

# Annual Meeting: a recap



On Jan. 26 we held our annual meeting. A brief overview of our financial status was presented. We approved Dave Abernathy and Don Anderson to fill out the two years left on their second term on vestry. Due to various confusions of tenures they had already served a first year of their second term without being elected. We corrected that error. We also elected Judy Allen for her second three-year term. We also approved an amendment to the bylaws that allows for the vestry to consist of at least 9, but not more than 12, members.

After all of the business was set aside I spoke about my three goals, and spoke about a narrative budget. My goals are covered in my annual report as has been

posted on our website. The narrative budget needs a bit of explanation.

Narrative budgets are not accounting tools but they are communication tools. The narrative budget's purpose is to describe how the funds given to St Paul's are used to better the lives of ourselves and others. I constructed the narrative budget by reviewing 50 line items from our accounting budget that ranged from utility bills, salaries, insurance costs, etc. I then considered how each of those line items was used to impact our lives in seven different categories ranging from Worship, to Pastoral Care, to Fellowship.

The narrative budget has also been posted for your reading. It is a valuable tool to express the impact St Paul's has in our lives and the lives of others. As I mentioned (continued next page)

## Say 'I do' again

As Valentines Day approaches, there will be an abundance of chocolate hearts, jewelry, flowers and perhaps fine dining experiences. We all look for ways to show our true love how much they mean to us, whether it is a new love or celebrating a mature abiding relationship.

One sure way to say "I love you" is to say "I'd marry you all over again."

On Saturday, Feb. 16, at 10 a.m. you will have the opportunity to do just that. A public renewal of wedding vows will be available inside the church while the Farm-

ers' Market goes on outside.

Marriage is not a singular event to be looked back on, even if the exchange of vows was the grandest of celebrations. Marriage is a sacrament, a calling to live out the love of Christ in your daily life with your soul mate. Two shall become one.

You become a witness of love to each other and to the world. Each day is a celebration of love that can sometimes get clouded by the day-to-day minutia. What nicer way to say "I love you" than to take the time as a couple to recommit and once again say "I do."

## Inside

<b>Invite, welcome.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Have you met...?.....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Lenten program.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Trivia Sunday.....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Ministry in DR.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Concert.....</b>	<b>8</b>

# Annual Meeting recap (Continued from front page)

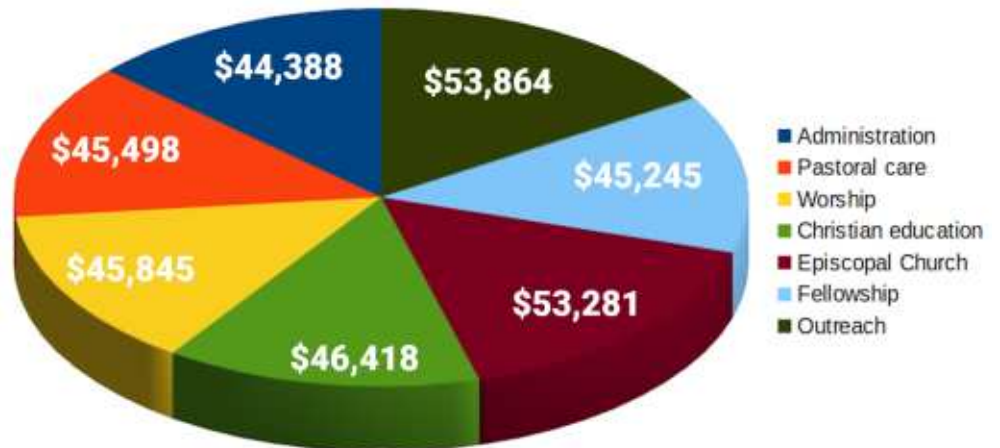
at the annual meeting, no one really cares how much we spend on electricity or our sewage rate. But people do care about what impact their support of St. Paul's has on Outreach, Christian Education, Worship, and the like.

The meeting went well and we were finished with our work with some time leftover. I chose to use the time to address an area of anxiety that many of you have expressed to me: the possibility of an active shooter at St Paul's. Here is a synopsis of what I said:

Worship is an intimate activity in which we are vulnerable. This makes us feel uneasy at times and, like any intimate activity, this vulnerability can bring about anxiety if we feel the slightest threat. I understand that. The safety of our parish is very important to all of us. Arming ushers is not the answer. Locking the doors during our service is also not the answer. There are other things we can do to make us better prepared. For instance, a panic button or two strategically placed would be a good addition. Also, realize that there are at least four doors into the church. Taking a moment and familiarizing yourself with exits other than through the church doors can be beneficial in the face of any emergency.

But one thing is very clear. Statistically our parishioners are much, much more likely to die or be injured in a car wreck on the way to church than being shot while in church.

I then made a passing comment that got a great deal of reaction. I said that if we wanted to improve the safety of our parish we would do better to invest in an AED device. The chance of someone having a cardiac event at St Paul's



## *Where the money goes, in terms of how lives are affected*

is, again, much, much higher than encountering an active shooter.

Sometimes, honestly, I am surprised by the words coming out of my mouth. At times, thankfully, they are good ideas. Having an AED at St Paul's is a good idea and I have now made it a goal for 2020.

At the meeting we also thanked our retiring vestry members: Richard Breithaupt and Peter Lund. Richard, our senior warden, has reached his term limit on the vestry and has graduated from his great tenure. For months I have been considering just who might be the next senior warden.

The senior warden is chosen solely by the rector. The office is often referred to as "the rector's warden." The junior warden is elected by the vestry. That role is often referred to as the "people's warden." We will elect the junior warden at the next vestry meeting.

The role the senior warden plays is significant, particularly during the times when a parish has no rector. In such times the senior warden is considered the head of the parish. I am hopeful the next senior warden will not have to perform any such duties. Instead, the senior warden will serve as my

support, and adviser as well as a partner in leadership.

I have asked Charlene Connolly to serve as our next senior warden and I am pleased to report she has agreed. I chose Charlene for several reasons. I thought it would be good for a woman to follow a male



senior warden. Charlene has a long and dedicated history with St Paul's. She is a proven worker and has the heart of a servant. She has deep con-

nections throughout our parish. Perhaps most importantly, she will support me, but not blindly so. I think it is important that a rector has a senior warden to trust and one who will not be afraid to express concern or challenge when needed. I believe Charlene will be a very fine senior warden.

2020 should be an exciting year and one of blessing for our beloved parish. I am so happy that I will share it with you.

—The Rev. Dr. Thomas Thoeni  
aka Fr. Tom

# Invited; time to welcome

Last month after writing about inviting people to church I decided to challenge myself to invite someone to St. Paul's. Even after writing about how easy it really is it took me a few days, with me rehearsing in my head what I was going to say and then waiting for the "right" opportunity. The person I asked said they have a church they go to but after I told them how welcoming our parish is and how I feel like part of a community there they told me they would possibly give it a try. It didn't sound like their church was on the same level as far as making them feel at home. I walked away thinking to myself "Now it's up to us to make them feel as welcome as we were made to feel on our first visit."

Since that day I have talked to two people I work with that I know attend church on how their church handles welcoming newcomers or what their first experience was. The two stories I got were so different from each other and I wondered how the second church was able to keep anyone there. Maybe only out of convenience? The first person told a story similar

## Talk to us

We would like to hear your ideas and thoughts about *Pathway* and St. Paul's parish in general.

Is there anything we printed you wish to take issue with? Anything you particularly enjoyed, or found poignant or inspirational? Do you have any questions regarding the church? Is there something you always wondered about but never got around to asking; like why do we not have more stained glass windows, or why do I never hear church bells ringing?



to my experience at St. Paul's, of being welcomed as they entered the church and again during the service. They were invited to coffee after the service and asked to fill out a visitor card. They were greeted again at coffee hour and asked to sit at a table with a group of parishioners. They enjoyed it and decided to go back the following week. The second week they were invited to a pot luck dinner and the weekly Bible study.

The second person had a

We will print your inquiry and a response in the following issue. Where appropriate we will have someone contact you directly in response.

*Pathway* is an outreach organ of the Communication Committee, and therefore exists as an inclusive correspondence instrument between the church and its ministries and you, its readers.

So what's on your mind... or in your heart? Email us via Ken Eastlack, [keneastlack@msn.com](mailto:keneastlack@msn.com).

different tale, to me more like a tale of woe. They had just moved to Naples and decided to go to the nearest church of their denomination. They walked into the narthex and stood in line to enter the church. They were greeted, handed a service bulletin and the greeter was already looking at the couple behind them, seemingly trying to get everyone inside. No one spoke to them before, during or after the service and the visitor card they filled out didn't produce any contact other than about two months later they received a pledge letter and card to fill out. They've gone there for about six months and still only know the names of a handful of people. To me this is sad, and this is the person I have invited to St. Paul's. It would mean changing denominations but that could be a good thing. I don't have to worry about the welcome they will receive, even if I am not there I know they will be greeted, asked to introduce themselves so everyone will know them and asked to join in at coffee hour. I know that Father Tom will come to the table to talk to them and I know that if they fill out a visitor card, before the next Sunday rolls around they will have received a letter from Father Tom and Deb welcoming them to visit again. St. Paul's may be able to find some other ways to welcome newcomers but I think that we are doing a good job now. You can be invited to pot luck dinners and Bible study but the thing that makes it feel like home is the human connection that brings us all together, week after week. I feel like we are a family, gathering around at the Lord's dinner table and sharing a bit of ourselves with each other.

—Laura Torrelli



# Have you met...?

"I love our church and everyone here—you all embraced me at first sight... have been supportive, made me laugh and I feel like 'I'm home.' I am both blessed and grateful to you all."

I quote the talented lady who has put her efforts and resources into the charming greeting displays that grace the front and rear entrances of St. Paul's grounds. I am sure you have noticed the displays and seen photos of them in last month's *Pathway*... but, Have you met... Leona (Lee) Barron and her husband, George?

Lee was born to Edward & Leona Crawford of Norristown, Penn., where she attended elementary and high school. She graduated in 1979 with a BFA degree in Theater Arts from Syracuse University.. So, naturally, upon graduation she moved to New York City to seek fame and fortune... "If you can make it there..."

Something funny happened on the way to Broadway; well not so funny actually, she met reality and had to deal with basic survival. While staying at a hotel for women she taught herself to type ("I had no real work skills.") and eventually

got a job as a receptionist for the man who would one day become her husband, the executive vice president of Scientific Environmental Inc. , George Barron. During her two and a half year tenure at SEI, Lee rose to the position of administrative assistant.

SEI led to various one- to three-year stints with other companies emphasizing public relations and human relations posts.

In eight and a half years at McKinsey & Co. Lee moved through many duties, culminating with promotion to McKinsey's Professional Staff Administrator, a job with an amazing range of responsibilities including administrative staffing, training and scheduling.

Busy as she was, Ms. Crawford still found time to pursue what had now become an avocation, the theater, by entering the New York City community theater scene.



Meanwhile George too had left SEI, created his own company, Integrated Services Corp. (ISC). His path began in Elmhurst, N.Y., where he was born. His parents, George & Estelle Barron, moved to Uxbridge, Mass., where he graduated high school before matriculating to Providence University where he studied Accounting and Theology.

Lee and George started dating several years after she left his employment. They were engaged in 1990. Lee stated, "We finally decided to marry in 1996." It seems that family issues on his part and the hectic pace of corporate involvement kept them too busy to wed sooner. "I put my wedding together in six weeks because I was so busy at work, and in fact we did not go on our honeymoon (to Paris) until five years later because we were so hung up with work."

Shortly after the wedding Lee

took a leave of absence because she was burned out from her work at McKinsey and the company was going through some changes that she found uncomfortable. While taking time to decide what her ultimate plan would be she was asked by George, her new husband, to help him out for a couple of days with his new business. "Two days turned into about 13 years until I left in 2008 when George was about to sell the company right before the recession hit."

Upon retirement the couple decided to move and live in their vacation home at Lake George, in the New York Adirondacks. That idea lasted just through their first winter there where it was so cold (minus 30 degrees) that they decided to visit Naples at the suggestion of some of their neighbors, friends and relatives.

*(Continued next page)*

# A study for lent & life

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 40 days before Easter not counting Sundays. This year it is Feb. 26. Traditionally, one gave up something for Lent. Now we “take on something new,” such as a study or an intentional commitment to improve one’s life. All of us could benefit by following the practices of Jesus.

Deacon Mary Abrams will lead a study based on the church’s “Rule of Life,” which is to schedule oneself to intentionally commit to living life closer to Jesus. The Episcopal Presiding Bishop Michael Curry has given us seven steps on how to do this. (See graphic)

Mary Bea Sullivan has designed a guide with true stories, scripture, and questions for discussion on how to practice the seven steps, *Living the Way of Love: A 40-Day Devotional*. **Beginning on Wednesday, Feb. 19**, at 6 p.m. or Sunday, Feb. 23 between services, Deacon Mary will facilitate a weekly discussion. The devotional can be purchased on churchpublishing.org for \$12.95 or Amazon (use smile.amazon to benefit St. Paul’s!).

On the Episcopal Church Web site there are numerous podcasts of Bishop Curry talking about the “Way of Love.” wayoflove.episcopalchurch.org

If you watched the royal wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle in 2018, you heard Bishop Curry’s powerful sermon on the power of love. Maybe he gave



## THE WAY OF LOVE

### *Practices for Jesus-Centered Life*

them the courage to exit their royal duties in order to spend time as a loving family pursuing their passion to help others in Canada!

—Carol Tracy

# Have you met...?

(From previous page)

They next rented here for a couple of years before buying their current home in Lely Resort. They plan to sell their Aderondack home and become permanent Naples residents.

Lee’s dad was a Quaker, but she was raised Episcopalian (her mother’s faith), George is a lifelong Roman Catholic which explains somewhat his choice of the Jesuit university (Providence). They currently split weekly church attendance alternating between St. Peter’s and St. Paul’s. Because Lee’s mother believed her daughter should not be baptized until she was old enough to make her own decision to do so, Lee was baptized the year she was married, and then at the suggestion of her betrothed. Lee agreed, and chose

*A Pathway Feature*

By

**Ken Eastlack**

to be baptized an Episcopalian and, as she put it, “With the approval of my rector, George stood as my godfather.”

So how exactly did St. Paul’s become blessed with this joyful entry way decorator? Well, one day after church Lee Barron was stroll-

ling through the meditation garden and noticed a weed or two that needed plucking and while doing so our resident master gardener, Diane Breithaupt, saw her and instantly recruited Lee as our newest member of God’s Garden-ers... and the rest, as they say, is history.

If you have not met Lee and George you can find them at the 10 a.m. service on alternate Sundays or Lee alone on any given Thursday digging in the dirt or decorating. And, much to my joy, on Saturday mornings at the hospitality center handing out hot dog buns and good humor to our guests and vendors during the Farmers’ Market.

Welcome home, Lee and George.

# Tough trivia, but fun

A large and diverse group of parishioners gathered Feb. 9 for a rousing game of Trivial Pursuit run by Deacon Mary Abrams. There were door prizes and a silent auction as well. More than \$1,500 was raised to benefit the Albergue el Buen Samaritano children's shelter in the Dominican Republic (see story next page), a worthy cause even without all of the brain teasing, hijinx and camaraderie. You'd be hard pressed to notice that the benefit was not primarily for the parishioners who attended because a fun, exciting and energetic time was had by all.

There were over a hundred questions plus musical "name that artist" segments posited to the groups of eight who, while brainstorming answers, renewed acquaintances and found new friends. Chali Kisse and Dave Hall made specific note that it was great meeting new people. Chali also noted how the random teams helped getting to know new people. That diversity might also be a reason the team she played with came in first place!

Many of the questions were challenging, Carol Conant noted that they were "not too easy" while several others including our beloved Father Tom noted they were "more challenging this year."

Parishioners Van as well as Judy A. simply noted they were much harder than last year. (If letter



**Mary and her helpers, Hailee and Brooke-Lynn, (top picture) handling the raffle between trivia games.**



**At right is Jan Abrams, keeping score and, unlike a certain recent caucus, delivering the results in a timely and unerring fashion.**

grades were issued, the winning team would have earned a B-).

Whatever comments people had, they all seemed to agree it was a very fun time. The reigning champs of Fr. Tom's team were in the cross-hairs of several while Lee Barron, who wanted to take him down, warned, "look out

Thoen!" It was all friendly fun and brain teasing for this worthy cause.

Several people reported how well they thought the whole event was run and commented that they could not find any reason for improvements. A few people said it was too warm but I suspect it was all the brains working in high gear.

The questions seemed to come fast and furious, broken up by the raffles interspersed between rounds. It was a real team effort to gather all the possible answers and get them down quickly on paper.

## Mark Calendars

Annual spaghetti dinner.....	5:30 p.m. Feb. 13 (Today!)
Deacon Mary's study course (see Pg 5) .....	Feb. 19
Same course offered between services beginnig.....	Feb. 23
Paul Todd & friends in concert.....	Feb. 24
Ash Wednesday.....	Feb 26



# Great happenings at shelter

Great things are happening at our children's shelter in the Dominican Republic.

- The physical space has been upgraded to accept more children.
- We now serve 156 kids who, instead of roaming the streets, are fed, taught and loved daily.

The rectors of the Episcopal churches in the Naples Deanery that support this ministry just last month recommitted to the financial support of Albergue el Buen Samaritano (Shelter the Good Samaritan). This is the ministry we raised \$1,500 for at the Feb. 9 trivia day.

We have been supporting the shelter, in San Francisco de Macoris, a three-hour drive north of the capital city, Santo Domingo, for almost 20 years. Our commitment began when a dozen priests and lay men and women of the deanery They searched for a ministry that would be a significant and meaningful relationship, over and above the Sunday morning prayer for a



companion diocese.

They visited schools, churches, and medical facilities. After returning home and forming an official committee, the Albergue El Buen Samaritano (Children's Shelter of the Good Samaritan) was selected.

On that trip from St. Paul's was our rector, the Rev. Tom Damrosch.

It led to an ongoing relationship with the children and facilities. Mission trips include both youth and adults building relationships with the children.

What follows is a report from Wendy Happney, a parishioner at St. Mark's on Marco Island:

"There are 156 children currently at the Shelter, 19 full time employees which include several certified teachers and a maintenance staff that has been at the shelter for years.

"The most rewarding aspect of the program is watching the children grow! Some of them started as infants and are now in second grade! They know the volunteers who even get to know the families. This is more than just us helping them, It is us learning from them and developing relationships with them. As we walk through the barrio (the slum) where they live, the children who were at the shelter and are older always come running out to say hello with hugs and smiling faces."

—Tom Connolly

## *Did you know...*

Fr. Tom's sermons, as well as those of others, are on our parish website, <https://www.saintpaulsnaples.org>. Click the "Worship" tab.

Fr. Tom wrote that sendoff prayer you hear every Sunday:

"And finally my brothers and sisters: Live in harmony and with compassion. Show kindness and humility. Return no evil nor slander but return blessings to all. Bless and do not curse for such is your call in Christ Jesus our Lord. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, shall be with you this day and remain with you for ever more."

Finally, here is our parish prayer. Say it often!

Almight and everlasting God, make our parish of St. Paul's truly a community of prayer and belonging. Raise up in our midst the resources and leadership which will enable us to act upon what you would have us do, in this place and in a ministry of love and concern for others. Open my mind and heart to discern what you would have me do, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

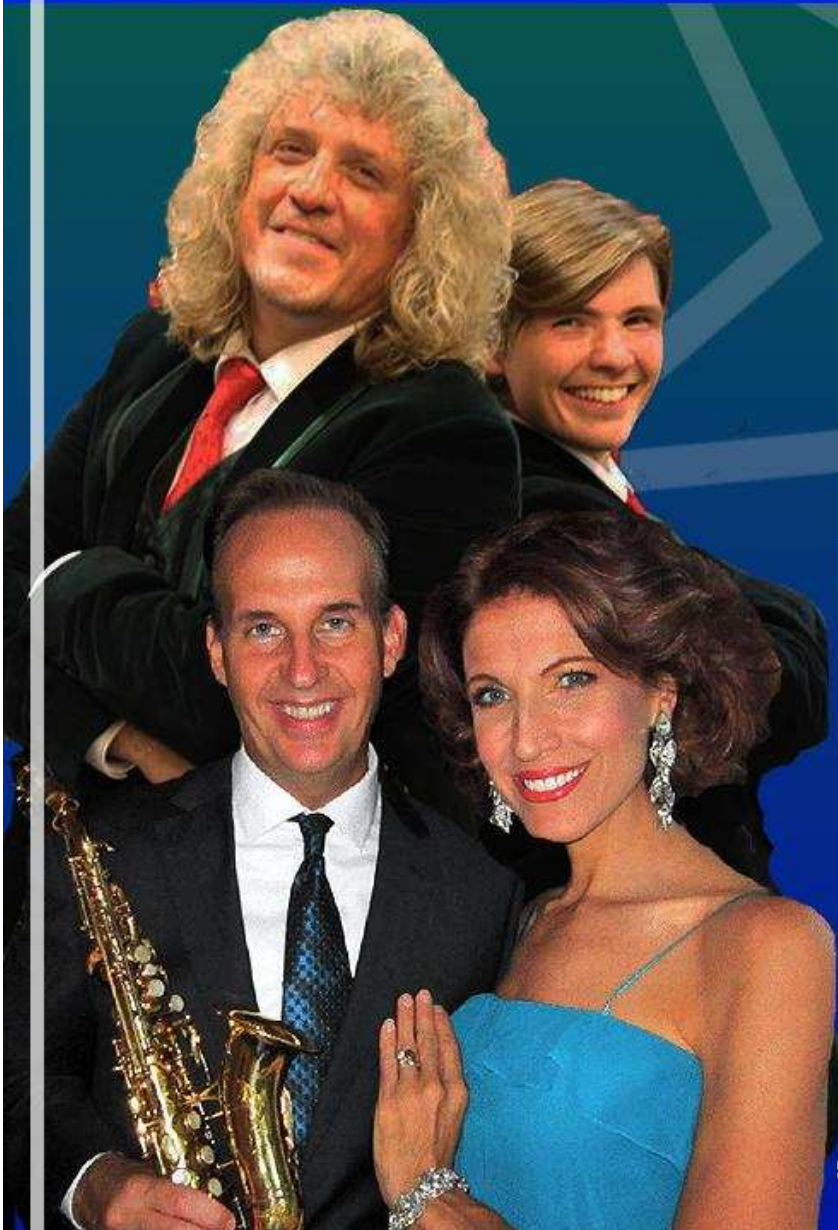


# PAUL TODD

*And Friends*

- IN CONCERT -

WITH BILLY DEAN & DAWN



**MONDAY  
FEBRUARY 24TH  
AT 7:00 PM  
RECEPTION  
TO FOLLOW  
AT ST PAUL'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
3901 Davis Blvd,  
Naples, FL 34104  
(239) 643-0197  
TICKETS ARE  
\$25**

**AVAILABLE AT:  
SaintPaulsNaples.org**

St. Paul's Farmers' Market,

Saturday Mornings

St. Paul's Office Mon - Fri 9AM - 1PM

**BETWEEN** Sunday Worship Services

**Tickets at SaintPaulsNaples.org or at coffee hour**