking our space for meetings and/or social events. We have increased our rates for the River Room and Berlin Room and for use of the Nave.
We were blessed in 2017 that we didn’t run into major maintenance issues for the two rooms. A new and free computer program was put in place for creating room layouts for clients. This has been a big help for clients and our Sextons. A huge thank you to Hillary, Greg, and Terral for all they do to keep things going smoothly on a daily basis. We have also brought in Mary Painter to coordinate parishioner and non-parishioner wedding ceremonies held in the church. We are still in the beginning stages of researching options of replacing the carpet toward the end of 2018.

If you would like to book the River Room, Berlin Room, the church, Tyler Hall or any other space for your personal events or for parish activities, please let Mary know as soon as possible as the 2019 calendar will be opened to the community soon.

--Submitted by Mary Jackson, Facility Manager

Worship Committee

The Worship Committee is chaired by the Rector and serves in an advisory capacity to him; coordinating all the lay ministries required to conduct the worship services of Saint Paul’s Church. The Worship Committee’s membership traditionally includes the clergy of the parish, the director of music, Acolyte Master, and the chairs of the Altar Guild, Flower Guild, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, and Ushers, as well as any others appointed by the Rector.

The Worship Committee meets, when needed, to schedule special services and coordinate all the laity required each week to conduct our worship services. For the entire year, we held three services each Sunday. Holy Eucharist was celebrated at 8:00 and 11:00 AM, and at 5:30 PM, Celtic Evening Prayer and Communion. Baptism services were held 6 times during the year. Two Evensong Services with choir were held in March and November 2017. The Easter, Thanksgiving Eve, and two Christmas Eve services drew worshippers from around the community. It continues to be noted that there are new faces in the congregation each Sunday.

Our worship lay ministries have worked very hard this year. The Acolytes are incredibly dedicated. They held training sessions quarterly this year and have added a significant number of new members. Saint Paul’s presently has 3 Vergers, 16 Eucharistic Ministers, and 21 Lectors. Many of our lectors are youth of the church and do a wonderful job reading the Word of God on Sundays. Some of our Eucharistic Ministers also serve as Eucharistic Visitors, visiting the homebound and taking them communion from the reserved sacrament. The Saint Paul’s Choir membership stands at 35 members, but could still use some lower voices. The Saint Paul’s and the Canterbury Choirs sing regularly at the 11:00 AM Sunday services and the Saint Nicholas Choir sings 5-6 times during the year. The Saint Nicholas Choir welcomed new directors, Victoria Hammond and Nikki Wickware. The Celtic Service has enjoyed the contributions of a number of gifted Augusta musicians, including Carl Purdy, Rob Foster, Laura Tomlin, Celeste Ray, Keith Shafer, Kathleen Chandler, and Eryn Eubanks and the Family Fold.

The Altar Guild has continued their faithful work and some new items have been donated this year. The Altar Guild is currently working to replace the altar rail kneelers. The Flower Guild has recruited 4 new members, facilitated the restoration of the advent wreath and paschal candle brass, and held a flower arranging seminar for the parish among other accomplishments. The Usher teams are full and they maintain a list of people willing to substitute. The audio-visual team continues its work under the guidance of part-time sound engineer, Howard Lovett. We have launched live-streaming of our weekly 11:00 AM service via our YouTube page in addition to video recordings being available via the same.

Please see the following individual reports of the various ministries of the Worship Committee for the year 2017.

--Submitted by John Robertson, Vestry Liaison to the Worship Committee
**Broadcast Committee**

The Broadcast Committee oversees the distribution of worship services beyond the walls of the church through electronic broadcast media. The committee was first organized in 2013 as a sub-committee of the Evangelism and Marketing Committee after the church received a generous donation of audio-video equipment for enhancing the sound quality of the existing radio broadcast and providing a bulk of the resources required to produce live video streaming. Since then, a group of dedicated volunteer parishioners, along with a number of skilled broadcast and IT professionals, have worked together to provide broadcasting of high quality.

This year, the committee successfully introduced live streaming via the Saint Paul’s Church YouTube Channel, and are presently working toward increased media access, higher upload bandwidth, and enhanced audio-video quality.

A direct link to the Saint Paul’s YouTube page is available in the *Weekly Postings* and in the footer of the website. We encourage you to subscribe to this channel by using the subscribe button on the YouTube page. We need 100 subscribers to be able to request a custom URL. (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjcLwHzr4rcDj42_6_nigl)

-- Submitted by Wright Montgomery, Chair

**Acolyte Guild**

2017 was another banner year for the Acolytes of Saint Paul’s Church. It is great to see more young people, many of which are in middle and high school, get involved with the Acolyte Guild. The young people of the Church have given and continue to give their time and talent to the service of God and the congregation.

The acolytes will continue to improve as they participate in quarterly training sessions and the increased roles of senior acolytes in developing and nurturing our youngest acolytes. We will continue to strengthen our understanding of the role we serve in the liturgy and the role we serve in the greater Church. I want to thank the Clergy, Vestry, and the congregation for their continued support of this wonderful ministry.

--Faithfully, Todd Shafer, Acolyte Master

**Altar Guild**

The Altar Guild had a very good 2017 thanks to the dedication and loyalty of our members and supporters. We acknowledge the following for their kindness and generosity toward our efforts this year:

- Nicholas and Pamela Uros for donating the water purifier in the church sacristy;
- Vicki Dale for donating several useful items and needed supplies,
- Magda Newland for donating linens that Minta Nixon skillfully repurposed into the fair linen and credence cloth we use during the Celtic Service.
- Minta Nixon for also securing the beautiful new fair linen used on the main altar in the church and making new dust covers to protect those linens during the week.

Our beautiful kneeling “pillows” at the church altar are deteriorating. I met with Alice Vantrease of Alice Vantrease Needlepoint Designs who confirmed they should be retired and soon, if we’d like to salvage any of the work in them. These kneelers were donated in 1957 and are about 25 years past their expected duration. Ms. Vantrease made several suggestions if we endeavor to restore/replace them. We are soliciting anyone who could take ownership of “history in the making.”
With the help of God, the Altar Guild will continue our charge of maintaining our altar as sacred space and the center of our worship. As always, we give thanks for the guidance of clergy, the partnership of the Flower Guild and Linen Committee, and support of Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Acolytes, and Choirs toward this effort.

-- Respectfully submitted, Catherine Stuckey

FLOWER GUILD

Saint Paul’s Flower Guild is pleased to report 2017 was filled with positive results.

Our Accomplishments:

1. Four new members
2. Advent Wreath restoration
3. Paschal Candle restoration
4. Mother’s Day rose gift to each lady of Saint Paul’s Church
5. Flower arranging seminar, open to all parishioners, conducted by Margaret Brown Swift
6. Flower article to our Parishioners defining our mission, goals, objectives, and sponsorship funding
7. Showcased our beautiful stained glass windows with candle light for Christmas Eve services
8. Flower Sponsorships for entire year

Our Flower Guild Team:

Clint Carroll, Ann Claiborne Christian, Marian Clark, Samm Fusselle, Mickey Goodwin, Faye Long, Brenda Mason, Lynn Mays, Susan Muir, Magda Newland, Laura Phinizy, Louise Phinizy, Barbara Register, June Shafer, Sally Simkins, Bucky Thomas, Nancy Trefz, Pamela Uros, Anne Wilkin, and Jean Wright. Through God’s blessings, this team utilizes their creative spirits and talents to give glory to him.

The Flower Guild has open membership throughout the entire year. No experience is required; we will train you. Come visit us.

Thank you, parishioners, for your generosity and support of floral sponsorships which enable the Flower Guild to continue its ministry.

-- Respectfully Pamela Dorminey-Uros and Clint Carroll. Co-Chairs of the Flower Guild

LINEN COMMITTEE

The Linen committee is charged with caring for the altar linens and operate under the Altar Guild. We take this very seriously. There are six members and we rotate monthly by alphabetical order, each serving twice a year. I mend the linens as necessary, and properly dispose of those beyond repair. This year we replaced some of the worn out linens, and ordered a new fair linen, 12 purificators, and 6 lavabo towels.

--Submitted by Minta Nixon, Linen Committee Chair

MUSIC

I began my 35th year as Director of Music of Saint Paul’s in 2017 and want to thank everyone who gives so much of their time and talent to make our parish’s music program successful. Our adult singers each contribute more than 5 hours every week to the worship life of the parish, and families with children also attend rehearsals and services on a regular basis. Melissa Schultz, who began the year as our Music Associate, gave up her duties as Director of the Saint Nicholas Choir after Easter. Melissa did a phenomenal
job with our youngest singers and a search for a successor was conducted over the summer. We were
all pleased and excited that two of our adult musicians, both educators, were interested in the Saint
Nicholas Choir and Victoria Hammond and Nikki Wickware took up that responsibility in September. Music
Associate Emerita, Sarah Pritchard continues to play an important role at Saint Paul's, accompanying the
choir and playing occasional organ voluntaries. Kathleen Chandler maintains the church's extensive music
library and further library data entry was done by June Shafer.

The Saint Paul’s music ministry includes the Saint Paul’s Choir (old teens and adults), the Canterbury Choir
(younger teens and children in grades 3-6), and the Saint Nicholas Choir (children pre-K through grade 2).
The Saint Paul’s and Canterbury Choirs sing regularly at the 11 AM Sunday service and the Saint Nicholas
Choir sings 5-6 times during the season.

The Saint Paul’s Choir presently numbers 35 singers and, like almost every choir in the world, needs more
men. The choir is looking forward to their April 2018 trip to Greece and Turkey. The trip was full with a
waiting list as of December and 50 people comprise the traveling party, including George and Susan Muir.
The choir sang Evensongs in March and November, premiering new music. Attendance at Evensong now
averages more than 150 people.

The parish's two 501(c)(3) arts organizations, the Riverwalk Series and Tuesday’s Music Live, continued
their success in 2017. Tuesday’s Music Live replaced its caterer with Janet Ferguson of Sugar South Catering
Company and Chef Ferguson also provides catering services for additional parish functions including the
Wednesday night parish dinners. The Riverwalk Series presented the Star Spangled Fourth concert that
featured Brooklyn police officer, Daniel Rodriguez, as its “headliner.” In August the Riverwalk Series board
of directors voted to discontinue presenting the concert, whose success required more support than the
group could provide. The Riverwalk Series ended its run with a hugely popular event and money in the
bank, the proceeds being transferred to the Saint Paul’s Choir Fund which had provided the original capital
to form the 501-c-3 non-profit corporation.

The Celtic Service has enjoyed the contributions of a number of gifted Augusta musicians, with Carl Purdy,
Rob Foster, Celeste Ray, Eryn Eubanks, and Laura Tomlin providing appropriate instrumental music each
week, occasionally supplemented by vocalist Kathleen Chandler and Keith Shafer playing the piano.

It is an honor and privilege to be the Director of Music of this dynamic parish and I look forward to 2018.

-- Keith Shafer

VERGERS, EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS AND LECTORS

Saint Paul’s presently has 3 Vergers, 16 Eucharistic Ministers, and 21 Lectors who support our worship
services in a variety of ways.

Our lectors include both youth and adults. They read the lessons and the prayers of the people at our
Sunday services as well as other special services.

Our Eucharistic ministers serve the chalice at all services on Sundays, special services, and occasionally at
weddings or funerals. They also read lessons and prayers at some services.

Our vergers serve primarily at the 11:00 AM service and at any other services at the request of the Rector.
While the role of the verger is most visible leading the procession on Sunday morning, much of the verger’s
work is behind the scenes working with the clergy, altar guild, ushers, and music director to make sure all
is ready for each service.
In addition, some of our Eucharistic ministers serve as Eucharistic visitors, visiting the homebound who are unable to attend church and taking the Eucharist to them.

If you are interested in learning more about these ministries, contact Carolyn Dolen at carolyndolen@mac.com.

--Submitted by Carolyn Dolen

**YOUTH**

Youth Formation for grades 6-12 was taught by Todd Shafer and grew significantly within the last year from 6-7 regularly in attendance to 10-15. A fresh curriculum and hot breakfast eased our young people into regularly attending formation classes. The youth spent time discussing a variety of topics such as creation care and learning more about the Episcopal tradition.

EYC continued to grow steadily. The 6th-12th grade youth engaged in worship, discussion, games, and bonfires, and supported Saint Paul’s outreach efforts by volunteering during Iron Man. They also continued to engage with other area Episcopal churches during the monthly Cornerstone youth events. Older youth expressed a desire for regularly scheduled events for 10th-12th graders. Saint Paul’s youth continue to participate in youth events at the Diocesan Conference Center, Honey Creek, and bring their enthusiasm back to EYC!

In 2017, Saint Paul’s used a new Youth Confirmation curriculum called “Confirm Not Conform,” which provided a solid foundation for the 9 participants to explore their faith in new ways before their Confirmation in June.

--Submitted by Ranie Neislar

**YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY**

Saint Paul’s established a solid young adult ministry that meets once a month after the Celtic Service at 7 PM for discussion and fellowship. Ranie Neislar leads this group and hopes to see it evolve into fellowship, discussion, and new outreach opportunities.

--Submitted by Ranie Neislar

**2017 FINANCIAL REPORTS**

**2017 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN**

As this annual report goes to press, we are estimating 183 pledges for 2018 totaling over $690,000. These totals compare to 186 pledges for 2017, totaling $697,691.

Of the 172 pledges received so far for 2018, 81 reflected increases and 15 were new pledges*. (*Defined as pledges received for 2018 from people who did not pledge for 2017.)
**Endowment Committee**

The current Saint Paul’s Endowment was created in 1997 with the establishment of the Saint Paul’s Endowment Trust. It is qualified as a 501(c)(3) organization.

The purpose of the Endowment is to provide a flexible mechanism for the making of donations and bequests by parishioners of Saint Paul’s Church and others, whereby the corpus, or the principal value at the time of the donation, shall be inviolate. Any disbursements from these funds are derived from the income generated by the investment of the funds and therefore represent a permanent legacy on behalf of donors.

Endowment funds are professionally managed under an agreement with the Community Foundation for the Central Savannah River Area and administered by the Saint Paul’s Endowment Committee. Donations and bequests can be made to the Saint Paul’s Endowment Fund c/o Saint Paul’s Church.

A separate endowment fund has been established to support Saint Paul’s outreach and service ministries. The Mary Kathleen Blanchard Outreach Endowment Fund was created by the estate of our beloved “MK” Blanchard to further the outreach activities of Saint Paul’s Church. This fund is managed and administered as part of the Saint Paul’s Endowment, but distributions will be restricted to outreach and service ministries. Gifts and bequests may be made to the Mary Kathleen Blanchard Outreach Endowment Fund c/o Saint Paul’s Church.

--Submitted by Monty Osteen, Endowment Chair

**Endowment Fund Summary**

Endowment Income accounted for 8.5% of total income in 2017. In the 2018 budget, Endowment Income is projected to be 9.1% of total income, increasing in importance to our overall financial health. Growing our endowment funds will be an integral part of our stewardship efforts in the coming years. The current corpus in our endowment funds has come from planned giving bequests from parishioners, contributions related to past capital campaigns, and various gifts and contributions over the years.

Our Endowment Funds totaled $2.36 million at year end 2017, an 11% increase over the $2.13 million at year end 2016. Distributions were $84,000 in 2017. The increase in fund balances was the result of strong financial markets and gifts of $40,600 during the year. These gifts partially offset the distributions during the year allowing for additional growth in fund balances. Distributions approved for 2018 total $90,000, a 7.1% increase over 2017.

**Treasurer’s Report: 2017 Financial Results**

Total Income in 2017 increased 2.9% over 2016. Parish Offerings were up 3% and Property Rental was up 2.6%. Endowment Income remained the same over the prior year reflecting our traditional 4% payout rate. The spending rule that we use to determine distribution limits is based on a four-year moving average of portfolio returns.

Total Expenses were also up 2.9% in 2017 due to small increases in many categories and a 5% increase in Property Expenses. The increase of 13% in our diocesan assessment reflects a 10% assessment on adjusted gross income.

At December 31, 2017, total assets stood at $10.2 million. Total cash assets increased about 18% over 2016, principally due to capital campaign contributions, with a 21% decrease in our Operating Account and a 67% increase in Restricted Fund Balances, partially offset by a 12% increase in Endowment Funds. We also reduced the balance on our commercial loan by 17%, from $288,000 to $238,000.
### Income and Expense Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>12/31/2016</th>
<th>12/31/2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parish Offerings</td>
<td>$744,312</td>
<td>$768,212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property Rental</td>
<td>$133,186</td>
<td>$136,686</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowment</td>
<td>$82,500</td>
<td>$82,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>$82</td>
<td>$256</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td>$960,080</td>
<td>$987,654</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Clergy Expenses</td>
<td>$229,108</td>
<td>$229,668</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff Expenses</td>
<td>$294,675</td>
<td>$304,730</td>
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<tr>
<td>Admin. Expenses</td>
<td>$29,312</td>
<td>$32,927</td>
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<tr>
<td>Property Expenses</td>
<td>$209,802</td>
<td>$220,057</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debt Service</td>
<td>$60,300</td>
<td>$60,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diocese</td>
<td>$60,076</td>
<td>$67,863</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ministry Expenses</td>
<td>$76,716</td>
<td>$72,076</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>$959,989</td>
<td>$987,621</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net Income in Excess of Expenses</strong></td>
<td>$91</td>
<td>$33</td>
</tr>
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</table>

### Balance Sheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>12/31/2016</th>
<th>12/31/2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bank Acct - Operating Acct</td>
<td>$128,720</td>
<td>$101,169</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bank Accts- Restricted Funds</td>
<td>$371,891</td>
<td>$622,822</td>
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<tr>
<td>Restricted Investments - Endowment</td>
<td>$2,116,487</td>
<td>$2,361,099</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Cash Assets</strong></td>
<td>$2,617,098</td>
<td>$3,085,089</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buildings</td>
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<td>$9,143,661</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accumulated Depreciation</td>
<td>$(1,851,358)</td>
<td>$(2,026,106)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Fixed Assets</strong></td>
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<td>$7,117,555</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>$9,898,697</td>
<td>$10,202,644</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Liabilities &amp; Equity</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid Pledges</td>
<td>$89,733</td>
<td>$56,614</td>
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<tr>
<td>River Room Deposits</td>
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<td>$15,699</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deferred Inc. - River Room</td>
<td>$36,538</td>
<td>$24,613</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deferred Inc. - Other</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commercial Loan</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Equity</strong></td>
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<td>$9,852,237</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liab./Equ.</strong></td>
<td>$9,898,697</td>
<td>$10,202,644</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Treasurer’s Report: 2018 Budget vs. 2017 Actual**

The 2018 budget anticipates a 1.2% decrease in total income compared to our actual 2017 total, with 2.5% budgeted decrease in Parish Offerings and small decline in Property Rental Income.

Total expenses are budgeted to decrease by .1% in 2018 over 2017 as well. The decrease in Property expenses account for most of the decrease. Our diocesan assessment is scheduled to increase by 13% in 2018. This increase in the diocesan assessment reflected the increase in our adjusted income in 2017.

**Budgetary Comparisons: 2017 Actual and 2018 Budgeted**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>2017 Actual</th>
<th>2018 Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parish Offerings</td>
<td>$ 768,212</td>
<td>$ 749,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property Rental</td>
<td>$ 136,686</td>
<td>$ 137,700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowment</td>
<td>$ 82,500</td>
<td>$ 88,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Misc. Income</td>
<td>$ 252</td>
<td>$ 500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME</strong></td>
<td>$ 987,654</td>
<td>$ 975,700</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trans. to (from) reserve</td>
<td>$ 33</td>
<td>$ 65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET INCOME/EXPENSE</strong></td>
<td>$ 0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>2017 Actual</th>
<th>2018 Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clergy Expenses</td>
<td>$ 229,668</td>
<td>$ 228,354</td>
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<td>Staff Expenses</td>
<td>$ 304,730</td>
<td>$ 336,395</td>
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<td>Admin. Expenses</td>
<td>$ 32,927</td>
<td>$ 32,300</td>
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<tr>
<td>Property Expenses</td>
<td>$ 220,057</td>
<td>$ 175,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debt Service</td>
<td>$ 60,300</td>
<td>$ 60,300</td>
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<td>Diocese</td>
<td>$ 67,863</td>
<td>$ 77,936</td>
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<td>Ministry Expenses</td>
<td>$ 72,076</td>
<td>$ 65,350</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td>$ 987,621</td>
<td>$ 975,635</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Budgetary Comparisons: 2017 Actual and 2018 Budgeted**

### 2017 Actual Expenses

- **Ministry Expenses**: 7%
- **Clergy Expenses**: 25%
- **Staff Expenses**: 33%
- **Admin. Expenses**: 5%
- **Property Expenses**: 19%
- **Debt Service**: 6%
- **Diocese**: 6%

### 2018 Budgeted Expenses

- **Ministry Expenses**: 8%
- **Clergy Expenses**: 25%
- **Staff Expenses**: 31%
- **Admin. Expenses**: 5%
- **Property Expenses**: 18%
- **Debt Service**: 7%
- **Diocese**: 6%