

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
BENICIA, CALIFORNIA

2008 Annual Report



Annual Meeting for the Year 2008

February 1, 2009

STAFF

The Reverend Jeanne Forte	Rector
The Reverend Canon John L. Bogart, Th.D.	Associate Priest
The Reverend Linda L. Clader, Ph.D.	Associate Priest
The Reverend Shep Jenks	Deacon
Kathy Macek	Seminarian
Glenn Walp	Traditional Music Director
Mark Sackett	Contemporary Music Director
JoAnn Souza	Parish Administrator
Regina Crawford	Nursery Coordinator
Jacque Dennis-Jackson	Sexton

VESTRY

Current Vestry

Tom Mader, Senior Warden	Term expires January 2009
Caleigh Furlong, Junior Warden	Term expires January 2010
Sara Underwood, Clerk	Term expires January 2010
Annette Aalborg	Term expires January 2009
Susie Bonstin	Term expires January 2010
Angela Owston	Term expires January 2010
Jeff Jarvis	Term expires January 2010
Robin Silver	Term expires January 2009
Linda Tremain	Term expires January 2010

TABLE OF CONTENTS

St. Paul's Annual Meeting Agenda	4
Minutes from February 3, 2008 Annual Meeting	5
Rector's Annual Report	7
Nominees for Elected Positions	10
Senior Warden's Annual Report	12
Junior Warden's Annual Report	13
Treasurer's Report	14
Financial Summaries	17
St. Paul's Historic Trust	27
Peddler's Fair	27

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Christian Education (Adult Forum)	28
Confirmation (CnC)	28
Cursillo	28
Foyer Groups	28
Parish Commission for Ministry	29
Small Group	29
Stephen Ministries	29
Via Media	29

CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

Bridge Group	30
Brotherhood of St. Andrew	30
Community Meal	31
Fair Trade Coffee Project	31
Fifth Sunday Food Drive	32
Health Ministries	32
Kairos	32
Kids' Vacation Academy	32
Lay Eucharistic Visitors	33
Ruthie Ministry	33
Sierra Service Project	33
Website/Communications	34
Welcome Committee/Hospitality	34
Winter Weekend	35

WORSHIP COMMISSION

Acolytes	35
Altar Guild	36
Flower Guild	36
Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, and Intercessors	36
Morning Prayer	37
Music Ministries	37
Office Angels	38
Ushers	38
Vergers	39
Youth and Children's Services	39

ST. PAUL'S ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

Opening Prayer and Memorials

Approval of Minutes of the 2008 Annual Meeting (found on page 5)

Organization:

- Report of the Vestry Clerk regarding quorum
- Appointment of Tellers for the election
- Appointment of Clerk of the 2009 Annual Meeting

Report from the Nominating Committee:

- Nominations for 3-year term on Vestry: Lee Anne Bundesen, Anne Seed, John Wright

Nominations from the floor

Motion for nominations to cease

Cast ballots

- Nominations for Delegate to Diocesan Convention

Delegates continuing

- Caleigh Furlong (5th year)
- Sue Yurosko (4th year)
- Bob Hall (3rd year)
- Jackie French (2nd year)

Nominations for 1st year delegate

Nominations for alternate delegates

Motion for nominations to cease

Voice vote for approval

Financial Report

- 2008 Year-end Review
- 2009 Budget (ratified by Vestry 1/8/09)

Rector's Address

Election Results

Acknowledgements

Commissioning of new Vestry

Closing Prayer and Adjournment

House Rules for Good Order

Speakers please identify themselves

Speakers are limited to three minutes

Statements must address the motion or action on the floor

Please refrain from speaking on any issue a second time until others have had an opportunity to speak

Questions for clarification are always appropriate

The Vestry will have a brief meeting in the Undercroft immediately following the Annual Meeting.

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Annual Meeting Minutes
February 3, 2008**

The Rev. Jeanne Forte announced the annual meeting was open for business, followed by an opening prayer. She then provided a listing of baptisms, confirmations, deaths, and marriages within the parish.

Sara Underwood, as clerk of the vestry, declared that those present constituted a forum.

Sara Underwood was declared secretary for the annual meeting.

The annual meeting minutes from last year were approved as submitted.

Lee Anne Bundesen, Susie Bonstin, and Robin Silver were appointed as tellers.

The list of existing vestry members and the terms for each member were listed. Then Caleigh Furlong, Angela Owston, Linda Tremain, and John Wright were presented as nominees for three-year terms for the vestry. The meeting was opened up for nominations from the floor, but no additional nominations were made. Nominations were closed, the church members voted, and the votes were collected by the tellers.

Nominations were accepted for delegates to the Diocesan Convention. There were only three remaining delegates because one delegate, Kay Mortlock, passed away in 2007. Therefore, one delegate was required for a 1 year term, and one delegate was required for a full 5 year term. The nominations from the floor were Jackie French, Katie Scott, and Phyllis Manoogian. Nominations were closed, and a voice vote was taken. Katie Scott was acclaimed for the 1 year term, and Jackie French was acclaimed for the 5 year term. The alternate delegates chosen were Phyllis Manoogian, Steve Yurosko, Chris Arnold, Mike Baldwin, Lee Anne Bundesen, and Lisa Guerin.

Tom Mader presented the 2007 year-end-review and the financial report. He began by acknowledging the Rev. Jeanne Forte for bringing life into the church. The assets of the church in investment accounts, as of December 31, 2006 equal \$360,580. On December 31, 2007, they were \$382,103. The subsidiary accounts (designated offerings) equaled \$31,201 on December 31, 2006 and \$31,279 on December 31, 2007. Overall, the number of pledges in 2007 totaled 88 and dropped to 84 for 2008. The projected deficit for 2008 is approximately \$38,000. The chart below summarizes some other major details of St. Paul's finances:

CASH FLOW	2006	2007	2008 BUDGET
INCOME	288,804	288,684	260,502
EXPENSES	276,894	292,002	297,283
NET INCOME	11,910	-3,359	-36,781

A breakdown of the expense categories is as follows – 59% goes to personnel, 22% goes to the Diocese, 11% pays for facilities, and 8% pays for administrative costs. In order to resolve the deficit, Tom Mader suggested the following actions – ensuring church members fulfill their pledges, tapping into additional fundraising efforts, using assets in subsidiary accounts, possible using income from other investment accounts. Art Schipper will continue as the treasurer for 2008.

Last year's surplus was given out to several different groups of people for a "Pay it Forward" update. Each of the participants gave their updates:

Mike and Donna Baldwin gave their money to a Peace Jam Club at the Continuation High School; the Historic Trust also chipped in, and at least 1,000 kids were affected.

Lee Anne Bundesen gave her portion to Mission Solano to provide over 1,100 meals. Caleigh Furlong, representing the CnC, ended up with \$1500.00 after two additional donations. They used it to support a micro-loan program to start small businesses and also some for start-up funds for St. John's in Petaluma.

Gayl Gallagher bought a sewing machine for someone in a developing country, providing them with an occupation.

Barbara and Jim Jewell gave micro-loans to squatter settlements in Honduras. They received additional funds from the Rotary Club.

The Middle School Youth Program received some matching funds which together funded a couple projects: Build-A-Bears for children at the Oakland Hospital and blankets for foster children.

The Vestry election results were announced. Caleigh Furlong, Angela Owston, and Robin Silver were elected for 3 year terms each.

Acknowledgements were given for retiring vestry members: Lee Anne Bundesen and Walt Vater.

The Rev. Jeanne Forte gave a rector's address. She thanked the parish for the work that has been accomplished over the last year. She thanked the clergy and the lay ministry and encouraged church members to volunteer. She praised the parish involvement in youth ministries and music ministries. Lastly, she thanked the Vestry, especially Tom Mader, who will be the Senior Warden in 2008 as well.

The Vestry members were commissioned, and an announcement was made that a Vestry meeting would follow the annual meeting.

The meeting was closed with the doxology, and the Rev. Shep Jenks dismissed the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Sara Underwood,
Clerk of the Vestry

RECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

A reading of the reports of various ministries of St. Paul's collected in the following pages testifies to the faithful and dedicated work of this wonderful community throughout the year 2008. Along with the reports submitted for your approval is my own attempt to set down my thanks for the blessings of my parish family and a few of my own thoughts on the year just passed.

There are a vast number of people who serve quietly, go about their lives and fill the needs of St. Paul's without recognition or fanfare, those who work "out of the cameras' eye." I would like to mention as many as I can (knowing that I will not be able to include all). Thanks go to those who are engaged in the daily workings of St. Paul's. I am grateful for the daily covering of prayers of the small but faithful Morning Prayer group. Our Vergers are silent sentinels, keeping our buildings safe at night. (I am especially thankful to the Verger who, on Sunday morning, greets me with a cup of fresh coffee as I arrive and leaves, without a word. He is a blessing to me!) There are elves that continually prowl the buildings and grounds of St. Paul's replacing bulbs, fixing old doors and generally tending to this beautiful, but often creaky old building. Thanks go to Ski, Fred, Steve, Walt, Mike, Ed, Tom and especially to our Jr. Warden Caleigh Furlong. The Office Angels are another quiet, faithful group who gather each week to assist our Administrator. JoAnn Souza is a Godsend. Without her quiet, calm presence I fear the wheels of this bus would fall off rather quickly. JoAnn is attentive to all who enter St. Paul's offices during the week. She is forgiving of my tardiness, forgetfulness, and many other foibles. Thanks, JoAnn also for the companionship and the great listening ear and your compassion with which you manage each situation. You are the spirit-filled first contact to many who come to St. Paul's.

I remain eternally grateful to those involved in worship leadership (both behind the scenes and center stage): Glenn Walp and the choir members, Mark Sackett and the contemporary music team (which, because of the continued growth, threatens to sink the east transept of the church!) LEMs, Lectors and Intercessors all provide wonderful grace-notes to the worship of our family. Thanks also to Bruce Hall and the Healing Prayer ministry for Healing Prayers during the service. The collegial support of The Rev. Canon John Bogart and The Rev. Dr. Linda Clader have provided both a respite for me and presence at the altar. What a blessing of resources as Linda celebrates her 20th anniversary of ordained ministry and John begins his 54th year. We have also welcomed the Rev. Dr. Arthur Holder as another clergy colleague and will be enjoying his presence at the altar as his busy schedule permits. The Rev. Shepherd Jenks and Nancy have quietly served St. Paul's with deacon's hearts, teaching and tending the sick and dying whenever their feet find dry land.

Our Youth Ministry development continues to struggle. Thanks are due to Walt and Virginia Vater as they give of their energy and time to support this ministry and offer Jesus' love to our young people. Thanks to our Sunday School teachers and especially Lisa Powell and our new Coordinator, Chris Mader. Kids' Vacation Academy was a tremendous success last year, as was our St. Nicholas Day (parent's day off). Young and old alike are anxiously waiting for ~~7~~ ~~ook~~ June 15-20 this year. Our CnC confirmation classes are in full swing. Please save the date for confirmation ... May 31st. I remain thankful to all the people who have made this a success.


Last year's Vestry was a blessing to me and to all of St. Paul's. Robin Silver, Annette Aalborg, Tom Mader and Steve Ray, thanks as you step back from leadership duties. The year 2008 would not have been as wonderful as it was without the support and guidance of my Senior Warden Tom Mader. Tom's support, diligence and good humor sustained me through many choppy seas. Our communication improvements are due largely to his efforts. I am especially grateful for his help in navigating the stormy seas of Homeland Security through my "green card" night terrors.

As a student of American history (no longer observer but participant at least until 2018!) I have been engrossed in the political landscape of the last few weeks. As this Annual Report goes to press, our nation's capital is tricked up in miles of bunting, bands and orchestras are rehearsing final bars, fashion gurus and a virtual army of security units work furiously to welcome a new president into the White House. President Barak Obama, a youngster, and an icon of change and new beginnings, assumes the responsibility of leading, not only the United States, but in so many ways the hopes of the world. This "youngster" deserves all our prayers as he steps onto the world stage. He never wavers from his message of action, and calling for the participation of every individual as we move through this crucial time. His words are universal, but the message bears the marks of Jesus' commission to the world. As the Obama Express made its way to the nation's capital, he spoke to over-capacity crowds at a stop in Baltimore. His speech there, in truth a sermon for our times, included these words:

"We are here today not simply to pay tribute to those patriots who founded our nation in Philadelphia or defended it in Baltimore, but to take up the cause for which they gave so much. The trials we face are very different now, but severe in their own right. Only a handful of times in our history has a generation been confronted with challenges so vast...And yet, while our problems may be new, what is required to overcome them is not. What is required is the same perseverance and idealism that those first patriots displayed. What is required is a new declaration of independence, not just in our nation, but in our own lives - from ideology and small thinking, prejudice and bigotry - an appeal not to our easy instincts but to our better angels."

President Obama -- great words, great truths, words and actions that must be carried forward, not only on the world stage, not only in our nation, state, city and village, but also in our faith community and especially in our personal lives. Please join with me in living and representing the love of Christ in 2009.

Blessings,



Jeanne+



January 15, 2009: Veteran pilot Sully Sullenberger glides US Air 1549 into the Hudson River minutes after take-off, both engines in flames. Who could forget the images of the “leviathan”? Nor will we soon forget the magnitude of the miracle, or the sight of all 155 souls apparently walking on water (or on the wings of the craft as they gently submerge), waiting for rescue. When the volumes of analyses are synthesized and commuted to historical data, what will be remembered? I know that I shall think about the training and the expertise of leadership that kept current with their skills and calmly lead people throughout the crisis. I will remember the trust and the implementation of delegated tasks, and the calm following of instructions. I will forever be awed by initiative of those witnesses and quick-thinking, service-minded people simply galvanized to meet a dire need. In this Epiphany season, I am reminded of another cast and crew on a journey, guided by astrological sciences, failing to arrive at their intended destination, navigating dangerous political shoals, yet gaining life-altering knowledge and participating in cataclysmic human events. This is something to ponder as we look back on our own journey, on both grace-filled moments and unintended defeats of the last year.

NOMINEES FOR ELECTED POSITIONS

Nominees for Vestry

Three-Year Terms:

Lee Anne Bundesen

"Wherever you find yourself on your journey of faith, there is a place here for you."

My journey of faith has brought me to St. Paul's where I have found a spiritual home. Getting to this place meant passing through and learning from the paternalism of the Catholic church as well as my own youthful arrogance and self-focused viewpoint. My search led me to try several different Protestant churches periodically over the years until I finally took Sue Yurosko's advice, "You should try MY church". Once I had received communion at St. Paul's, I knew that I was in the right place.... I had been accepted into the body of Christ and the walls of the Church were still standing! "Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place" is more than a song lyric for me. It is the truth for me at St. Paul's.

I credit Sue Yurosko for leading me to this Church and back to God's grace. On the occasions when Sue as a Lay Eucharistic Minister hands me the eucharist, my gratitude comes full circle. My husband, David, is my partner in this journey of faith and inspires me with his gift of song and his ability to touch so many people with this gift. My daughter, Missa Stotler, and her family give me five wonderful reasons to pray and work hard to make sure that "there is a place here" for them. Our life is enriched by this faith community in this historic church. One of my resolutions upon retiring was to be more active in and around St. Paul's.

My work history includes designing, specifying construction and distribution of custom forms primarily in Bay Area hospitals, including Contra Costa County Health Services and the hospitals, clinics and labs in John Muir Health System. In 2001, I was named Member of the Year by Document Management Industries Assn., an international association in the printing and forms industry. Following many years in printing, I sold advertising for the Contra Costa Times, Alameda News Group and Media News Group. This professional experience involved working collaboratively with various individuals and groups to achieve a result that filled their needs at an acceptable cost. I have served on Vestry in the past and asked to be included as one of this year's candidates because I will be able to devote more energy, effort and enthusiasm toward the work of the Church now that I am retired.

Anne Elizabeth Seed

Baptized, June 1, 1958, St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Diocese of San Joaquin, Coalinga, CA

Confirmed, January 17, 1971, St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Diocese of San Joaquin, Coalinga, CA

Reaffirmation of Baptismal Covenant, June 23, 1996, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Diocese of Northern California, Benicia, CA

Education: BA, MA, University of the Pacific, Stockton, CA

Profession: Director of Admission, Samuel Merritt University, Oakland, CA

Past St. Paul's ministries: Usher, Lector, Wednesday morning Bible study, Small Group facilitator, Stewardship chairperson, Altar Guild, Flower Guild, Small Group member, Discovery Weekend

Continued on the next page

Statement:

It is funny, I came to St. Paul's immediately upon moving to Benicia in December 1995. I had just bought my first home and knew no one here. I was looking for a community, you know, just a few folks to call friends. I really had no intention of sticking around, of church becoming a habit or least of all, giving my heart to Jesus. As always, my goals were small, the Holy Spirit's goals were huge. Two words can sum that up: Amazing Grace!

I am honored to have my name put forth to serve God and the people of St. Paul's as a vestry person. I am passionate about contemporary worship and contemporary music in the worship service. I am equally committed to there being a choice of worship styles available to meet a variety of worship preferences. We all do not have to worship our Lord Jesus Christ using the same words or the same music, but we all must honor and respect each other. I believe in an open, inclusive communion table where all are welcome to share in the communion feast. And always, I hope you will help me remember and I will help you remember that we must keep the main thing the main thing: Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The minor quirk, some might call it major, in my character is that I'm an avid Green Bay Packers fan. I've made the pilgrimage to Green Bay. I stop short of wearing my cheese head to services on Sundays during football season, but I do have one! I also excel at paper products (tablecloths, napkins, etc.).

John Wright Jr. M.D.

I was born in New York City and I completed high school in St. Louis, Missouri. In Missouri, I was confirmed at Emanuel Episcopal Church where I served as an acolyte. I attended and completed my M.D. at Vanderbilt University and later finished postgraduate training in neurosurgery at UCSF. I served our nation for 25 years in the Air Force as a Neurological Surgeon and Flight Surgeon. Retiring from the Air Force as a Colonel, I was in private practice with Woodland Clinic in Northern California for 16 years until retiring to the Benicia area. During this time I married, raised my son and was active flying and sailing. My professional career as well as my family and hobbies were challenging and rewarding. In retirement I have time for family, friends, travel, sailing, and, most importantly, participation in the community of St. Paul's celebrating Christ's presence.

Now I have a call to service of a different type and am honored to be considered for the vestry of St. Paul's. In serving in the vestry, I continue a family tradition of service to the Episcopal Church. Both my parents served on the vestry of their church in Virginia and my father was senior warden. My sister is presently on the vestry of her church in Pennsylvania as well as serving as verger.

I bring to this service, if selected, a background of wide professional and personal experience and a reputation for quiet deliberation and fairness. I am new to St. Paul's but I respect tradition. I am, by nature, a person of reason but not without passion and some degree of adventure. I would devote myself to benefit of the church and congregation.

Delegates for Diocesan Convention 2008: Ongoing

- Caleigh Furlong— 5th year
- Sue Yurosko—4th year
- Bob Hall—3rd year
- Jackie French—2nd year

OFFICER'S REPORTS

Senior Warden's Report

Submitted by Tom Mader

St. Paul's, like a gem, continues to bring the sparkle of God's love to the faithful. Our Church offers a wide range of traditional and contemporary worship services to satisfy the spiritual needs of a small but diverse congregation, and a new family-centered Sabbath Celebration offers us even more ways to give thanks and praise. As members of St. Paul's Church we feel fulfilled by the giving of our time, talent and treasure to doing the Lord's work, and beyond our Sanctuary the Community Meal and Kids' Vacation Academy touch the lives of many in Benicia.

As discussed in my last annual report, the Parish began 2008 facing significant challenges. Financial commitments had decreased by 13-percent when compared to the previous year, leaving us with a projected year-end deficit of more than \$36,000. Despite hard economic times, St. Paul's Church has managed to sustain its operating tempo, with 97-percent of the pledged financial support, some special fundraising efforts and limited withdrawals from our reserve accounts. The collapse of the world economy also affected our assets in 2008, and our investments have been depleted by more than 18-percent, leaving a balance of approximately \$305,000 in reserve accounts.

As we look ahead to 2009, the financial situation for many parishioners and the Church remains dire. Although the Stewardship Campaign yielded a 10-percent increase in pledged income when compared to last year, we are still projecting a significant year-end deficit. In approving the 2009 Budget the Vestry found it necessary to curtail the operating hours of the Parish Office and thereby reduce personnel expenses. Once again, special fundraising efforts will be required to address the remaining deficit of more than \$11,000.

In the 2007 annual report I also mentioned that many appeals for volunteers to carry-on the work of Church operations and Parish ministries were going unanswered. Unfortunately, this is still the case, and there is no ministry in greater need than our youth ministry. There is a need for young adults, parents and grandparents to get involved in Sunday School and other youth activities. Whether or not you have children, please consider giving of your time and talent to the children of our Parish. Remember the campaign slogan? "It takes a village to raise a child."

As I relinquish the duties and responsibilities of Senior Warden, I wish to express my sincere appreciation for the support and confidence of Rev. Jeanne, the Vestry and other members of the Parish with whom I have had the pleasure working.

Godspeed

Junior Warden's Report

Submitted by Caleigh Furlong

A lot has been done to the church this year and there are many volunteers to thank for their continual contributions. Special thanks go to Steve Rodekohr for his continuous work as liaison between Larry Heltsley, our contractor, and the Junior Warden, Fred Railsback, Mike Baldwin, Bill Smiglewski, Kim Rodekohr, Debi Hall, JoAnn Souza, Steve Yurosko and Larry Heltsley and his team. Larry and his team continue to provide excellent work and service, advice, help, referrals and humor.

This year while replacing the siding on the west side of the church, a surprising discovery was made. Two windows were found on the west altar wall. It appears that they were built and after they were installed it was determined they would not work with the buttress positions. So the windows, glass and all, were simply covered up with panels on the inside and siding on the outside. According to Fr. John Bogart, Diocese of Northern California's Historian, there was no record of the windows being covered in the in St. Paul's historical documents. It was decided due to cost and the initial situation with the buttresses that the windows would remain as part of the structure but once again covered up by the new siding.

The continued repairs and restoration of the church are the financial responsibility of the Historic Trust, so a special thanks goes to the Peddler's Fair Chairs and Historic Trust Board Members.

Work this year has included the following:

Church

- Siding of the entire church has been finished. This work has included removal of siding boards and square nails, adding insulation, shearing and paint. Several new electrical outlets were also added to various parts of the church including the altar area.
- While removing siding from the west side, two windows were discovered. It was decided to leave them as they were and replace the siding over them. All glass was kept in place.
- Lighting has been added to illuminate the windows in the sacristy and behind the altar during evening and special services.

A new air conditioning/heating unit was installed and is working very well. New insulation and siding is helping the unit work more efficiently.

Contracts

- We continue to contract with Larry Heltsley for the continued work on the church.
- We currently contract with a cleaning service for the church and Parish Hall.

We currently contract with a pest control company for bugs, ants and wasps. This has greatly helped in keeping out ants from the kitchen and Parish Hall and wasps from the rectory.

Kitchen/Parish Hall

- The evaporative cooling system in the kitchen is in need of repair or replacement. This will be looked into in more depth in 2009.
- Debi Hall has begun the process of gaining funds to have the kitchen remodeled. Our Community Meal is growing and with the growth comes the need for more of a commercial kitchen. More to come in 2009.
- The handicapped bathrooms had a complete make over from a local Boy Scout who wanted the project for his Eagle Scout badge. He organized and supervised four other Scouts in replacing damaged dry wall, repainting the entire bathroom and putting new flooring down. Bill Smiglewski has volunteered to repaint the other Parish Hall bathroom.

Outdoors

- The patio tiles made by the children of St. Paul's were added to the planters.
- The memorial garden has had several plants added in the name of parishioners that passed away this year.
- The front lawn and labyrinth both proved to be useful in a variety of ways this year providing great spaces for the KVA, Party of Parties and the Stewardship Party. The backyard was also used for several outdoor services and the annual picnic.
- The shed was cleaned out and organized.

2009 Plans

The church siding project should be finished within the first couple of months for the new year. The evaporative cooler in the kitchen will either be repaired or replaced with a new unit. The tiles that were removed from the altar space due to replacing the siding on the west side will be replaced. Continued repairs to be done as needed.

Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Art Schipper

Income: In 2008, we received a total of \$264,219 through the Offering. In addition, we supplemented Offering income with \$33,220 from Party of Parties, Reserves, and transfers from Subordinate accounts. Thus, total funds available for operations were \$297,511.

Total pledged income was \$229,690 (\$6,012 below budget). Givers of Record contributed another \$18,485 (\$8,485 above budget). Plate income was \$5,455 (\$545 below budget). Rent of our facilities contributed an additional \$7,400 (\$400 above budget). Scrip, Miscellaneous, and Unclassified sources totaled \$3,374, while returned checks (NSF) and stop payments reduced total income by \$113. In addition, as mentioned above, offering income was supplemented with \$33,220 from Reserves and other sources, for total income of \$297,511.

During 2008, we initiated the ability to make offering contributions by credit card. Total pledge income contributed by credit card was \$2,650. Payments for Merchant Services totaled \$407, so net income from credit card contributions was \$2,243. Part of the \$407 was startup costs, but it did not include any of the website reprogramming necessary.

Expenses: In 2008, total expenses were \$299,796 (\$2,513 above budget). Personnel costs were \$179,746 (\$573 above budget), Office Support was \$17,662 (\$1,362 above budget), Worship and Music was \$4,343 (\$1,093 above budget), Discipleship was \$5,069 (\$3,169 above budget), Caring Ministries was \$1,095 (\$155 below budget), Christian Witness was \$59,098 (\$412 below budget), Home Improvements was \$30,407 (\$2,793 below budget), and Vestry was \$2,376 (\$324 below budget).

Net Income: For 2008, net income before the transfers mentioned above was \$-35,504 compared to a budgeted \$-36,781. With the transfer of funds, we have a 2008 deficit of \$-2,285. One thing to keep in mind is that we have not yet paid apportionment on the \$33,220. The \$7,307 apportionment on these funds will be part of the December apportionment, which is due January 12, and which will show up in 2009 records.

Dealing with Deficit: As mentioned on the previous page, \$33,220 was moved from various subordinate accounts into miscellaneous income to cover a substantial part of the 2008 deficit. The source of these funds is shown in the table below.

12/24/2008	From Deficit Reduction	14,978.45
12/24/2008	From Contemporary Music	3,800.00
12/24/2008	From Traditional Music	1,282.12
12/24/2008	From Wedding Fee	900.00
12/24/2008	From Reserves	11,659.00
12/24/2008	From Altar Niche	600.00
		33,219.57

Deficit Reduction funds are from the Party of Parties (\$5,061) and various other subordinate account funds that were combined earlier in 2008. Contemporary Music funds were used to cover part of the wages of contemporary service musicians, while Traditional music funds were used to cover part of the wages of traditional service musicians. Wedding Fee are funds donated to St. Paul's for weddings. Reserves are funds from the RE Alexander Memorial fund and from the Vanguard mutual fund. Altar Niche funds are collected for niche space in the Altar.

Reserves: During 2008, we made withdrawals from Reserves to fund activities such as Kids' Vacation Academy, Stephen Ministry training, Rectory remodeling, assisting the Historic Trust to complete the siding project, and partial coverage of the deficit. In addition, economic conditions that affected investments in general also affected our Reserves, and in some months interest earned was offset by decline in portfolio value. Because most of our Reserves are invested in the Episcopal Foundation of Northern California (EFONC), the decline in portfolio value may have been less than it would have been invested in the stock market. EFONC funds are invested in a mix of church mortgages, corporate bonds, and stock mutual funds. At the end of 2007, we had \$376,649 in reserves, and at the end of 2008, we had \$305,210. We have not yet received the information about account balances for December 2008. When that information becomes available I will give it to the Senior Warden for reporting at the annual meeting.

Outreach: St. Paul's budgets a small amount for outreach each year, but generally has a large amount spent on outreach, and 2008 was no exception. The table below shows outreach in 2008.

Arts Festival	240.00
Brotherhood of St. Andrew	1,689.00
CDSP	2,600.00
Community Meals	4,586.15
Deacon's Discretion	781.00
Kids Vacation Academy	6,360.81
Music Workshop	2,077.98
Rector's Discretionary Fund	3,930.97
Sierra Service Project	12,166.23
Stephen Ministry	3,825.96
Website Development	5,247.81
Winter Weekend	2,585.29
Youth Outreach	379.34
Total Outreach	46,471.54

These outreach funds come from a variety of sources. For example, Sierra Service Project funds are entirely from earmarked donations, with some of it raised by the campers in a variety of projects including SSP fundraisers, contributions from the Brotherhood, and from individuals. Community Meals funds come entirely through earmarked donations. Brotherhood funds come almost entirely through the fundraisers that the Brotherhood has from time to time. Winter Weekend funds are entirely from those taking part in the activity. Rector's Discretionary funds are a mix of budgeted funds and earmarked donations. Kids' Vacation Academy is supported by tuition from the children and the DeWeese Legacy fund. A mix of budgeted funds, earmarked donations, and Reserves funds support most of the remainder of the outreach activity.

ST. PAUL'S FINANCIAL SUMMARIES

2009 Annual Budget	p. 16-18
Vestry Summary	p. 19
St. Paul's Episcopal Church 2009 Assets and Liabilities	p. 20-21
St. Paul's Episcopal Church 2009 Income & Expenses	p. 22-24

St. Paul's Episcopal Church 2009 Budget

St. Paul's Episcopal Church 2009 Budget

St. Paul's Episcopal Church 2009 Budget

Vestry Summary

Assets and Liabilities

Assets and Liabilities

Income and Expenses

Income and Expenses

Income and Expenses

St. Paul's Historic Trust

Submitted by Fred Railsback

Last year was another busy, successful year for the Trust. Several projects were funded, the largest costing well over \$100,000. For the first time, the Trust needed financial help from the parish, and the parish came through big time. We are all indebted. Together we continue to keep our historic buildings in good repair.

As a refresher, the Trust is comprised of seven members: Bill Markley, Tom Aldinger, Fred Railsback, community representative Manual Lopes, Rev. Jeanne Forte, Senior Warden Tom Mader, and Peddler's Fair Chair Mike Baldwin. The charter of the trust is to raise funds (Peddler's Fair), accept donations and bequests (remember the Trust in your estate planning), monitor and invest the funds, and make sure that all proceeds are spent on the maintenance, care, and any needed restoration of the three registered historic buildings. The only funds spent other than for the buildings are the 10% of the Peddler's Fair net proceeds that go back into the community as donations to local non-profits. This year's recipients were the Benicia Community Action Council, Reach Out Benicia, and the St. Paul's Community Meal (kitchen remodel). The Trust meets quarterly and all meetings are open to the parish.

Peddler's Fair

Submitted by Jeff Jarvis

The 45th Annual Benicia Peddler's Fair was held on Saturday, August 10. The weather was perfect—although a little chilly in the early morning set up hours it ended up sunny and in the low 80's. This year we had close to 300 vendors selling antiques, collectibles, high quality crafts, vintage and unique jewelry and fantastic food! We ventured into a new area this year and arranged for portable ATM machines. We arranged 3 ATM's strategically throughout the fair and it was reported that over \$16,000 was withdrawn. Police estimates indicated that the fair brought approximately 25,000 visitors to Benicia for the one-day event. We also had a dozen or so large format posters donated by Business Pointe Impressions in Concord that were placed in strategic locations around town. It is believed that this awareness prompted more community participation. We also relaxed the pet rules to allow pets on the sidewalk which did not impact our approval from the Health department.

This year's Fair was chaired by Jeff Jarvis with Mike Baldwin and Caleigh Furlong serving as 1st and 2nd Chair, respectively. Traffic was controlled by numerous volunteers and again directed by Tom Aldinger, Art Schipper and Bob Hall. Sue Kinder did a great job organizing the shuttle runs and Phyllis Manoogian made sure that all of the volunteers were fed throughout the day. Parishioners and volunteers including members of the Benicia Kiwanis Club, were instrumental in the success of the fair by doing everything from distributing posters, stuffing envelopes, answering the phones, organizing supplies, directing traffic and vendors upon check-in and departure, crowd control, pet patrol and checking to make sure new vendors were selling quality wares.

It's a pleasure to say that the Fair was a great success. Our largest expenses again this year were the Porta-Potties and insurance (both were around \$3000). Our net profit this year was approximately \$29,000, 10% of which was donated to several community organizations.

It is worth noting that the Historic Trust voted in the early 90's to donate 10% of the proceeds to community organizations. To date, over \$45,000 has been given back to the community with over \$25,000 going to the Community Action Council.

The committee for the 2009 Peddler's Fair will be Mike Baldwin, Chair; Katie Scott, 2nd Chair; Jeff Jarvis, 3rd Chair/Advisor.

COMMISSIONS

Christian Formation

Christian Education (Adult Forum and Kerygma)

No report submitted. For information, contact Judy Furlong.

Confirmation (CnC: Confirm not Conform)

Submitted by The Rev. Jeanne Forte

CnC is in its second year at St. Paul's. This time another aspect of the program, the Adult program, is being run concurrently with the youth CnC. CnC focuses on helping our youth ask the hard questions about spirituality and then search for their answers. There's creative classroom work, field trips, mentor relationships, and discussions. This program allows students to take real responsibility for understanding their faith and its power. The students created their own creed which will be used during Lent. They have finished a unit investigating other faiths and religions. The Spring semester will find them delving into the Book of Common Prayer, the sacraments and disciplines and learning the history of the Anglican church. CnCers will also learn about Stewardship, or about passing on their faith into the world.

It has been a wonderful year. Eight participants have truly grown spiritually and are carefully questioning and evaluating their faith, exactly what the program asks them to do. We look forward to the culmination of these experiences concluding with their confirmation in the Spring. Please save the date May 31st, Pentecost Sunday at 10 a.m.

Cursillo

No report submitted. For more information, contact Steve or Sue Yurosko.

Foyer Groups

Submitted by Debi Hall

Foyer is a social activity where small groups of people meet outside of church to share a meal or an activity. Foyer is a great way to meet new people. If you are interested in re-viving Foyer Groups at St. Paul's, please contact Debi Hall.

Parish Commission for Ministry

Respectfully submitted by Judy Furlong, PCOM Chair

The Rev. Canon John Bogart, Bonnie Kistner, Fred Railsback, Robin Silver,

The work of the Parish Commission for Ministry (PCOM) is one of the most important responsibilities that a parishioner can have. The duties of the PCOM are to facilitate the ministries of parishioners, both ordained and lay. In the ordained ministry category, the PCOM met with parishioners Bruce Hall, Chris Arnold and Steve Yurosko in order to interview them for suitability to become ordained ministers. All three men then attended the Diocesan Discernment Weekend, which is a meeting with members of the Diocesan Standing Committee and Commission for Ministry.

The PCOM is also responsible for serving as a liaison between the parish and the rector and vestry for seminarians assigned to St. Paul's for Field Education. During the past year, we worked with Chris Arnold—who has since received his Masters of Divinity from CDSP, and who is working on a second graduate degree in Liturgics. We are pleased to have Kathy Macek as our 2008-2009 seminarian and we meet with her regularly.

Part of the PCOM's job is to also keep track of licensed lay ministries in the parish. These include Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Eucharistic Visitors and Lay Preachers.

Stephen Ministries

Submitted by Beth Gaines

Stephen Ministries at St. Paul's was initiated in 2008 with the attendance of Beth Gaines at the Stephen Leaders Training Conference in Pittsburg, PA, in August. This was a 7-day conference covering the material in the Stephen Series. This material is designed to be used by the Stephen leader to train volunteers to become Stephen Ministers and provide distinctively Christian caregiving to persons going through a difficult time. Publicity and recruitment took place from September to December. Volunteer training began in January 2009.

Small Groups

No report submitted.

Via Media

No report submitted.

Christian Outreach

Bridge Group

No report submitted For information, contact Tom Aldinger.

Brotherhood of St. Andrew

Submitted by Andrew Urban

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew is an organization within the Episcopal Church for men and is dedicated to the spread of Christ's Kingdom among men and youth through prayer, study and service. The Brotherhood chapter here at St. Paul's is an active group that meets in the Parish Hall for breakfast and a program every second Saturday of a.m. All men are welcome to attend any of the meetings.

In addition to our regular meetings during 2008, the Brotherhood organized the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, cooked at the Annual Parish Picnic, provided a good deal of logistics manpower support to the Peddler's Fair and held a very successful and tasty Chili dinner that was also open to the community in conjunction with the annual Christmas tree lighting and open house on First Street in early December. The funds raised go to support local community outreach programs.

The Brotherhood's programs in 2008 were a little different from prior years. In October 2007, Emmett McDowell had presented a program on men and how we can enhance our relationship with each other. Based on this the Brotherhood voted to ask Emmett to run monthly programs in which those brothers present would share some of their personal experiences in small groups with others. Many felt that these programs during 2008 were very successful in allowing us to realize how the sharing of very small, often apparently insignificant experiences can help bring us closer. Subsequently a separate small group program will meet in 2009 for those interested to explore these experiences and relationships.

For 2009 the Brotherhood voted to return to a combination of regular programming and special Bible Study based experience sharing as led by Emmett McDowell. Regular programs in 2009 are scheduled to include:

- In March, Steve Yurosko and others will provide an insight into the Kairos Program.
- In May, Steve Rodekohr will talk about his involvement in the Sierra Service Project (SSP) and other youth programs, such as the 30-Hour Famine.
- In June and September, Bob Craft and Steve Yurosko, respectively, will lead Bible Study sessions.
- In July, Tom Aldinger will regale the Brotherhood with tall stories and great photos of one of his recent adventures around the world

- Brotherhood Corporate Communion in December

Other Parish support and fundraising activities such as arranging the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on February 24, organizing and cooking for the Parish Picnic in June, providing Peddler's Fair logistical support in August, and managing a Chili Feed fundraiser in December.

Come join us. Let Patrick Prosser know of your interest so you can be added to the e-mail list for meeting notices and minutes. The officers of the St. Paul's Chapter for 2009 are: Andrew Urban - Chairman; Bob McIntosh - Vice Chairman; Art Schipper - Treasurer; Patrick Prosser - very capable Secretary; Emmett McDowell - Program Chairman Emeritus. We'll have some fun.

Community Meal

Submitted by Debi Hall

St. Paul's continues to prepare and serve a hot meal to anyone who walks through our doors on Wednesdays. In the last year we have seen our serving numbers shoot up substantially. We now serve 125-160 on a regular basis every Wednesday. This past year we have seen more people volunteer to help with the program, and two churches, Northgate Christian Fellowship and Heritage Presbyterian, have volunteered to cook one Wednesday a month. This has been a great blessing and help to our volunteers and head cook Maggie Smith. The Rotary Club continues to cook every fifth Wednesday, led by Donna Baldwin, and besides our own wonderful helpers, volunteers came from the high school, St. Dominic's grade school, and many others within our community.

The Community Meal has become a great place for young people to gain community service hours and to learn about the need in our community. In November we had a local Boy Scout, Michael Gallardo, re-model the ADA bathroom in the Parish Hall as his Eagle Scout project. He raised the money and completed the job with the help of his family, other Boy Scouts, Wayne Bottini, and our own Larry Heltsley and Ski Smiglewski.

This past year we launched a drive to raise funds to re-model the kitchen. To date, the Diocese has donated \$1,000, the Vestry voted to donate \$10,000 from the Barbara Sandoval Memorial Fund, the St. Paul's Trust voted to donate \$500 on top of the \$1500 it has been holding for us for some time, and we have raised nearly \$6000 by selling re-usable bags, having a rummage sale, and soliciting funds from the community through a fundraising letter. We need to raise another \$ 8,000-\$10,000 before we can start even the smallest project outlined for the kitchen, but we hope to start this project in 2009.

This has been an incredible year of growth for the Community Meal. So many more people know about our program now, more and more people are volunteering, and the need continues. Please keep The Community Meal in your prayers as we strive to improve the program, raise the funds necessary to complete the kitchen project and continue to serve those in need in our community.

Fair Trade Coffee Project

Submitted by Mary Lou Bogart

We are into our third year selling Fair Trade Coffee products. We partner with Heritage Presbyterian Church in Benicia. This is an outreach program to help poor Central and South American coffee and cocoa farmers develop co-ops, and receive a fair price for their crops. The Equal Exchange Project acts as middle men at a minimal operating cost.

Our parishioners are able to purchase coffee, tea, cocoa and chocolates of a high quality at a very advantageous price. Although the money goes through our books, we have not tapped into church funds. The amount collected this past year was \$1,904.12. We are starting the new year with \$522.77 in the account.

We try to sell once, sometimes twice, a month at Sunday coffee hours. Mary Lou Bogart, Robin Silver and JoAnne Craig are chairpersons, and will be glad to answer any questions.

Fifth Sunday Food Drive

For many years, the worship community at St. Paul's has taken the opportunity to collect non-perishable food items for the Benicia Community Action Council. Food is collected on months of the year with fifth Sundays. On average, St. Paul's contributes 300 pounds of food from each of the food drives. This year's Fifth Sunday Food Drives will be in March, May, August, and November. Look for brown grocery bags at the back of the church on the fourth Sundays of those months. If you have any questions, call Edna Aldinger, the new coordinator of this ministry.

Health Ministries

No report submitted. For more information, contact Annette Aalborg.

Kairos

No report submitted. For more information, contact Steve Yurosko.

Kids' Vacation Academy (KVA)

Submitted by The Rev. Jeanne Forte

Kids Vacation Academy (KVA) in 2008 was a wonderful experience for young and old alike. 64 children between the ages of 3 to 12, and 18 youth counselors and untold numbers of leaders, cooks, teachers, craft experts, magic and wizarding scholars joined to make our week in Hogwarts a great success. Harry, Hermione and Ron were there, as was Professors McGonagall, Dumbledore, Snape, Sprout and even Hagrid the friendly giant were there as well. We had so much fun that we have decided to go to Neverneverland with Peter, Wendy and all their friends. But watch out for the nefarious Captain Hook! Stay tuned for more information.

Save the dates

Hooked

June 15-20

St. Paul's KVA '09

For more information, or to volunteer please call the office at 745-0307

Lay Eucharistic Visitors

Submitted by Charlie Kilbourne

Lay Eucharistic Ministers assist the clergy by taking the Eucharist to the ill, shut-ins and others unable to join the congregation in worship. With the approval of the Rector, the LEVs are licensed by the diocese to perform their duties. By providing visits on Sundays after services, the LEVs include others in the celebration of the Eucharist and insure their connection with the St. Paul's community. LEV visits are available to all parishioners upon their request. Over the past year, nine LEVs participated in this ministry.

Ruthie Ministry

Submitted by Edna Aldinger

The Meals Ministry and the Cards Ministry are both part of the Health Ministries, and they have been a blessing to many of our parishioners. We offer encouragement and assistance among our own parish members.

About 20 members of the congregation rotate to prepare and deliver meals as they are needed. Kim Rodekohr has done a superb job of organizing this special ministry during 2008. Betty McIntosh coordinated the team who sent out about 300 get well, sympathy, birthday, and anniversary cards.

These are ministries of caring and sharing. Thanks go to all our volunteers, and all parishioners are welcome to join the team.

Sierra Service Project

Submitted by Steve Rodekohr

2008 in Review:

Our fundraising efforts this year focused on three events: The Brotherhood of St. Andrew Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, the Brotherhood Chili feed in December of 2007 and our annual Sierra Service Project "St. Patrick's Day" corned beef and cabbage dinner that was a huge success. We raised over \$4000 between the events. Thank you to the Brotherhood for their service and thanks to Jim Jewell for coordinating the St. Patrick's Day dinner! As always, I want to thank the youth campers and their parents for all of their hard work during the year!

We sent 25 youth and 6 adult counselors to two different locations to do rebuilding, painting, roofing, decking and many other labor-intensive tasks. Rev. Jeanne led her group of 10 campers and 1 counselor to the Loleta Reservation in Northern California. They spent a week in the fog and cool (and sometimes down-right cold!) coastal region working for the Wiyot Indians. I lead a group of 15 campers and 4 counselors to the SSP Urban project in South Central Los Angeles. It was a very different experience from the reservations and the youth got a real sense of what inner city struggles many people live each day. Both groups had a great and rewarding experience!

Goals for 2009:

This year, we will be going as one group and we'll head to Indian Valley in the northern Sierra's. We will be working on a reservation area that houses many different Native American tribal families. At 4000 feet elevation, it promises to be a beautiful experience

SSP will be having a number of fundraising events from now until July. Please support our youth. Without you, SSP would not be as successful as it is. If you wish to provide a private donation, you can make a check payable to: St. Paul's SSP Program.

Thank you again St. Paul's for your support! Anyone who would like to be a part of the Sierra Service Project may contact me.

Website/Communications

Submitted by Tom Mader

Over the past two years St. Paul's Vestry has worked to improve the flow of information to members of the congregation.

The Church website <http://www.stpaulsbenicia.org> has been refurbished, to provide a Parish calendar and announcements concerning services and special events. Rev. Jeanne and JoAnn, our Parish Administrator, routinely update the website to keep everyone informed. Among the many new features on the site, there are downloadable versions of recent sermons and newsletters and a link for paying your offerings to St. Paul's by credit card; Visa, MasterCard, Discover card or American Express are all accepted.

The Church auto-dialer service now provides a recorded message concerning services and special events on a weekly basis. If you haven't been receiving these recorded messages, telephone JoAnn at 745-0307 to update the auto-dialer phone list. If you don't wish to receive these recorded messages, simply ask JoAnn to remove your number from the auto-dialer phone list.

Members of the congregation who have e-mail service may request an electronic version of *The Epistle*, our monthly newsletter. If you would like to help the Church save the cost of printing and posting your newsletter, telephone JoAnn to add your e-mail to *The Epistle* address book.

Welcome Committee/Hospitality

Welcoming has several aspects. You are welcome to volunteer for any or all! Hospitality means opening our doors and lives to new people and opportunities!

The Welcome Table

After the 8:45 a.m. and the 11 a.m. services, the Welcome table in the Parish Hall is staffed by friendly people who can provide information about St. Paul's and about the Episcopal Church. Please sign up to staff the table to welcome everyone who wants information.

PIE Greeters

The People Involved in Evangelism (PIE) Greeters are a group of parishioners who take turns calling on newcomers within a day week of their first visit to St. Paul's. The greeters take an Information Packet and a pie, or some other baked good, homemade or purchased, for a very brief visit in which the newcomer is thanked for their interest in St. Paul's.

Our PIE greeters for 2009 are Mike Baldwin, Caleigh Furlong, Jennifer Jarvis, Ann Lindsay, Phyllis Manoogian, Betty and Bob McIntosh, Jane Samuelson and Judy and David White. A total of 19 families were visited by our dedicated PIE greeters in 2008.

Providers of Food & Snacks

No need to sign up to do this. Your name and generous nature will take care of the food and snacks!

1st Sunday of each month: Everyone whose last name starts with A-D brings food to share

2nd Sunday: Everyone whose last name starts with E-J brings food to share

3rd Sunday: Everyone whose last name starts with K-P brings food to share

4th Sunday: Everyone whose last name starts with R-Z brings food to share

5th Sunday: Bring Food Bags for CAC. Snacks will be provided!

Winter Weekend

No report submitted.

WORSHIP COMMISSION

The Worship Commission meets quarterly at the request and under the guidance of the rector. All matters of worship are discussed, and various groups are made aware of the events in the life of our worship at St. Paul's. The commission includes representatives from the altar guild, flower guild, ushers, LEMs and lectors, acolytes and crucifers, music resources, Sunday school, adult forum, and the parish office.

Acolytes

Report submitted by Susie Bonstin

Last year was a pretty successful year. We have 5 crucifers for the 8:45 service, 2 of whom are very new to the task and doing splendidly! As for the torchbearers, we have 8 and one of those is also a crucifer too but that is OK. She is doing double duty and doesn't seem to mind.

We do have 4 new recruits waiting to get on the schedule as shadows until they are fully trained. That will be happening in March and they will start out as torchbearers. So 2009 is shaping up to be an excellent year for our Acolytes. But we can always use new ones all the way around.

Altar Guild

Submitted by Kim Rodekohr

This year has been an exceptional year for the Altar guild team as we have been working with “below minimum staffing.” We are in need of members and have attempted to recruit, but still are in need of people. If you are interested, please contact Kimberly Rodekohr.

During 2008, the Altar Guild pooled together for the usual big services, polishing brass and organizing the Sacristy. Several ironing enthusiasts have kept us in fresh linens, and for that we are so grateful. Thank you Edna and Nancy. We do have new members on the team. We’d like to Welcome Suzanne McDowell and Linda Allen. Suzanne and Linda enjoy taking care of the Wednesday morning service.

The Altar Guild has had to be flexible with the new 5 p.m. service and it has worked out very well. We have come up with a new idea for handling weddings. In the past, the detail has been given to a volunteer who handled all the weddings. Since there are many more weddings happening at our church, it became a time consuming and difficult task, especially during the summer. Now we will be advising all Altar Team members when weddings are scheduled, and we will pay them a stipend of \$100 that will come from the wedding party. The member, who decides to handle the jobs, as they appear, will be in charge of the details from Rehearsal to Wedding.

We are still hoping to refurbish a few pieces of brass, specifically the cross that sits on the credence table, the Holy Water font and the Sancto light. As mentioned we are always open to new members and welcome any questions. I look forward to serving St. Paul’s along with the other Altar Guild members during 2009.

Flower Guild

Submitted by Sandy Schipper, Coordinator

The Flower Guild has again this year been blessed to have members who honor their commitment to make flower arrangements for Sunday services and do it Beautifully. Their commitment involves doing flowers for one Sunday each month. We are also blessed to have a group of dedicated substitutes who step forward as we need their help. None of us are trained professionals but lovers of flowers and our church.

Church members may choose to sponsor flowers to commemorate a special occasion or memorial. A donation of \$50 is suggested. Members of the flower guild work with the sponsor family to honor any special requests. Funds for the Flower Guild are not included in St. Paul’s budget and it is financially supported solely by donations from church members. A new flower sign-up sheet is posted in the parish hall.

We welcome others who are interested in this ministry to join us.

Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, and Intercessors

No report submitted. For information, contact Sue Yurosko for LEMs and Intercessors and Suzanne Cecil for Lectors.

Morning Prayer

Submitted by The Rev. John Bogart, Convenor

Six people keep the service of Morning Prayer going regularly Monday through Friday at 9 a.m. They are: Edna Aldinger, John Bogart, Mittie and Fred Railsback, Sue Libby and Kitty Griffin. Occasionally we are joined by other members of the parish.

We pray for the sick, the shut-in and any others who have special needs. We also give thanks to God for all His blessings to us and to all whom we love. We love our work.

Please come and join us when you can.

Music Ministries

Contemporary Music Ministry

Submitted by Mark Sackett

This past year, our music ministry continued to grow. We have nearly 30 musicians and singers in rotation, including piano, bass, three guitars, up to three flutes, percussionists and many active singers. All members of the ministry support the priority of leading by teaching and leading by example. We pray together every Sunday, often while singing. We have more youth than we've ever had before, which helps keep us all focused on the future of the church.

This past year our ministry was invited to sing at "Daniel Pearl Day" at Congregation Ner Tamid in San Francisco. We were the only non-Jewish group invited to attend. This event was celebratory and deeply spiritual; we have been invited back for the event in 2009. We have had two other music ministries come to our service to see what we are doing. I've been helping one of these churches grow their music ministry.

Please allow me to take this opportunity to say how proud I am to worship with this wonderful group of people. They are focused and clear on their purpose and dedicated to their mission of leading the congregation in sung prayer. We have had a number of terrific leaders emerge from this ministry.

Traditional Music Ministry

No report submitted. For information, contact Glenn Walp.

Office Angels

Submitted by JoAnn Souza

Purpose of the Ministry

The Office Angels ministry allows the parish administrator to make more efficient use of her time by providing volunteers who help with routine office tasks on a weekly and monthly basis.

2008 in Review

The Office Angels continue to provide invaluable assistance to the Parish Administrator and Rector. They have helped fill in for the parish administrator when she is out of the office, fold the bulletins and Epistles, and assist with other mass mailings throughout the year. Special thanks to Kay Barnard and Betty McIntosh for their dedication in continuing to help prepare the weekly Sunday bulletins. This year we have Kathy Prosser and Jennie Byrd helping with the bulletins as well. Thanks also to the volunteers who make quick work of folding the monthly newsletters. In addition to Kay Barnard and Betty McIntosh, they include Carole Johnson, Roberta Strobel, Edna Aldinger, Winnie Johnson, Mittie Railsback, Lorraine Dengel, Ginny Altice, Sandy Schipper, Nancy Jenks, and Kathy Prosser. Office Angels are not restricted to the ladies of the church; thanks to Bob McIntosh for pitching in as well. Appreciation is also given to Sara Underwood for her excellent work designing and laying out the *Epistle*.

Ushers

Submitted by Steve Rodekahr, Director

Purpose of the Ministry

Ushering is a ministry of hospitality. Ushers are those friendly and welcoming people who greet those of us who worship at St. Paul's. The Ushers provide a service sheet so that all may take part in the Liturgy, as well as making sure all are comfortably seated. Quietly, the Ushers work to avoid distractions, and play a key role in the Offertory and Eucharist.

2008 in Review

The ministry currently has 46 parishioners performing ushering duties on a regular basis. We have 6 reserve Ushers who can be called upon if needed.

All ushers have received a one-hour training session, and have been provided a general booklet on the Ministry of Ushering by the Order of St. Benedict. Thanks to the dedication of those in this ministry, 2008 ran very smoothly.

The Usher Ministry continues to operate with a zero budget. Supplies have been provided through private donation.

Four faithful ushers semi-retired from our ministry this year but stayed on "Reserve" status. A heartfelt thanks to Maureen Troyer, Linda Tremain, Bob Craft and Cyndi Hardy, all who have been ushering for 10 years and longer! Thirteen parishioners joined our ranks to fill out the roster. A hearty welcome to Tom and Chris Mader, Jon and Kelly Kearns, Tom and Cecelia Vohs, Harvey and Janet Durocher, Patricia Swayne, John and Linda Reiff and Patrick and Kathleen Prosser!

2009 Goals

As with any ministry, the Usher Ministry is always seeking those to serve. This is a very important and easy ministry to be involved with here at St. Paul's. Your obligation is about one service (of your choice) every other month. Ushers for all services are needed. If you're interested, please call me.

Vergers

Submitted by Fred Railsback

The Vergers are a group of dedicated men who are responsible for the safety and security of our historic buildings. During the week the vergers lock and alarm all buildings nightly. On Sunday mornings the vergers open the buildings, turn on the lights, make coffee, turn on the microphone system, etc. to make sure that everything functions smoothly.

Many thanks to Tom Aldinger, Joe Brien, Bob Craft, Bob Hall, Tom Mader, Bill Markley, Neal Mulholand, and Phred Railsback for their long-standing duty. We would really love to have a couple more men join this elite club. You never know what kind of spirit you will encounter in these old buildings in the dark of night. Only the brave and strong need apply!!

By the way, every year I have invited all the fair ladies of the parish to plant a big kiss on everyone of the named gentlemen as a token of their gratitude. As of this date, not a one of these hardy lads has been so blessed.

Youth and Children's Services

Church School

Submitted by Chris Mader

The "Seasons of the Spirit" curriculum for the 2008-2009 Sunday School year is designed to educate through age-appropriate lessons. The curriculum is being used in classes for children ages 3-5, 6-8 and 9-11 years. Each week, the classes focus on the same Bible passage, which is chosen from the lectionary readings for that Sunday. When the young people attend Sunday worship, they are already familiar with one of the lessons and the theme of the sermon. This allows them to engage more fully in the service and, since their parents hear the same reading, promotes family discussion afterwards.

The program provides a wide range of art and music experiences to reinforce the lessons. Teachers receive posters, ideas for art projects, CDs, sheet music and other materials to use in their classes. The 12 and up class is participating in a program that teaches them Bible themes in relationship to their lives. This group will have the opportunity to develop and participate in a variety of activities and projects that enrich their experiences as Christians. Lisa Powell, who worked hard coordinating the Church School in 2008, is continuing to inspire our young people by leading this class. We have devoted teachers and continue to need more adults to participate as teachers, class assistants, or specific project assistants. Contact me or the church office if you can help.

Middle School Ministry

Submitted by Walter Vater

Middle schoolers were extremely active in the life of the church in 2008. They served as acolytes, crucifers, and contemporary choir members throughout the year. Several also participated in the Brotherhood of St. Andrew monthly meetings. In addition, they participated in the activities listed below.

2008 Activities

January—Bowling and pizza

May—Served chili as a service project

June—Served as Kids' Vacation Academy junior counselors

Attended Taming of the Shrew performance

Family swim party and picnic

September—A stroll down First Street ended in a delicious treat

October—Eight middle schoolers are in our Confirm Not Conform program

November-December—Made luminarias as a work project

Assisted at the Feast of St. Nicholas kids' day

Participated in the Christmas Pageant

2009 Goals

A volunteer is needed to coordinate the middle school youth activities. If you are interested, please contact Rev. Jeanne at the church office.