

Market Comes Alive

Our Farmers' Market opened in November to a bit of a slow start. Several vendors did not return—one for a remarkably interesting reason—but there are new ones and many favorites, such as the book vendor, the honey vendor, the watch battery chap, and the fresh produce vendors, are still here. The market is hopping in January.

The flower vendor vanished. Peter Lund, the market manager, tried to contact him several times and ways but to no avail. Finally we learned he had won a lottery, instantly retired, moved to Miami and is building quite a large home with his winnings!

For the past two Saturdays there has been a consistent line into the parking lot and Dick Emerson noted there has been as big a crowd in the parking lots as in the height of past seasons!

Sales from the gift store, Unique Boutique, and even the hotdogs from the Hospitality Center have been growing weekly; this past weekend we served more than 125 hotdogs.

FYI, in the future, if you do not see the book vendor at his usual spot on cloudy or rainy days, check Trinity Hall; they will most likely be set up in there. Also, he accepts book donations; a good way to clear your shelves and to spread the gift of reading to others!



Judy Martin



Steve Carnell



Peter Lund

3 New Vestry Picks For annual meeting

Three persons will join the parish leadership team after they are voted in at the annual meeting, between the services on Jan. 30.

Steve Carnell, Judy Martin and Peter Lund are the newcomers. The terms of two incumbent members of the St. Paul vestry, Van Geoghegan and Joyce Cashin, are expiring and are on the ballot for another term.

Judy Martin is a long-time member of St. Paul's, and frequently serves as usher at the 8 a.m. service. She is employed at a charitable food distribution mission. Steve Carnell has been active here, principally as head of the long-range planning group. He retired after a long administrative career in Collier County government. Peter Lund is head of the Farmers' Market, and is a retired CIA analyst.

These three will represent our parish at the April convention in which our new bishop will be elected. Parishioners should approach these three if they have opinions on the qualities they would like to see in a new bishop.

In addition to this election, the parish will be asked to ratify several changes to the bylaws, approved by the vestry. As the time we have for this meeting is short (maybe 20 minutes), parishioners are asked to familiarize themselves with the bylaws before Sunday.

Five pages of this edition of Pathways are devoted to a display of the bylaws, the changes and the reasons for the changes. (See Pg. 9)

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Groups reconstituting

Centering prayer, a book club and a men's group that focuses on spirituality are small groups being given new life at St. Paul's.

The men's group meets Mondays at 10 a.m. at the church library (new day and location) and the centering prayer at 10:30 a.m. Tuesdays at the library, in Serson Hall (the office building). The book discussion follows, starting at 11 a.m. The men changed their day from Tuesday to accommodate those who wish to participate in the prayer circle.

Covid and other factors such as key members moving away from Naples put the damper on many activities. Learning to live with change and recognizing the need to be connected with each other, face-to-face, gave impetus to these renewals.

Here are the particulars:

Men's Group

A new group offering St. Paul's churchmen an opportunity to talk and share issues related to our always changing spiritual journey is meeting every Monday morning at 10 a.m.

This peer experience is offered to any friends as well. Feel free to bring along any men you think might be interested.

Centering Prayer

Dear St. Paul's family;

It is time to get together and talk and pray and listen.

We will meet Tuesdays in Serson Hall, and begin with Centering Prayer at 10:30 am. If you wish to just join for a book discussion, that will begin at 11:00 a.m.

The books

The first book for "Discuss a Book" will be **The Church Cracked Open** by Stephanie Spellers.



Recognize this?

If you do, we add our 'thank you' to that of Nora Broszeit, chair of the Stewardship Committee.

If you don't, your Church has not yet received your annual pledge. Your pledge is not a promissory note; if things change you can change it. Your pledge helps your church leaders to plan our mission!

The book may be purchased at Amazon.com for \$14.95. The book group will be self-led. This book discussion is open to everyone.

For more information please call Betty Lentz at 615-948-1760.

Below is an excerpt from the internet on the book to be discussed.

"This book will make a profound difference for the church in this moment in history."

— The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry
Blurb:

"Sometimes it takes disruption and loss to break us open and call us home to God. It's not surprising that a global pandemic—once-in-a-generation reckoning with white supremacy—on top of decades of systemic decline—have spurred Christians everywhere to ask who we are, why

God placed us here and what difference that makes to the world."

We will begin a second book on Feb. 22.

God of Our Mothers by M.R. Ritley.

The book description on Amazon says Here's a new kind of Bible study: a lively, deep, personal look at some of the Old Testament's most powerful and intriguing women. From Sarah, who was unafraid to nudge God into action; to Hagar, whose courage and passion founded a nation; to Judith, a woman and warrior whose faith saved God's people. Readers will examine the stories of biblical women up close and personal. As they read between the lines, readers will learn to use Bible stories to throw light on the stories of their own lives.

Bishop Smith to visit Sunday, Feb. 6

Sunday, February 6: Bishop Dabney Smith will be visiting St. Paul's. There will be one Sunday Service at 9 am.

Following the service there will be fellowship and a reception in Trinity Hall.

Every woman in the parish is automatically a member of ECW, or Episcopal Church Women.

Sue Larson, Marilyn Perry and Joan Menslage enjoy a snack at ECW



ECW meets monthly from October to April for program, snacks (sometimes lunch) and a business session.



Jennifer Edwards, supervisor of elections of Collier County, spoke in January

ECW women learned how elections are conducted in Collier County, sang Christmas carols together, heard about the shelter for abused women and children, and heard from the spokesman from the local hospice in their monthly meetings since October.



Mark Beland, spoke about Avow Hospice in October (and again in a January session about end of life issues)

At their next meeting, Feb. 2, they will hear from a very funny lady, Bonnie Bozo, who impersonates historic and/or mythical figures. On March 2 they will get an update of what is happening at St. Matthew's House, and will wrap up the season with a luncheon at Outback in April.

Come one, come all. Please!

Recapping from our last church history installment, St. Paul's had grown so much that a committee was formed to contact a Naples architect to discuss construction of a new, larger church.

At the January 1971 annual meeting, the church's budget rose to \$22,000, the rector's salary increased to \$7,680, a new senior warden was

announced, and it was agreed to continue with seven vestry members, despite suggestions that a larger number could better cope with the many details of church and parish operations. During the winter, Fr. Karl Bell, the rector, welcomed assistance from the Rev. Charles Serson, a retired

BEGINNINGS



St. Paul's history by Lee Barron

Canadian priest who wintered in Naples and conducted many services (in six years he would be honored as a permanent "fixture"), and many positive and productive activities for both St. Paul's and the parish were held. In June 1971, Rector Bell shocked everyone by submitting his resignation and announced he would be relocating to Venezuela as of September 1. Now the pressure was on to find a suitable replacement...

At that time, the National Episcopal Church had no guidelines nor offered any assistant to a church seeking a new rector. St. Paul's quickly assembled a calling committee and encouraged members to submit names and they contacted local clergy and the diocese. As a large percentage of St. Paul's members had moved to Naples from other states, there were suggestions of possible candidates from all over the

country east of the Mississippi River, however those suggestions proved to be quite a time-consuming and difficult task. Most probable candidates were content where they were and politely refused consideration.

This could not have come at a worse time; there was no parish secretary, and there were no funds in the budget to pay for the telephone calls and letters to be

typed. It very quickly became apparent that written correspondence and telephone inquiries were not productive and St. Paul's limited resources to compensate a new rector hampered interest. Time was running out for a new rector!

No selection had been made by the time Fr. Bell left on September 1, 1971. Several supply priests came to conduct services while the calling committee tried a different path in the quest for a new rector. Noting that other churches had resorted to advertisements in church publications in a search for clergy, the vestry agreed to place a small notice in the September issue of *The Living Churchman*, a monthly magazine subscribed to by many Episcopal churches. Would St. Paul's have any success by means of this shot in the dark?

(To be continued...)



Pathways is published periodically by and for members and friends of St. Paul's. Aside from the few copies printed by the office and mailed to those without access to computers, no church funds are used in its production.

Staff:

Writers: Lee Barron, Steve Carnell, Dan Fischer, Barbara Metcalfe, Jan Shea, Rich Shea

Proofreader & photographer: Charlene Connolly

Managing editor: Ken Eastlack

Editor: Tom Connolly

Publisher: The Rev. Tom Thoeni

We would be very happy to add your name to this list!

The best of gifts

Fr. Tom calls your preparation for your end times the best gift you can leave to your survivors. So he arranged for a workshop on Jan. 9 featuring several speakers. Dr. Murray Smith talked about medical care and treatment of the dying, Jan Shea spoke of the importance of letting your loved ones know things like where to find things, Mark Beland talked about Hospice care (and Rich Shea invited the parish to join him and Steve Carnell as volunteers at Avow Hospice) and Fr. Tom spoke about arranging your final liturgy.

All these things, and much more, will be in a tidy package on our website, Fr. Tom promised.

These could be the best of times

I want to invite you for a quick view of what I once described as the ten worst years of my life. It started oddly enough with a refrigerator that gave out during a heat wave while I was on vacation. The stench seemed like a miasma from a world war. I made a monumental mistake in asking “what could happen next”.

Two days later I wound up breaking into my mom’s apartment when she would not answer her phone. I found her lying in bed, having had a stroke. Again, a few days later, as if to drive the point home of what actually could happen next, my dad had a stroke as well. They may have been divorced but it seemed they still liked to do things as a couple. My dad recovered, my mom lingered for 10 years in a nursing home. In those 10 years my dad died of a heart attack and I was again the discoverer and I wound up giving CPR to him, sadly in vain. So those are the years in question.

But here is the thing, I have come to realize that those were some of the best years of my life. I came to see the fragility of life, tending to mom’s needs as she once tended to me. I know what it is to appreciate life and to give of self for another; in feeding her, in simple rememberings, telling her jokes and handling her financial matters. I came to appreciate what we might view as routine and forgettable things of life as precious, perhaps pious and enriching. I came to appreciate my dad even more than I ever had. Though we lived many miles apart, I spoke with my dad every day for many years before he died. I developed a real friendship with him that my siblings to this day simply cannot understand. So where does that leave us today? The worst of times? The best of times?

I don’t think I could make an argument for this being the best of times. How many of our family and friends have died, perhaps needlessly? How

By
Dan
Fischer



many of us have had to sequester ourselves in our homes like we have never done before. We are not solitary beings. We are social beings as God created us. We want to come together in worship that is a recognition and form of thanks and appreciation for all that is God given.

Even communal worship was removed from our routine. We were cosmically asked to give up so much we may have simply taken for granted. Now we often worship at home, connect via Zoom, Skype and Teams and have been nudged into technology simply to keep up contacts with those we love. Should we lament all the changes that have occurred in the last two years? I don’t want to ask what could happen next. It is horribly sad what has happened but it has happened.

What are we called to do as Christians? One of the things that being present to life means, is taking the ordinary and making it extraordinary, or even just realizing that it is extraordinary. Some of us have been ‘stuck’ with the same person much more than we might have liked – maybe that’s ourselves! How do we reinvent this dynamic? How can we appreciate and let love flourish in a confined system? I have found that making things certain in uncertain times allows for some peace of mind. I will always put out the coffee, cups, sweetener and spoons for my spouse before I go to bed.

Sometimes there might be a note along with that, or a heart cut out of

note pad. In this uncertain world we can be reassured by the presence of a loved one, we can show appreciation and allay doubts and fears. The bed is made, military corners and all – every morning when times might have me cave and say, why bother? How about a surprise favorite munchy when it is least expected? Treat your partner? How about yourself? You are worth it.

Speaking of being worth it, how did Jesus deal with life in similarly uncertain times? Leprosy, religious fanaticism and persecution were prevalent and the entire region was under occupation by a military force that thought nothing of crucifixion as a means of terror and obedience. I think there are many passages and lessons in the life of Jesus that speak to living in the now, right now.

Living, celebrating, mourning at times, eating, marrying. Life went on and Jesus lived and loved. If I could be so bold as to equate leprosy with Covid or HIV, how did Jesus respond? People were banished from society, ostracized, blamed and penalized. This did not stop Jesus’ message or stop Jesus from loving or embracing the outcasts. It seems to me that Jesus embraced the outcast, loved the outcast, forgave sins of everyone he came across. I think his mantra might have been ‘love the life the Father gave you to the full’.

So today may not be anything like we are used to. Life today may not be anything we’d wish on anyone but it is ours to own. It is ours to make the best of times. What changes in our life can we see as an opportunity to love? To make these the best of times.

I am not arguing for some pie in the sky romanticism but we all have a choice to love, make lemon-ade out of lemons, say yes to our call to love, no matter what.

Have you met...

...Mia Tajawandee?

If you are ever lamenting getting up for church, stop and think about Mia, who comes to church some Sundays after working the night shift at Naples Community Hospital. Yet there she is, often serving as a greeter, attending church and coffee hour, and many times staying to help clean up and put away chairs and tables. And as a member of the Altar Guild, she has possibly done the hard work of preparing for the service the day before!

This energetic young woman came to St Paul's soon after moving into the neighborhood. She had a conversation with Charlene Connolly at the farmers' market and decided to give us a try.

Born in Laos, she and her parents escaped by taking a boat along the Mekong River to a refugee camp in Thailand. As Mia says, the war was centered in Viet Nam but most don't realize that Laos and Cambodia were also affected by the bombing. They had no money, no belongings, only the clothes they were wearing. After a time in the refugee camp, they got on a plane to the US, sponsored by the US government. They eventually landed in Philadelphia and a local Presbyterian Church took the care to introduce them to a new way of living in America. She was only six years old, the only child of her parents.

She got a crash course in English entering school immediately. "That was not easy for me," she said. "I had the advantage of being so young but I struggle with grammar even today. Church was a different thing. There were no Christians in our village. But I really liked the Presbyterian service with Communion every Sunday. That is why I am so comfortable at Saint Paul's. The service is so much the same."



In the 1990s the family moved to the Chicago area which now had grown to four when her sister was born. As an adult, Mia first received a BA in Business Administration and worked for several years in an office for the Spectrum Company in Plainfield, IL. She decided the nine-to-five

**By
Jan
Shea**



world was not for her so she went back to school and got a BSN in Nursing at Chicago State University.

She came to Naples as a family friend lived here and recommended the community. She works the night shift on the Medical Surgical floor at Naples Community Hospital and finds the varied schedule suits her well.

She can often be seen sitting towards the back of the church on the left side, wearing a beautiful floppy straw hat. She is the one with the big smile!

Part of God's work

By Rich Shea

Over the last few months many of us have put a dollar or two in that box in the narthex each Sunday with the goal of raising \$1,000 to support a participant in Justin's Place, a wonderful 12-month program by Saint

Matthew's to rescue men and women who have drug and alcohol problems. We hoped to raise \$1,000 in a year. It took about four months!

Last week 18 men and women graduated from that program, with a new look on life grounded in the Grace of God. The graduation ceremony flashed on a big screen pictures of these 18, showing before and after their time in the program. My goodness, what a change! We were part of that miracle.

Maybe there will be slippage amongst these 18. Maybe some will fall back into old habits. But we are reminded of the Good Shepherd who left the flock of 99 to rescue the one lost sheep. Or the father of the prodigal son who joyfully welcomed his son home. And we were part of God's work. Deo gratias.



Buddy Jackson with Justin's box

Notes to 'Mom'

By Ken Eastlack
keastlack.2@gmail.com

In response to Momma Ken's plea to hear from everyone with news of how their Summer went, we are pleased to share the following snippets.



Dear Mama: I must say that Covid put a stop to most of our travel plans this summer and we canceled trips to the Pacific Northwest and to Cornwall, England. We did, however, make a ten-day trip north, first to our old neighborhood in DC and then to MA and NH for a family reunion. The best part was being able to sleep with the windows open. Now we are happy to be back in tropical Naples. Hope you are well, Ma.

—Jan and Rich Shea

Hello Ken, (Mamma)...lol, Saw you at Church today and just wanted to say Hi....Hope you are doing well. Just plugging along here, always something going on. Had my two grandsons here last week, Sebastian and Cypress. They live in Estero so they get here when they get here...Nice to hear from you..

—Frances Nadeau

Ferb and I [moved] to Boise, ID. I

have loved knowing all of you and working/volunteering with you and I shall definitely miss you. We are very attached to our St Paul's family. Our children want us nearer to most of them, so with sadness we leave you, but will never forget you.

Love,

—Carol and Ferb Tracy

I stayed here in Naples this summer, but was surprised by a call from my two great nephews wanting to come down and see me. It was nice to see them again as I have not seen them in 6 years. They were teenagers and now they are grown men. They were passing thru and could only spend the afternoon and part of the next day with me. But, it was so nice to see them again.

—Joyce Cashin

[Joyce also got sideswiped in her car this Summer, but fortunately not seriously injured. I saw her with a

neck brace for a month or so. Be sure to ask her about her new car.

— Mama]

Terry just came home from the hospital two days ago after a 14-day visit for aortic dissection. They treated him with blood pressure lowering drugs and rest, though several things went wrong (unrelated to his condition) in the hospital.

They wanted him to go to in-patient rehab but we fulfilled his wish for bringing him home to recuperate. We would appreciate your prayers for him and for us, his family, as we try to get him well.

Yours in the Love of Christ,

—Judy & Terry Snider

We miss God's Gardeners especially and the St. Paul's family.

We are very happy at Shellpoint in Ft Myers. And at St Michael's and All Angels on Sanibel Island. Happy enough to issue an open invitation to anyone at St. Paul's to come and have a conducted tour with Marcie and me. It would be a pleasure to share our enthusiasm. The religious overlay here really adds a lot.

—Alan & Marcie Cragg
239 571 0618

So far we are all well, here in Ottawa, Ontario. We live near our family, which is a good thing with all this Covid going on. We spent a good portion of the year in lock down, so we have not travelled anywhere. Our son had Covid, but a very mild case.

Now all the adults in our family are double vaccinated. The children (our two granddaughters) are just back to



Hey Momma! This man would like to tell you—and not just you, everybody— about his summer

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Notes to 'Mom'

Continued from Pg 7

school this season. Last year they were at home doing school online for a good portion of the year.

Sadly, I do not think that we will be able to come to Florida this coming season. Travel is still very iffy, and the border is still closed, so we shall have to say "hello" to everyone from afar, and hope that maybe in 2023 we will be able to come down for a visit.

—Kay and Brian Richardson

Judy and I are still alive and relatively healthy. We are thankful.

We miss St. Paul's. While sad to say since we are separated by such a distance, St. Paul's is one of our favorite spots to enjoy God and his tremendous flock of supporters. We miss the weekly services and warm companionship.

We are planning some serious life changes, God willing, which may expose us to the opportunity of once again enjoying St. Paul's.

With the U.S. border closure limiting our ability to enter the U.S. other than flying, we are relegated to imprisonment in Canada. This will change we pray and once again we could be exposed to what we consider our home church.

—Bob & Judy Simons

Well, it's now fall, my husband and I are still here in Camp 'Lee-Me-Alone-A' in upstate New York. The fall foliage has not been as colorful as in past years as we had a nasty gypsy moth infestation this Spring; the caterpillars had a grand time munching their way through the Adirondack Mountains. In fact, one could hear them crunching at night – EWW! With less leaves to photosynthesize, as warm fall and not enough rain, the colors are not as vibrant, but still quite pretty against the forest green of the pines.

My early July note told you how delighted I was to see my wild "pet" deer – Doey – who visited me on a daily basis, but no fawns. Well, not even a week after I had submitted my letter for publication, look who came out of the woods with Doey! A BABY! "Fawny!"

—Lee Barron

[There was more to this sharing, but space warranted editing. I'm certain that Lee will be glad to tell you the rest, now that she's back]

As for myself, as you can see, I sent out a whole lot of individual emails over the Summer. However my friend Tom Connolly and I also started a new men's spiritual growth and development group as Summer came to an end. You can read more about that in a separate article in this issue.

So that and keeping up my end in the depleted God's Gardeners crew pretty much sums up how my Summer went.

God Bless Us All

—Mamma



Brynna Connolly, 3, is just going into the dress Grandma Charlene bought at St. Paul's gift shop shortly after Brynna's birth in Indianapolis. The dress was hand made by Darlene Shoemaker.

Diocese offering workshop On Racial Reconciliation

The diocesan Race and Reconciliation Committee has been hard at work over the last year planning diocesan-wide events examining racism (both virtual and in-person), curating a list of resources to support parishes as they begin or continue their efforts toward racial reconciliation, and creating a six-hour diocesan dismantling racism training aligned with The Episcopal Church's priority of racial reconciliation.

Feedback from this training included quotes such as, "best diocesan program in years," and "very well done," and "I believe the more we talk about the issue of racism, the more it will be dismantled." At their October 2021 meeting, the Diocesan

Council unanimously approved a new diocesan policy which outlines who is required to take Dismantling Racism training.

The language from that policy reads as follows: "Lay and ordained leadership of the diocese, including all ordained persons, church and diocesan staff, vestries, and those elected or appointed to positions of leadership on committees, commissions, agencies, and boards shall participate in said anti-racism training according to diocesan policy."

The goals for this training were laid out by The Episcopal Church following General Convention Resolution B049 in 2000 which requires training for clergy and lay on this topic.

-ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH PRESENTS

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<https://www.SaintPaulsNaples.org>

Let's talk about Prison reform

by Nora Broszeit

Prison Fellowship® works to restore America's criminal justice system and those it affects. We help men and women replace the cycle of brokenness that landed them in prison. We advocate for justice reform and activate grassroot networks to do the same. We equip wardens to bring restorative change to their facilities. We care for prisoners' families and help strengthen the bond between children and prisoner mom or dad.

Prison Fellowship envisions a safer, more redemptive society. So we promote justice that restores, an approach to criminal justice that recognizes the value and potential of every person.

God loves justice (Isaiah 61:8) and requires us to seek it (Micah 6:8). Can you imagine how much it must outrage Him to see the injustices in our system, which undermine the dignity and value of His creatures? Shouldn't it outrage us and move us to action?

Please join me in forming a small group to read "Outrageous Justice." I have books at no charge and a video to help us get started.

By-laws to be voted on at January 30 annual meeting

Green text for replacements and additions ~~Red-strikethrough-text to be deleted~~ Blue text explains why

By-Laws of St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Naples, Inc.

(A Corporation Not for Profit)

Revised and Amended January 30, 2022

Article One: Organization

SECTION 1. The name of this organization shall be ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF NAPLES INC. which shall be referred to as "Parish".

SECTION 2. The organization shall have a seal, which shall be in the form originally set forth in the first Bylaws. Application of the seal shall not be necessary for a signature on behalf of the Parish to bind the Parish.

Article Two: Purpose

The purpose of the corporation is the support of the public worship of Almighty God. According to the faith and discipline of the Episcopal Church in The United States of America, otherwise and hereinafter known as the Episcopal Church, as promulgated by

the Ecclesiastical Authority of the unit of the same, known as the Episcopal Church in the Diocese in which this corporation is situated (which shall hereinafter be referred to as "Diocese"). The corporation acknowledges its allegiance to be due to the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church and recognizing the Diocese to be a true unit of the same having a rightful spiritual jurisdiction over said corporation, hereby declares its adhesion to the same and accedes to its Diocesan Constitution and Canons.

Article Three: Membership

SECTION 1. Membership in this Church is defined by the Canons of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America (Title I, Canon 17) and of the Episcopal Diocese of Southwest Florida (Canon VIII).

SECTION 2. As provided therein, only communicant members of this Parish who are sixteen years of age or over, whose names are duly enrolled as

such in the Register of said Parish, and who are regular in their attendance at its services and make stated contributions of record to its general support shall be electors qualified to vote at a duly convened meeting of the Parish. The vote of no person shall be questioned unless his or her right to vote shall be first challenged by a qualified Elector. In the event of such challenge the right of such person shall be passed upon by a committee of three previously appointed by the Rector or Priest-in-Charge, or in the event there shall be no Rector or Priest-in-Charge, then by the Senior Warden and confirmed by the Vestry, and the findings of such committee shall be final and binding.

SECTION 3. In addition, no member of this Parish shall be excluded from rights and Privileges or the worship or Sacraments of the Parish, nor from parochial membership, because of race, color, sex, or ethnic origin.

Article Four: Meetings

SECTION 1. ~~The Annual Meeting of the Congregation shall be held annually within 120 days before or on February 28 at such date and time as may be set by the Rector and Vestry.~~ Notice of the Annual Meeting shall be posted at the Church door or published in the Church newsletter at least ten (10) days prior to such meeting, and may be further announced as the Vestry shall direct.

~~The Annual Meeting of the Congregation shall be held at St Paul's, unless otherwise directed by the Rector and the Vestry. The Meeting will take place on the Sunday on or after January 25, the Feast of the Conversion of St Paul, unless otherwise directed by the Vestry.~~

~~This will provide us to have a determined date and place each year allowing better planning and preparation. It will also allow us to change the date and place if needed because of unforeseen circumstances.~~

SECTION 2. The presence of at least twenty-five (25) qualified Electors shall constitute a quorum and shall be necessary to conduct the business of this Parish; but a lesser number may adjourn the meeting for a period of not more than two (2) weeks from the date scheduled in accordance with these By-Laws and the Secretary shall cause a notice of this scheduled meeting to be sent to all qualified Electors. A quorum as herein before set forth shall be required at any adjourned meeting.

After a quorum is established, a reduction in the number of qualified electors present shall not affect the validity of any action taken at the meeting or any adjournment thereof. The Canons of the Church shall be observed at all membership meetings.

SECTION 3. A special meeting of this Parish may be called by the Rector or Priest-in-Charge when deemed in the best interest of the Parish. Notices of such meeting shall be ~~mailed or emailed~~ mailed or electronically delivered to all qualified Electors at their addresses as they appear in the Parish database at least (10) days before the scheduled date set for such special meeting. Such notice shall state the reason why such a meeting has been called, the business to be transacted at the meeting and by whom called.

~~This simply allows us to keep up with technology~~

~~At the request of a majority of the members of the Vestry or majority of the qualified Electors of the Parish the Rector or Priest-in-Charge shall cause a special meeting to be called but such request must be in writing at least (15) days before the requested scheduled date. Notices of such meeting shall be mailed or electronically delivered to all qualified Electors at their addresses as they appear in the Parish database at least (10) days before the scheduled date set for such special meeting. Such notice shall state the reason why such a meeting has been called, the business to be transacted at the meeting and by whom called.~~

~~Our Chancellor suggested this for clarification.~~

~~No other business but that specified in the notice may be transacted at any special meeting without the unanimous consent of all present at the meeting.~~

Article Five: Voting

SECTION 1. At all Article Four meetings voting shall be via voice or show of hands, except that for any contested election of Vestry ballots shall be provided and there shall not appear any place on such ballot any mark or marking that would tend to indicate who cast such ballot. At any regular or special meeting, if a majority so requires, any question may be voted upon in the manner and style provided for contested election of Vestry. No voting may be done by proxy.

SECTION 2. For the annual election of Vestry a Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the Rector or Priest-in-Charge with the consent of the Vestry. The membership of this Committee shall be announced to the parish at least 30 days before the Annual Meeting. There may be nominations from the floor at the Annual Meeting provided notice to do so including the name and consent of the nominee has been given to the Rector prior to the Annual Meeting. If such nominations are not to be accepted, notice of how and when to submit a person's name for consideration by the Nominating Committee shall be published in the Church's newsletter.

SECTION 3. If the number of nominees for the Vestry equals the number of vacancies, a motion instructing the Secretary to cast one ballot for the slate of nominees shall be in order.

At all votes by ballots the presiding officer shall immediately prior to the commencement of balloting appoint a committee of three (3) who shall act as Inspectors of Election and who shall at the conclusion of such balloting certify in writing to the person in charge the results and the certificate of election shall be physically affixed to the minutes of the meeting. No Inspector of Election shall be a candidate for office or shall be personally interested in the question voted upon. In the event of ties, additional balloting shall be conducted until all offices are filled. Per office, the number of nominees equal to the number of open positions who poll the highest number of ballots cast shall be elected.

Article Six: Order of Business

1. Call to Order. The Presiding Officer of the Annual Meeting shall be the Rector or Priest-in-Charge, or in the Rector's absence, the Senior Warden.

2. Appointment of Clerk, or the Secretary of the Church shall be the Clerk.

3. Minutes of the preceding meeting if their approval at this Annual Meeting is necessary.

4. Report of the Nominating Committee

5. Election of Vestry Members

6. Treasurer's Report and any other report

7. Such other Business as may properly come before the Meeting

8. Adjournment

Article Seven: Vestry

SECTION 1. The Vestry of the parish is charged with general responsibility for management of the business affairs of the church and the furtherance of its mission and ministry, as defined in the Canons, and consists of the Rector and up to twelve members elected as provided below. Members of the vestry shall be baptized Communicants in Good Standing, of the required legal age under Diocesan Canons, whose names are duly recorded in the parish records. All shall be elected in the first instance by the Parish at an Annual Meeting. Vacancies shall be filled by a vote of the majority of the remaining members of the Vestry for the balance of the year. A person selected by the Vestry to fill a vacancy may, at the next Annual Meeting, run for a regular term or for the unexpired portion of any vacancy.

SECTION 2. No person shall be eligible as a Warden or Vestry Member who has not been a

qualified elector of the Parish for a period of one year prior to said electing meeting.

SECTION 3. Of the persons on the Vestry, one shall be appointed Senior Warden by the Rector or Priest-In-Charge and one shall be elected Junior Warden by the Vestry.

SECTION 4. The term for a Vestry member shall be three (3) years. The terms shall be staggered so that the terms of four (3) members shall expire each year. No member of the Vestry shall be eligible to be elected for more than two consecutive full three-year terms.

SECTION 5. The Rector shall call the first meeting of the new Vestry following each Annual Meeting. The Vestry (a) shall then establish the calendar of meetings for the following year, and may modify that schedule at any regular meeting, or (b) may establish the date and time of each meeting at a prior meeting. Other meetings may be called by the Rector, or in his/her absence or incapacity by the Senior Warden or Junior Warden, or by the Bishop on at least seven (7) days notice to all members of the Vestry. Such notice may be waived for urgent cause by action by a majority of the Vestry.

SECTION 6. The Vestry shall have the control and management of the affairs and business of the Parish. It shall only act in the name of the Parish when it shall be duly convened by its Chairman. Five (5) members shall constitute a quorum. All decisions must be by majority vote of those present. The Rector, each Warden, and each Vestry member shall have one vote and ~~such voting may be done by proxy who is another Vestry member, when a member is out of town or incapable of coming to the meetings-~~

such voting may not be done by proxy, or email, neither can actions be taken via email decision. Attendance at meetings can be through any means of communication that allows members to "simultaneously hear each other during the meeting."

This change accomplishes two things. First, email votes and actions are not allowable under Florida law. Proxy votes must be submitted in writing. This seems cumbersome and inhibits the exchange of information and ideas that may change a vote.

Second, electronic meetings are lawful and have been by St Paul's, the Naples Deanery, and the Diocese.

Add: All checks, drafts, and other payment of money, notes or any form of indebtedness, payable to the church, shall be endorsed for deposit only into the Church's general bank account and then deposited in said account.

Most form bylaws require endorsements by officers. This provision authorizes our current practice whereby counters (who are mostly not officers or even members of the vestry) to stamp checks for deposit.

Add: The Vestry, except as otherwise provided in the by-laws, may authorize any officer or agent to enter into any contract or execute any instrument in the name of or on behalf of the church. Such authority may be general or confined to specific instances. Unless so authorized or ratified by the Vestry or by an officer acting within proper agency power, no officer, agent, or employee has any authority to bind the church by any contract or engagement or to pledge its credit or render it liable for any purpose or to any amount.

Sets forth how contracts should be executed.

Add: All gifts of negotiable securities shall be sold and converted to cash as soon as practical.

Rationale: The church should not be in the investment business or make decisions on what stocks should be held or sold. Investment decisions should be left to professional advisors.

SECTION 7. At all meetings of the Vestry the Canons of the Church and these By-Laws shall be observed. In the event of a conflict, the Canons shall prevail.

SECTION 8. A Warden or Vestry Member may be removed when sufficient cause exists for such removal, by an affirmative vote of two thirds (2/3) of those present at a duly convened Vestry meeting at which a quorum has been established, and the concurrence of the Rector or Priest-In-Charge shall be required.

Add: A member may resign from the Vestry by communicating the resignation to the Rector or Senior Warden. The resignation takes effect once the resignation is reported and recorded in the minutes of the next Vestry meeting.

At times a member of a vestry can resign yet, legally, the resignation remains ambiguous. It is advised to have a formal way to acknowledge the resignation of Vestry members.

SECTION 9. The Vestry may make such rules and regulations covering the conduct of its business as it may in its discretion determine necessary.

Article Eight: Officers

SECTION 1. The officers of the Parish shall be as follows:

Rector
Senior Warden
Junior Warden

Secretary

Treasurer

Add: These officers will be designated as signers on church accounts and documents.

Provides clarity and puts into our bylaws the current practice of the Vestry.

SECTION 2. The Rector is ex-officio, President of the Parish and Chairman of the Vestry; the presiding officer of all meetings of the Vestry and Parish with the right to vote on all matters; has the right to attend the meetings of all organizations within the Parish and in addition shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

Shall cause to be produced an annual report on the state of the Parish at each Annual Meeting.

Shall appoint all committees, temporary and permanent.

Shall see that all books, reports and certificates as required by law are properly kept or filed.

May be one of the officers who may sign checks or drafts of the Parish.

Shall have, subject only the Bishop of the Diocese, exclusive charge under the Constitution and Canons, of all things affecting the spiritual interest of the Parish.

Shall at all times be entitled to the use and control of the church and all other Parish buildings including the appurtenances and furniture thereof.

Shall at all times be entitled to access to the church, to open the same for public worship, for catechetical or other religious instruction, marriages, baptisms, burials and all other offices authorized the Church.

Shall have full charge of all services in the church and spiritual direction and control of all Church schools, Parish schools and all other associations connected with the Parish and in which the Parish has legal authority.

Shall have all such powers as may reasonably be construed as belonging to the chief executive of any organization, including the power to delegate responsibility and authority to responsible persons.

SECTION 3. The Senior Warden shall be a confirmed adult communicant appointed by the Rector from the elected Vestry persons and in the absence of the Rector, shall assume all duties of the Rector except those which may only be performed by a member of Holy Orders and defined in the Constitution and Cannons of the Diocese and/or by the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese.

The Senior Warden shall, with the concurrence of a majority of the Vestry, provide for interim coverage of clergy duties should the Rector, for any reason, resign the office, be unable to perform the duties or be removed from office by the Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese. Such selection must be approved by the Bishop of the Diocese.

SECTION 4. THE JUNIOR WARDEN shall be a member of the Vestry duly elected by vote of a majority of the Vestry and shall in the absence of the Senior Warden, assume the duties of said Warden.

At the discretion of the Vestry and the Rector the Junior Warden may assume leadership roles as may be necessary to carry on the work of the Vestry.

SECTION 5. THE SECRETARY shall be appointed annually by the Vestry, may be reappointed, and may or may not be a member of the Vestry. The Secretary shall take and record the minutes of all Vestry and Parish meetings, attest the public acts of the Vestry, preserve all records and papers belonging to the Parish and perform such other duties as shall legally be assigned. The Secretary shall faithfully deliver into the hands of the successor all books and documents of the Parish.

SECTION 6. THE TREASURER shall be appointed annually by the Vestry, may or may not be a member of the Vestry, and may be reappointed. The Treasurer shall perform the duties normally incumbent upon that office. The Parish shall furnish a bond of suitable amount or shall have an insurance policy that provides industry standard theft coverage. The book and accounts shall be audited annually and at any other time as the Vestry may direct. The Treasurer shall deliver a report at the Annual Meeting of the Parish.

SECTION 7. Each officer described in this Article Eight who is a member of the Vestry shall have his/her one vote as a Vestry member. An officer who is not a member of the Vestry shall not have a vote. If a member of the Vestry is elected to the office of Treasurer or Secretary, that member may continue as that officer after the term as member of the Vestry ends. No officer, other than the Rector, shall for reason of the office be entitled to receive any compensation from the Parish, but nothing herein shall be construed to prevent an officer from receiving any compensation from the Parish for duties other than as an officer.

Article Nine: Salaries

The Vestry shall establish compensation of employees of the Parish.

Article Ten: Committees

The Vestry with the concurrence of the Rector shall authorize the formation of such committees as it may from time to time determine are necessary to carryout its duties and functions. All member of committees of this parish shall be appointed by the Rector and their term of office shall be (a) a period of one year or (b) as specified in the approved By-laws or other governing document of the committee to which appointed or (c) as set forth in the appointment the Rector makes.

Article Eleven: Amendments

These By-Laws may be altered, repealed or new articles added by affirmative vote of the majority of a duly established quorum of the qualified Electors and of the Rector. Any negative vote of the Rector after such affirmative of the voting member of the Parish has been obtained may be appealed to the Diocesan Bishop and if said negative vote is overturned by said Bishop the amendment shall prevail.

Article Twelve: Delegates

Three Electors shall be chosen by the Vestry to serve as Diocesan Convention Delegates and at least one chosen as Alternate Delegate. Those chosen shall also serve as Deanery Convocation Delegates and Alternate. The Vestry shall fill any vacancy in the ranks of such delegates.

Article Thirteen: Books and Records

Upon reasonable notice in writing the books and records of the Parish and the Vestry are available for inspection during normal business hours by members in good standing (qualified Electors) of the Parish. The written request must be directed to the Rector. The foregoing is subject to the following exceptions:

Records of pledges, estimates of giving payments or gifts made by any person are confidential and not subject to disclosure without the express written consent of the donor.

Records of conversations, communication, letters, correspondence, memos or any other form of record of any communication made by any person to any person associated with the Parish when such communication would be covered by the Priest/ Penitent privilege are confidential and not subject to disclosure except as provided by law.

Article Fourteen: Parliamentary Authority

At all meetings of this Parish and the Vestry, the following shall be observed, in order of precedence: the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church; the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of Southwest Florida; and Robert's Rules of Order (current edition).