



Annual Meeting

January 24, 2010

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church
15 St. Paul Street
Brookline, MA 02446**

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St. Paul's Church in Brookline
Minutes of Annual Meeting
January 11, 2009

Unapproved

The Annual Parish Meeting of St. Paul's Episcopal Church was held on Sunday, January 11, 2009 with about 60 people in attendance. At 11:30a.m. Junior Warden, Steve Kelley, announced that the meeting had the minimum quorum of 25 people in attendance. Senior Warden Andrea Brue then called the meeting to order.

1. Interim Rector Terry McCall announced that she is now responsible for scheduling and asked people to sign up for chalice, lectors, acolytes, etc. at the end of the meeting.
2. *It was moved to accept the minutes from 2008. This was voted and approved.*
3. Nominations for Officers, Members of the Vestry, and Delegates were identified in the Annual Meeting Report, voted on and approved as follows:
 - Vestry—Three Year term:** Madeleine Taylor, Liz DeSelm, Ginny Holmes-Wilcox
 - And for the following one year positions (they may succeed themselves):
 - Treasurer:** Beverly Estes-Smargiassi
 - Clerk:** Ben Norton
 - Historian:** Patricia Dunbar
 - Delegates to Diocesan Convention:**
Leah Rugen & Sarah Thiemann; Jean Moses & Molly Lanzarotta as alternatives
 - Delegates to the Charles River Deanery:**
Sharlene Wing & Maria O'Meara
 - Delegates to the Episcopal City Mission:**
Beverly Estes-Smargiassi and Tim Smith
4. Steve Kelley explained that per church bylaws, the annual meeting appoints a new rector, unless it authorizes the Vestry to do so. As St. Paul's will most likely be finalizing the selection for a new rector during the spring/summer of 2009, *a motion to authorize the Vestry to appoint a new rector was moved, seconded, and approved.*
5. Andrea Brue said that 2008 was a year of challenges for St. Paul's and that the Vestry worked very hard to make some difficult decisions. She said that committee leaders for the Search, Finance, and Building committees would each be updating the parish on what happened during 2008 at the meeting. Reports for all committees could be found in the distributed annual reports as well as on the church website.

6. Search Committee Report- presented by Steve Estes-Smargiassi

Steve E.-S. said that the Search process started with a good-bye party for retiring Rector George Chapman.

Steve E.-S. read aloud a moving letter from previous Asst. Rector Pam Werntz to St. Paul's that explains why she has withdrawn her name from consideration as St. Paul's new Rector. Although she loves and misses us, she has prayerfully considered where she should be and has decided to continue her work as Rector at Emmanuel church.

Steve E.-S. explained that a single name will be recommended to the Vestry in late spring/ early summer with the goal that the new Rector will begin work in September.

Linda Hastie suggested we pray for our future rector at the prayers for the people and for our discernment of that person.

Kate Kelley mentioned that the joint Vestry/Search Comm. retreat last spring was particularly helpful. Maria O'Meara mentioned that Sarah Thiemann made the point to her of the geographic diversity of the candidates. A parishioner noted that Sue Ardizzoni's name was not listed as a member of this committee; Steve ES will make sure it gets added to the report for the record.

Concern was expressed if the new Rector chose not to live in the newly renovated Rector's unit and then the church would need to pay for a housing allowance. The Search Committee explained that their 1st preference for a new rector will be a candidate who will want to live there. It will be the rector's choice as to which unit they will want to occupy.

Steve Kelley thanked the Search Committee for their hard work.

7. Finance Committee Report- presented by Steve Kelley

Steve K. reported that the financial crash has affected the nation as a whole and our endowment has gone down by 1/3. He explained that income from the endowment is used to pay for parish programs. In 2008 it paid for 45% of all parish spending, more than all pledge contributions from parishioners.

While the majority of funding for renovations is coming from the Capital Appeal, the plan had been to contribute about \$500,000 from the endowment. The reduction of the endowment due to the stock market has meant that the original budget of \$1.45 million for parish house & rectory renovations had to be reduced to \$1.1 million.

Since the endowment is generating less money, the Vestry had to vote to cut operating costs by 17%. This meant the parish secretary position had to be eliminated and we reduced sextons from 2 to 1. The Vestry also eliminated paid childcare for the 9am and 11am services. Volunteer childcare will be organized by Liz DeSelm. In addition, the music budget was cut by 1/3 and funding for M.O.P. was cut by 50%.

Steve K. continued to explain that the cuts made to M.O.P. are not intended to be long term. Part of this year's reduction results from for overspending in years past and it is expected that its funding would be eventually restored to 10% of the parish budget.

A question was asked about letting the parish administrator go and how that would affect the church while we are in the middle of a search for a new rector. Andrea answered that a new position will be created with reduced hours and that the new rector will have the opportunity to assist in the hiring.

For the 2009 budget, pledges are expected to pay about 46% of the church's operating expenses—more than the amount from the endowment for the first time in many years. It was suggested that the church could improve the amount of pledges in the future by providing guidelines for how much to give. Additional funding will come from rental of the new unit created from the Rectory renovations.

Andrea explained that St. Paul's has been drawing down at 6.5 % to 8% of the endowment for a while. For 2009, the Finance Committee has brought the number down to 5%. A question was asked regarding how the Vestry determined that St. Paul's should be sticking to a 4.5 % draw on the endowment. Steve Estes-Smargiassi clarified that most non-profits use 4.5% to 5.5% as a rule of thumb for use of an endowment as this percentage typically allows for balanced draw downs and growth.

It is hoped that the new Rector will revitalize the church and draw in new members. Andrea reminded all, however, that this is a responsibility we all need to share.

8. Capital Appeal Report- presented by Betsy Munzer

Betsy announced that to date, St. Paul's has pledges of \$560,000 for the Capital Appeal and has received \$260,000 so far. She explained that the amount is less than previously announced due to the fact that money expected from the Eleanor Konecy estate is still unknown. Betsy concluded by saying, "We are going forward in faith. We are counting on you to give what you have pledged and to give more than that if possible to cover those who may have to give less."

9. Building Committee Summary- presented by Jim Batchelor

Jim Batchelor explained that because of the reduced budget of \$1.1 million, the scope of renovations previously presented in coffee hour and other discussions had to be scaled back. While the Building Committee reviewed costs for both the Rectory and the Parish House, it became apparent that more savings could be had in the Parish House. The goal was to look at what can be done without changing the walls. This means that changes to the great hall, choir room, kitchen and middle room will all happen within their existing walls.

Improvements include a new wall finish for the great hall, bleachers removed and new storage in the choir room, and storage upgrades for the kitchen and middle room (including the food pantry). It is hoped that we will have enough money to make the men's room handicap

accessible. Other building improvements include new storm windows, and upgrade electrical and fire alarm systems. A high priority is improvements to the Sunday school rooms.

Jim Batchelor further explained that during construction, we will have access to the rector's office, bathrooms, and Lichtenberger room for most of the time. Sunday school will move to the rectory for about six weeks.

Noting the coldness of the room, Lorraine Baugh asked if anything is going to be done to the Parish House heating system. Jim said the boiler had stopped working this morning because a 75 cent part failed. We will have to live with the existing heating system.

Steve Estes-Smargiassi stated that he feels positive about the plan for renovations, even in this time of bad financial news. Several in attendance seconded this theme.

10. Other Business

Andrea referred everyone to the full committee reports that were handed out and would also be made available on the church website, thanks to Steve Kelley's hard work.

Andy Clarkson spoke about how heartening it has been for him to see how we have embraced the difficulties we currently face as a church and yet still look to the positives. He reminded all of the bible passage that says "Be not afraid". Everyone responded with a loud "Amen".

11. Closing Remarks

Andrea asked us all to take a moment to reflect on the following vision- picture St. Paul's one year from today:

The children head downstairs to church school where they are met by new members in their class, they are sitting in newly renovated classrooms with fresh air. Adults are visiting in the Lichtenberger room chatting with the new rector while others are talking with the new tenant at 131 Aspinwall about how great it is to live in Brookline. Others are meeting about MOP in the warm and inviting great hall, admiring the fresh coat of plaster and paint and shiny refinished wood floor. As the hospitality crew is in the kitchen putting dishes away in the clean, refurbished cabinets, they listen to the beautiful sounds coming from the Choir. The choir is singing especially well now that the bleachers and vacuum cleaners have been given proper homes. Volunteers for the Food Pantry are busy putting away food donations with ease in the modern and organized new storage systems.

12. As the last order of business, Courtesy Resolutions were passed with the addition of Kendall Gray for her dedication in helping the Hospitality Committee and assisting the young Acolytes.

13. A closing prayer was led by Interim Rector Terry McCall.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Nancy Sampson, stand-in for Ben Norton, Clerk

Report of the Nominating Committee

The nominating committee, consisting of the outgoing Vestry members (Andrea Brue- Sr. Warden, Georgia Smith- Vestry, Arlene Swan-Mahony- Vestry, and Nancy Sampson- Vestry), submits the following slate of candidates for open offices:

Jr. Warden- 3 year term	Georgia Smith
Vestry – 3 Year Term	Fred Muehter
Vestry – 3 Year Term	Roger House
Vestry – 3 Year Term	Jeff Brown
Clerk	Ben Norton
Treasurer	Beverly Estes-Smargiassi
Historian	Pat Dunbar
Delegate to Diocesan Convention	Leah Rugen
Delegate to Diocesan Convention	Sarah Thiemann
Alternate to Diocesan Convention	Jean Moses
Alternate to Diocesan Convention	Molly Lanzarotta
Delegate to Deanery	Sharlene Wing
Delegate to Deanery	Maria O’Meara
Delegate to Episcopal City Mission	Tim Smith
Delegate to Episcopal City Mission	Beverly Estes-Smargiassi

For information purposes, the continuing members of the Vestry are:

Stephen Kelley, Senior Warden	serving year 2 of a 3 year term
Elizabeth Laurencot	serving year 2 of a 2 year term
Jim Margolis	serving year 2 of a 2 year term
Stephen Morrissey	serving year 2 of a 2 year term
Liz DeSelm	serving year 2 of a 3 year term
Ginny Wilcox	serving year 2 of a 3 year term
Madeleine Taylor	serving year 2 of a 3 year term

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Brue, Nancy Sampson, Georgia Smith, Arlene Swan-Mahony

Wardens' Report

By Andrea Brue and Steve Kelley

In with a bang, out with a bang! St. Paul's began the year with hammers pounding in the Parish House—knocking down walls here and repainting there—and has ended the year with an explosion of good will and renewed energy. We can all look back at 2009 with a sense of pride and accomplishment at what the parish has achieved. Just to mention a few milestones:

- Selected and installed our fabulous new rector, Jeff Mello, after an international search!
- Increased pledges will restore in 2010 cuts to music, MOP, and child care budgets
- Completed renovations in the Parish House and at the Rectory
- Improved energy efficiency in the Parish House and at the Rectory
- Created a new rental apartment in the Rectory, resulting in a new source of income
- Combined the 9 & 11 am services to a single 10 am service
- Installed a new sound system in the sanctuary (thanks to a bequest from Dick Wallace)
- Completed financial audits for 2006 and 2007
- Finalized an updated Clinton Path space use agreement after over 30 years
- Built a trash enclosure (thanks to the Brookline Rotary)
- and many more too numerous to mention

During the last year of transition, we focused on reinforcing (and rebuilding in some cases) walls—both literally and figuratively. Our interim rector, Terry McCall helped us take down a few walls and re-strengthen others. She guided us through unwanted, but needed, budget cuts to staff and programs such as music, MOP, child care and secretarial support. She simplified worship by combining services and streamlined paperwork in the office.

The arrival of Jeff has brought new spirituality and restructured our worship space and service. With his leadership and our many lay leaders, we are reinforcing the many ministries that make St. Paul's a great place to be a part of. For example, with new, more accessible and efficient storage cabinets, the Food Pantry has served more residents in need than ever before. The choir room has been transformed into a clean, organized and inspiring space our choir deserves as well as a place for small meetings.

Now that we have braced the “walls” of St. Paul's, it's time to look outside of them. With our new Rector Jeff and a reinvigorated parish, we are in position to build our future. And we have already started! Not content with newly painted walls and improved ventilation, the creative teachers of the youth program have redesigned how Christian education is taught to our children through the sounds of music. Jeff and the Vestry are working on plans for a new safe church policy, babysitting during the service, parish retreats for spirituality and fellowship, and reinstating the worship committee.

We invite all of you to find ways for St. Paul's to minister within and beyond our walls as well as how you yourself can make a difference. What are your strengths and passions? There is a place for you at St. Paul's!

Music Report

2009 was a good year for music at St. Paul's. It has been a year of transition for us, moving thru the end of our interim period and into the beginning of our new rectorship with Jeff arriving in August. It may not be obvious that such a change would affect the choir, but it does, and I think in important ways. The music that we offer here at the St. Paul's is intimately connected to the sense of direction of the church, and with Jeff's leadership and nurturing hand in the mix, there is an impact on the music.

For example, we have a new St. Paul's ministry anthem – one that was premiered at Jeff's installation service, but one that we will be singing again each year to renew our joint, congregational commitment to the ministry that we are all a part of. And it is an anthem that, I dare say, has not seen the light of day in many if any church services for hundreds of years. (In fact, you heard it today, Annual Meeting Sunday, if you attended the 10am service.)

Perhaps the biggest apparent change to the music program this year was the fabulous renovation of the choir room. The number of jaws that I have had to lift off the floor when folks walked into the new choir room unprepared for a drastic change is, well, staggering. We now have a room that is worthy of our choir – that is worthy of making wonderful music in. It is simply outstanding. So bravo and bravissimo to all who had a role in making this change happen. Thank you!

As for the instruments of the parish, the bells, recorders, and piano are all, generally speaking, in good shape. The organ, as noted in prior years, is not as simple a story but continues to be a wonderful instrument with somewhat temperamental action.

Andrew Clarkson
Director of Music and Organist

Search Committee Report

The St. Paul's search committee would like to report a successful outcome to the search for a new rector.

Thanks to the grace of God, a supportive parish, steady leadership and an incredible effort by our search committee members, the search overall was a time of growth and learning for St. Paul's. As a parish, we identified our goals for St. Paul's and our hopes for our new rector. These goals and hopes were articulated in the parish profile that was sent to our 41 applicants at the beginning of our discernment together.

Over many months, the search committee's progress was communicated to the congregation through announcements at church, in the parish newsletter, and at last year's annual meeting. The 13 members of the search committee reviewed dozens of applications, conducted hours of phone interviews, made five site visits to candidates' parishes, and dozens of reference calls, and finally, made their recommendation to the vestry. The Rev. Jeffrey Mello accepted the call in May and began as rector of St. Paul's in August, 2009.

Special thanks in this search effort go to Terry McCall, Interim Rector; Phil Whitbeck, our diocesan consultant; the wardens and vestry, our steadfast parishioners, our 41 applicants, to Jeff Mello for saying “yes,” and our tireless search committee members:

Sue Ardizonni, Clara Batchelor, E. Lorraine Baugh, Tina DeSelm, Steve Estes-Smargiassi, Kate Kelly, Molly Lanzarotta, Jean Moses, Betsy Munzer, Maria O’Meara, Georgia Smith, Sarah Thiemann, Adam Wing

St. Paul’s Capital Appeal Thank you!

We continue to give thanks for everyone who has contributed to the St. Paul’s Capital Appeal, whether by giving time, treasure, or in many cases, both. The Appeal is an outstanding, ongoing community effort for current and future generations of St. Paul’s parishioners. Praise be to God for the will and the means to preserve and enhance our buildings so we may better do God’s work on earth, from the corner of Aspinwall Avenue and St. Paul’s Street, here in Brookline.

Pledges and Receipts

As of December 31, 2009, St. Paul’s Capital Appeal has received pledges of \$591,758, and has received a total of \$457,970.39. Our 3-year Appeal started in December, 2007. We look forward to its’ successful conclusion in December, 2010.

What is going on with the Appeal?

Many important events have taken place over the last year. The renovations to the Parish House and Rectory were completed. Our new Rector, Jeffrey Mello, arrived in August, and was installed in October. Jeff and his family, Paul and Ardani, moved into the Rectory in November. Our congregation consists of many new faces. In many ways, we have been made anew – buildings, Rector, and people of St. Paul’s.

In the face of such historic and invigorating changes, the Capital Appeal may seem to have faded into memory. **What remains to be done?**

We hope to receive some new pledges, see original pledges fulfilled, and have some existing pledges increased. We also plan to celebrate our achievements, follow through on memorials (many gave in memory of, or in thanksgiving for, named individuals), and acknowledge naming opportunities.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- ❖ If you haven’t made a pledge yet, please consider making one now.
- ❖ If you need to revise your commitment, or put it on a different time frame, please let one of us know.
- ❖ If you are able to increase your pledge, please do!

As always, feel free to contact either of us with your ideas, comments and questions.

Faithfully,

Your Capital Appeal Co-Chairs

Betsy Munzer 617 277-5880 betsy@munzerco.com

Nancy Madden 617 739-5017 nancyfmadden@aol.com

Church School

This year, we moved back into freshly painted rooms with new windows and new furniture. Special thanks to Pat Dunbar, Betsy Munzer and Paul Snover for the furniture and to Walter Mucha for moving us in and out!

St. Paul's Church School Curriculum is designed for children of pre-school age through senior high. The curriculum is written and developed by our teachers and clergy in an effort to share an understanding and experience of Christian faith and tradition that connects with the life we live.

This year's curriculum explores music and scripture. We started the year with a tour of musical instruments throughout the church. Parents and musicians showed groups how instruments make different sounds and create different feelings. We read stories of freedom from Hebrew Scripture and related them to spirituals like "Wade in the Water," "Go Down Moses" and "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" that were sung by slaves escaping along the underground railroad. Some of these songs held coded messages. We walked through the neighborhood and saw a house on the underground railroad that was owned by one of St. Paul's first parishioners. Our Christmas pageant was the best ever!

This semester we'll see how spirituals inspired the Civil Rights movement and the freedom movement in South Africa. We'll also listen to songs of comfort and joy inspired by bible stories.

Special thanks to teachers:

Julie Starr, music, Tim Smith, youth group and music, Leah Rugen, Georgia Smith, Maria O'Meara, Tina DeSelm and to substitute teachers Elizabeth Laurencot, Madeleine Taylor, Christine Mitchell, Clara Batchelor, Jim Bales, and Kate Kelley

Also thanks to George Coggeshall, Julie Starr, Genae Johnson, and all who made the Christmas Pageant such a big hit.

Respectfully submitted by Maria O'Meara.

Hospitality Committee

*"Let mutual love continue.
Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers,
for doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it."
(Hebrews 13:1,2)*

Hospitality is an important part of life at Saint Paul's. Parishioners are invited to serve as hosts for the Sunday coffee hours, Lenten soup suppers, and the annual Moveable Feast. All parishioners are encouraged to bring a dish to various pot-luck gatherings. This enjoyable and worthwhile ministry can be done as a family or with other parishioners in the church.

The mission of **Saint Paul's Hospitality Committee** is to plan and implement social events pertaining to the church at large. The Hospitality Committee shops and cooks for the Annual Meeting, the Sunday School Picnic, the Passover meal and various receptions and celebrations. New members and suggestions are always welcome.

Yours in Christ, Ginny Willcox

Ministry Outside the Parish

DONATIONS MADE IN 2009

Church Related Outreach

Ecclesia Ministries Common Cathedral services for the homeless	\$ 1,025.
Refugee Immigration Ministry Ecumenical groups ministering to detained asylum seekers	\$ 2,000.
Episcopal City Mission Diocesan social justice and service organization	\$ 1,000.
Episcopal Relief and Development Worldwide economic development, disaster relief and health care	\$ 1,000.

Community Service

Brookline Community Safety Net Fund Support for family emergencies	\$ 1,000.
Concord Prison Outreach Holiday gift bags and toiletries	\$ 500.
On the Rise (Cambridge, MA) Day shelter for women at risk	\$ 500.
Match Up Pairs volunteers with homebound people	\$ 250.
Poor People's United Fund Support and Advocacy for Impoverished People In Boston Metropolitan Area	\$ 525.
HEARTH Housing support for formerly homeless people	\$ 525.

Healing

Dr. Barbara McCune, Honduras	\$ 500.
American Friends of Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem Supports Hospital in Gaza	\$ 1,000.
Himalayan Health Care Providing health care in multiple sites.	\$ 2,500.

Education and Youth

Brookline Community Mental Health Center For services for Brookline Children without insurance.	\$ 1,500.
Summer Math Program (City of Boston) 1 partial scholarship for inner-city girls to math college prep course.	\$ 200.
Esperanza Academy	\$ 500.

Overseas Programs

Oxfam International Aid Organization	\$ 500.
Aschiana School Afghanistan, Annual salary for two teachers	\$ 1,200.
Honduras Hope Yuscaran Deanery Youth	\$ 1,000.
TOTAL	\$17,225.00

Brookline Emergency Food Pantry

The number of visits to the pantry by individuals and families in need of supplementary free food continues to increase—from under 1000 in '02 to over 2000 in '05 to almost 2700 during this past year. In particular, there has been a marked increase in families with children using the pantry. Thankfully, pantry donations and volunteers have also increased so that these additional needs can be fully met.

Volunteers

The pantry is staffed entirely by volunteers---more than 40 this year. Many volunteers give two or more hours assisting our clients while the pantry is open while others help with shopping, food pickup and administrative tasks. There is a wonderful caring relationship to be seen between many of the volunteers and many of our customers.

This year we have been joined by a great many new volunteers who have been most welcome. At the same time there continues to be a core group of long term volunteers who have been with the pantry for at least two years and, in some cases, closer to ten years. Without these dedicated volunteers the pantry could not function and on behalf of our customers I thank them all.

Thanksgiving

An exciting event for the pantry occurs annually on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. On that day we give away over 100 turkeys and all of the other ingredients for a full Thanksgiving meal. This year we served 126 households--20 more than in any prior year. As the desert for this meal we were able to give away 75 apple pies prepared by students at the Lawrence School (an annual service event for the school), 30 pies prepared by a church youth group, and six pies prepared by children in one family.

Renovation of Pantry Space

St. Paul's did an extensive renovation this year which included the room used for the pantry. As a result of the construction, the pantry moved to the Old Lincoln School in March and came back to St. Paul's in August. Walter Mucha deserves a very big thank you for moving the pantry both times. We returned to new cabinets and tables and a much better lit and friendlier room from which to serve our customers.

In addition, the Rotary Club of Brookline donated \$2,500 to the pantry to create a much more attractive and user friendly area for our trash and the great amount of cardboard that we need to recycle. We are most thankful to the club for this generous gift.

Food Donations and Other Food Sources

Once a week we make a trip to the Greater Boston Food Bank (GBFB) to get 30 to 40 cases of free food through the MEFAP program funded by the Commonwealth. Ben Norton regularly does this with students from the BU Student Food Rescue group who provide some young muscles and a van.

Students at all of the public elementary schools in Brookline and some private schools have food drives and bring food to the pantry on a regular basis. One of the delights for volunteers is to greet these groups of children, some first 1st graders, and more often 7th or 8th graders, as they enthusiastically bring in many bags and boxes of food that their classes have collected and then help to sort the food into bins. On back-to-school night at the high school, parents were asked to bring food for the pantry. This was collected by students and two vanloads of food were delivered.

Many communities of faith and organizations such as the Brookline Rotary Club and the Coolidge Corner Merchants Association make it a regular practice to support the pantry with food and/or funds.

The letter carriers food collection in the spring continues to be a very important source of donated food providing more than 75 bins this year. Each year over 30 volunteers devote a Saturday afternoon in mid-May to receiving and sorting the donations as the letter carriers bring in bin after bin.

Many families and individuals also donate food to the pantry. Several families request that for their holiday open house, guests bring non-perishable food to be donated to the pantry. Several groups and organizations are now doing this when they have meetings or gatherings.

Monetary Donations & Food Purchases

As pantry use has increased, an increase in food purchases has been needed to supplement food donations and to keep the freezer fully stocked. Therefore, donations of money have become increasingly important.

In June, Marge Amster at the Brookline Department of Economic Development and a group of Brookline restaurants created the second annual Food Festival in conjunction with the longstanding Brookline Arts Festival. All proceeds, over \$7,000, were donated to the pantry.

Again, as in the last several years, the response to our November mailing to the Brookline community was responded to most generously. In addition to the donated funds for the pantry shown below, \$6,000 was donated through the pantry and marked to help fund the Brookline Safety Net which assists many pantry customers with other needs, especially those related to housing issues.

2009 Food Pantry Receipts and Expenditures

<u>Donations</u>		<u>Expenditures</u>	
From Individuals	\$39,500	Food Purchase	\$33,200
From organizations	9,100	Food Vouchers	3,000
		Operations	<u>4,200</u>
Total	<u>\$48,600</u>		<u>\$40,400</u>

Pantry donors of both food and funds are most generous and I thank all on behalf of our Brookline neighbors who are our customers.

Submitted by Jim Margolis
Pantry Manager

Healing Ministry

Our practice of having one or two people serve as healers during the Communion celebration has successfully made the transition from the 11:00 service to the combined 10:00 service. (It was never a feature of the 9:00 service.) People, including those seeking healing for themselves, and on behalf of others, and those observing the laying on of hands, have told us they find the Healing Ministry helpful, moving, and inspiring.

We are exploring ways to make the Healing Ministry more accessible and beneficial for everyone. Some of us already involved in the Healing Ministry met with our Rector, Jeff, and others who share an interest in serving. We talked about expanding our numbers, planning for trainings, and the actual choreography of our work, given the joyful reality of our increased numbers at the 10:00 service. Jeff will be preaching about Healing and explaining the Ministry in the context of the service. We look forward to the continuing evolution of our practice, to the benefit of all. Please share any thoughts you may have on this subject with any or all of the following: Nancy Madden, Steve Morrissey, Betsy Munzer, and Rector Jeff Mello, and look forward to changes to come.

Historian's Report

By any standard, this has been a very busy and event filled year. The two biggest events were the renovation of the parish house and rectory and the choosing and arrival of our new Rector.

Because of the financial downturn that began in the fall of 2008, St. Paul's Church had to severely modify property renovations that had been planned. After much deliberation it was decided to fully renovate the rectory and divide it into two units, one for the new rector as well as a rental apartment. The parish house plans went from a reconfiguration of space to a more conservative restoration, refinishing, and painting, including the downstairs classrooms. Work began in February by moving Clinton Path Preschool into the rectory, packing the entire office area into boxes and storing as much as possible in the Lichtenberger Room for the duration, and temporarily moving the Brookline Food Pantry to the Old Lincoln School. The Lichtenberger Room was beautifully redone in 2005 so we only added insulated windows. The renovations consisted of: asbestos abatement, new lighting, new paint, refinishing wood floors, repairing stained glass windows, new insulating windows for winter months, acoustic panels in the Parish Hall, new men's room, refurbished women's room, and some rearrangement of the kitchen space, as well as new windows, floors, sink and counters, plus new cabinets with doors. By late fall most of the construction work was finished.

In the July a committee was formed to plan new furniture purchases. A survey was made of everyone's needs by Sadhna and Jeff Brown and then Pat Dunbar and Betsy Munzer got estimates and ordered the new furnishings: cabinets and shelving for the Sunday school, round tables and chairs for the Parish Hall, tables and chairs for the food pantry, tables and chairs for the Sunday school groups. Upholstered chairs and wood tables for the new Rector's office as well as a desk, a file cabinet, and computer table have enhanced the room. Almost all of the new furnishings were in place by year's end.

St. Paul's put together a rector search committee of thirteen persons in 2008. By January there were forty-one applicants from twenty-two states and one international candidate. In March the committee had narrowed the search to five semi-finalists. In April three finalists came to visit the church mid-week, so as to maintain confidentiality. By May an invitation to be our new rector had been made and responded to positively by The Rev. Jeffrey Mello from Christ Church, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Jeff has been described as "a leader with charisma, intelligence, varied and relevant experience, a deep spirituality, and a sense of humor." Jeff was able to attend the Parish cookout in June and he began work at St. Paul's in late August. On October 28 the installation of our new rector took place at the church. The sanctuary was full and the ceremony was beautiful. The Rt. Rev M. Thomas Shaw, bishop of the Diocese of Massachusetts presided and the evening was attended by a full compliment of other clergy. In early November Jeff Mello, Paul Daigneault and their son, Ardani, moved into the remodeled rectory.

Our Interim Rector, the wise, wonderful, and hard working Rev. Terry McCall left us in early August for retirement from work altogether. She had been with St. Paul's Church about a year and a half before we found our new rector. When the parish administrator position was eliminated in January, Terry assumed many of those duties.

While all the craziness of construction was going on, the parish continued with most of its usual events: annual meeting with lunch in January, three Sunday services until changing to two services, 8 and 10 a.m. in March; two choral evensongs, (February and November); Lenten House Church on five Fridays in March and April at the homes of Madden/Gioia, Kelley, Margolis, Estes-Smargiassi, and Rugen/Boral; Fifth Annual Rockin' Auction in April, which raised almost \$10,000; monthly meetings of the knitting group that made a beautiful afghan, raffled at the auction and raised \$800; youth group in the Walk for Hunger; June cookout at Lars Anderson Park; the annual humongous Yard Sale in September, actually two of them because of rainy weather for the first one, which raised approximately \$12,500; a delayed Sunday School opening in October because of construction; Blessing of Animals in October; Moveable Feast at parishioner's homes returning to the Rectory for dessert; stewardship campaign begun in November; Messiah Sing in December, and the annual Christmas Pageant the Sunday before Christmas. WHEW!

A few new events were added to the year: began a Pajama Choir; middle school youth took a trip to Heifer Farm in March; in August Lucy Sewall was hired as the new administrator who works at the church Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday; the knitting group spent many hours knitting baby blankets and hats for Honduras. They were also able to collect many blankets from members of the church as well as others outside the church. In December, our youth group made many gallons of chili and dozens of corn muffins which were sold to parishioners to raise \$420 for the "Be an Angel" program, a Christmas gift program for children. Double WHEW!

Work on the archives continues, mostly at my home, because so much of the church was off-limits much of the year due to construction. I think I can see the "light at the end of the tunnel". One box of items comes home at a time, reviewed to see what is worth keeping, copies made of the "keepers" and the originals encased, to be stored in the history closet in the Lichtenberger Room. While there will always be documents to add to the collection, I have been working on a huge amount of material from the time of the church's beginning in 1848. Only a few boxes left and I predict that I will be done by June. Here's hoping.

This an excerpt from the historian's report for 1958, fifty-one years ago: Sound familiar?

“Our parish plant has had considerable attention during the last year. All stone work on the church-parish house and rectory has been pointed up, and a new asphalt walk laid from the cloister door to the sidewalk. The gymnasium and Galahad room in the basement have been completely rebuilt into several most adequate class rooms for the Sunday school and equipped with suitable furniture. This much needed improvement for the children was made possible by special gifts from a considerable number of parishioners. In the kitchen, the larger Magee gas ranges, three stainless steel sinks and Formica tops for counter were installed, under the wise direction of Mrs. Frank Gardner. These kitchen improvements were paid for by contributions from some individuals, help from the vestry, and the legacies of Mrs. Horace H. Soule to the Tuesday Evening Guild and the Wednesday Guild.”

It is important to remember parishioners who have died this year, loyal and hardworking for St. Paul's: Marion Blanchard, Clare Dewart, Rose Holzworth, Mildred McAdam, Samuel Shaw, and H. Richard Wallace. They are missed.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia G. Dunbar, Parish Historian