

Who We Are



Welcome to St. Paul Episcopal Church in McHenry, Illinois. We are a cohesive family-sized congregation that values hospitality and is known to be welcoming and friendly. Our life together is marked by a dedication to outreach ministries.

We honor the liturgical standards of the Episcopal Church. Sunday morning Rite I and Rite II services are attended by parishioners who hold their traditions dear. Our choir enhances Rite II worship.

Our family-size allows us to readily enjoy fellowship and to care for each other. During our time of transition and search, our lay-leadership has been mindful of addressing uncertainty through open and regular communication.

Our prayer is that through our Search we:

- Find a new appreciation of our strengths.
- Uncover our weaknesses known and unknown.
- Discover new ways of meeting our challenges.
- Discern the will of God for our community.
- Identify the priest who will accompany us in ministry.

Outreach Overview

Historically, the parishioners of St. Paul have been deeply committed to outreach ministries. Our facilities have always been made available to a variety of support groups and community events.

Holiday Food Baskets have been a viable ministry for many years, reaching those in need in the McHenry community.

In 2007, we began our Little Cherubs Preschool and are currently developing a Dual Language program.

The St. Paul Diaper Bank Partnership, begun in 2009, has taken on national interest, and our blueprint is being put to use across the country.

Most recently we have partnered with Transitional Living Services to create Betts' Place. Property and buildings that were bequeathed to St. Paul are now home to veterans who are working toward transitioning into civilian life.



Little Cherubs Preschool



Little Cherubs Preschool was founded in 2007 as a ministry of St. Paul Episcopal Church. The school offers programming for children ages 2 to 5 years old and focuses on the development of the whole child; socially, emotionally, physically, cognitively and spiritually. Our average enrollment is twelve students. We use a creative, play-based curriculum that encourages discovery, hands-on experiences, and developing independent, problem-solving thinkers. Our paid staff includes a director and an assistant.

In 2011, Little Cherubs Preschool was awarded grant-funding from two different sources; the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago awarded \$1,500 and \$10,000 was awarded by the McHenry County Community Foundation. This funding is being used for the expansion of current programming and for the inclusion of a bi-lingual curriculum. A portion of grant monies has been set aside to establish need-based tuition scholarships.

Since the preschool opened, it has served more than 50 families from communities all over McHenry County. Little Cherubs Preschool is also a member of the 4 C's of McHenry County and the McHenry County Preschool Directors Association. We also attend local preschool fairs to promote our visibility in the community.



St. Paul Diaper Bank Partnership



St. Paul started Illinois' first diaper bank in 2009 after we discovered that government aid does not cover diapers, leaving a huge unmet need for low-income families and the elderly.

St. Paul's leadership created their own version of the diaper bank after researching how other diaper banks functioned. Rather than distribute to individuals, diapers are collected, stored and distributed to our partner social service agencies. This arrangement gives us the benefit of identifying the largest number of needy in our community. In no time, the idea caught on and, our church food pantry became the St. Paul Diaper Bank Partnership.

A local Rotary Club gave the first donation. While only a few hundred diapers were expected, the Rotarians collected over 4500 diapers! Soon corporations, including Kimberly-Clark, local churches and schools began holding diaper drives. Through the dedicated efforts of parish volunteers and our partners we distribute 15-20,000 adult and children's diapers each month. During the first nine months of 2011 we received over 147,000 diapers and distributed 169,567.

In 2011, The Diaper Bank received a \$5,000 grant from the McHenry County Community Foundation in support of this important outreach ministry.

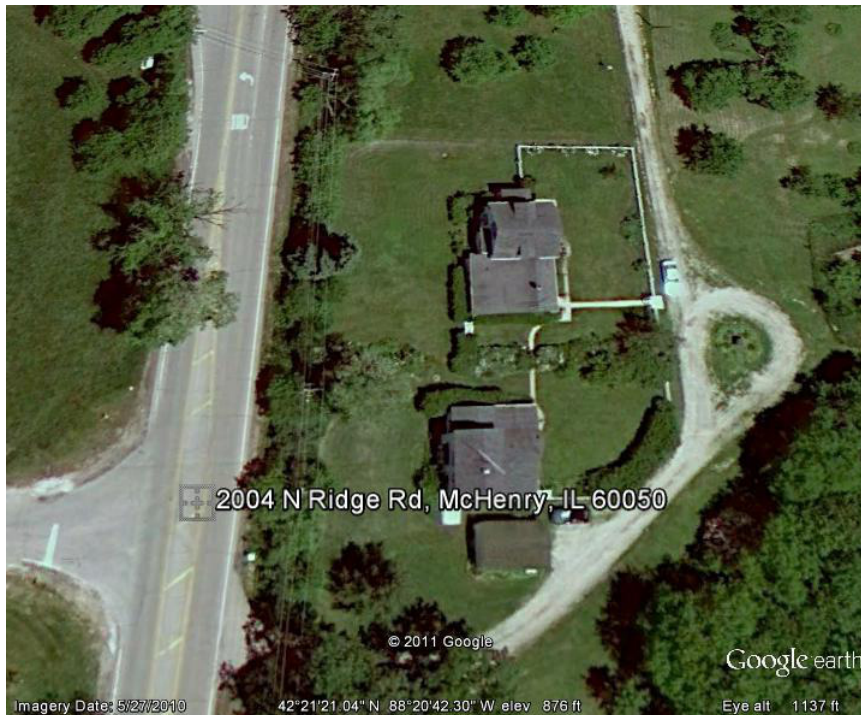


Betts' Place

In 2010, St. Paul inherited six acres of land with two houses in McHenry. We searched for a way to use the property, and in 2011 reached out to the Veterans Assistance Agency. We learned of a Transitional Living Services (TLS) program called New Horizons. New Horizons veterans come from diverse circumstances, but they all have one thing in common: a sincere desire to end homelessness and make a successful return to society.

Upon completion of their two-year stay with the Veterans Assistance facility in Hebron, many veterans have difficulty finding affordable housing. Unfortunately, the Housing Authority is backlogged with a wait in excess of three years. This means there is a minimum of a one year lag between a veteran's discharge from New Horizons and any possibility of financial assistance. Since most residents' earnings fall below the county's median income level, the prospect of securing housing can be challenging.

St. Paul recognized the gap and offered the use of Betts' Place. St. Paul has partnered with TLS, and three veterans currently occupy the homes located on the property. The New Horizons program provides these veterans the opportunity to accomplish their objectives with a level of guidance, feedback and support. In addition to receiving the support that they need from the TLS program, the residents are also contributing to the care of Betts' Place by providing general maintenance functions.





Our Vision for the Future

During the year 2010, St. Paul Church, lead by our diocesan consultant, completed the Church Assessment Tool (CAT) survey. Recently we engaged in small group sessions to gather additional input from parishioners. We have identified ourselves as a small congregation, have recognized our challenges and have identified the following tasks:

- Recreate a community of shared ministry, accountability and mutual responsibility for the life of the parish.
- Focus on what we do well and do it consistently.
- Attract new members and integrate them fully into the life of the parish.
- Attract families with children and youth.
- Provide and engage in high-quality education for every age and stage in life.
- Modernize our communication and visibility through web technology that is relevant and regularly maintained.
- Renew and revitalize our community around a sense of a hope-filled future.

Our New Priest-in-Charge



We seek a Priest-in-Charge who:

- Possesses the gifts of preaching and teaching.
- Can impart spiritual insight and proclaim the Gospel of our Lord.
- Will recognize the gifts of our people and inspire us to spiritual growth.
- Is trustworthy and willing to participate in regular and transparent communication with the congregation.
- Is able to speak and hear the truth in love.
- Possesses the gift of evangelism to grow the membership of our church.
- Will be visible in our local community and work to maintain our ministry relationships.
- Will love us.

Financials

St. Paul Church has a significant net worth of \$2.7 Million. This net worth is comprised mainly of real estate and funds in our endowment. The Parish has \$247,000 of real estate debt which includes a \$50,000 line of credit. This line of credit has an outstanding balance of \$36,000.

Like many parishes, St. Paul's does not collect enough money in pledges and other income to pay its monthly expenses. Our endowment pays the Church mortgage payment each month, the interest owed on the line of credit (approx. \$180/mo) and, from time to time, funds general Parish expenses. We are fortunate to have a \$550,000 endowment, but we do not want to use it to pay for recurring expenses. We intend to use the endowment to invest in our future, by funding physical improvements to the building and grounds to be a desirable and welcoming place of worship, funding a formalized plan of membership growth in the community, funding a professionally made web site that is attractive to younger Christians, and attracting a rector with a plan to expand our congregation. We do not believe there is a way to preserve the endowment long term without growing the Church with new families and children. In addition, St. Paul rents our Fellowship Hall to organizations and individuals on a regular basis.

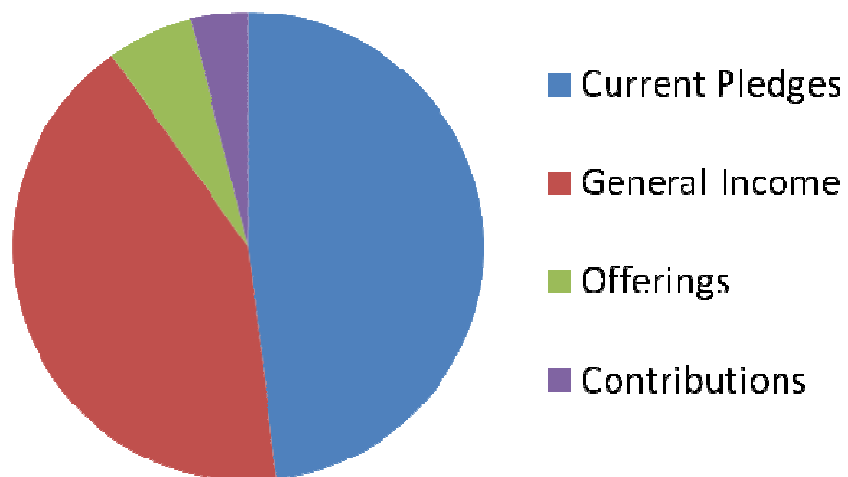
St. Paul contracted for a financial audit in 2011. We have subsequently maintained our finances on QuickBooks and provide timely and accurate financial statements monthly to the Vestry. The Vestry has gone to great lengths to maintain transparency in St. Paul's finances.

In 2011, St. Paul's was the recipient of three grants, two from McHenry County Foundation and one from the Congregations Commission Incentive Grant from the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago for our Diaper Bank and Little Cherubs Preschool ministries.

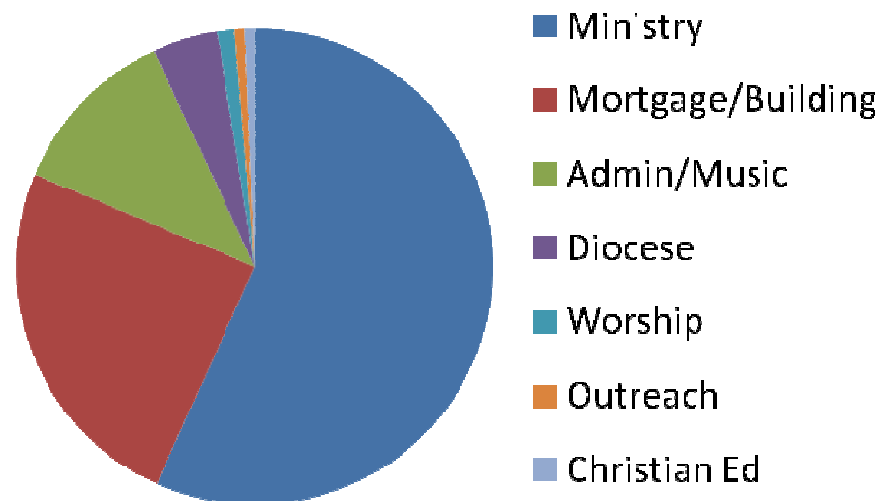


St. Paul Financial Review

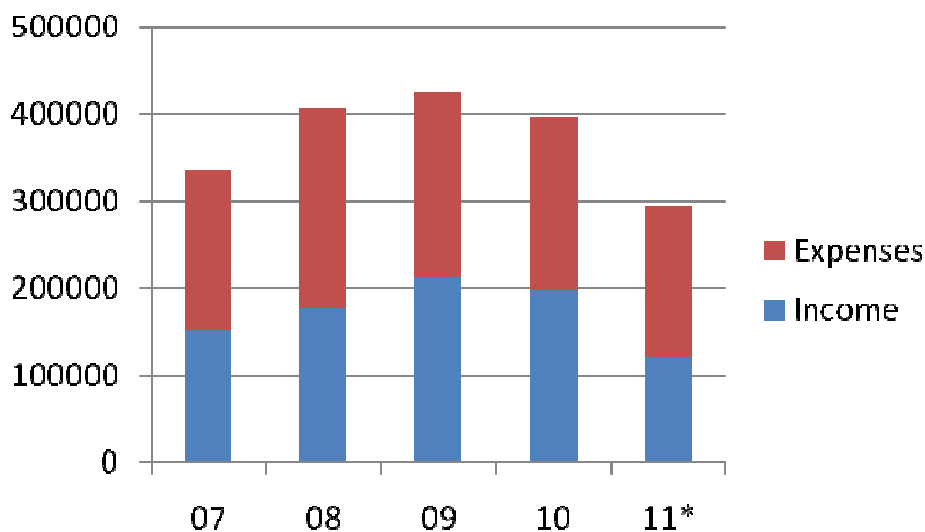
2011 Operating Revenues



2011 Operating Expenses

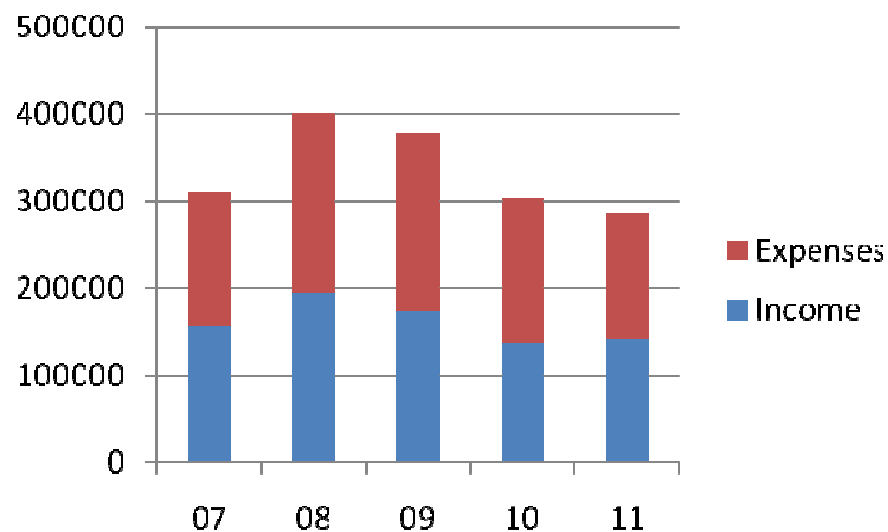


Total Actual Income & Expenses



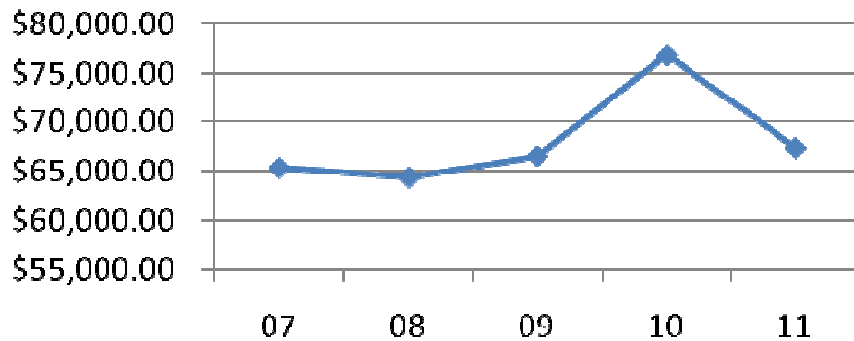
* Income/Expenses through Sept. 2011

Total Budget Income & Expenses

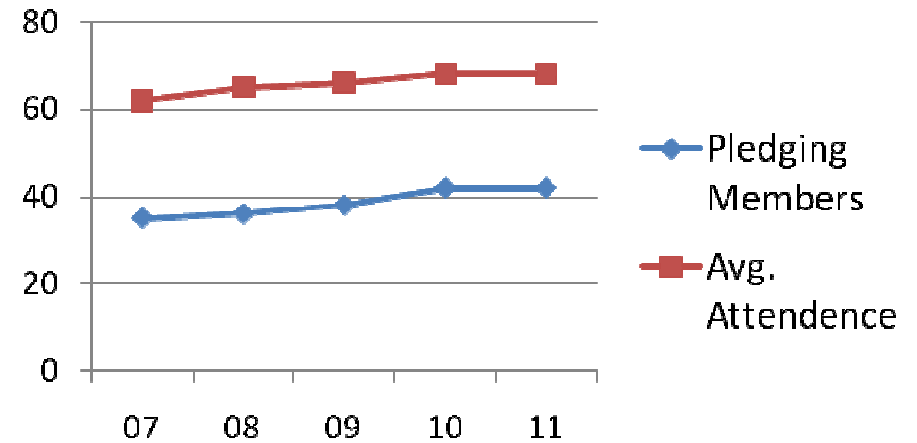


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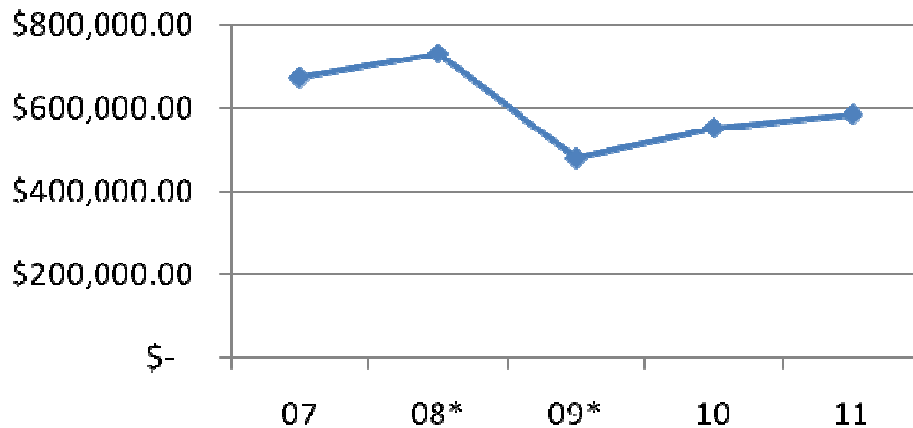
Five-year Pledging Trends



Five-year Congregation Trends



Five-year Endowment Fund Trend



* 2008 – 2009 Endowment Fund decline due to drop in stock market

Our History

St. Paul Episcopal Church began in 1955 when a small group of area Episcopalians petitioned the Bishop to begin a mission. Our first Eucharist was celebrated on January 15, 1956 with The Rev. W.C. Klein officiating. Between the years 1957 and 1958, our property was purchased, and the initial two-story building was dedicated on April 16th 1958.

The decade of the sixties saw increased growth, and the parish was established as a family-sized congregation. By the mid-seventies it became apparent that we had outgrown our original building, and in 1975, our current sanctuary was built.

In 1982, St. Paul became one of the first churches in the Chicago Diocese to implement the Search and Call process. It was through this process that The Rev. Marion Mailey was called as our Rector. The Rev. Mailey was the first female Rector in the Diocese of Chicago. At the annual congregational meeting, church members elected to petition the Bishop for Parish status. This was granted in 1983 at the Diocesan Convention.

From the late eighties into the nineties, the church experienced another period of growth and renewed spirit. In 1996, work began on the 3,000 sq. foot addition which included the Fellowship Hall, kitchen and administrative offices. Soon after completion of the Fellowship Hall, St. Paul became a PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter) site and continued that ministry to McHenry County homeless for nearly ten years.

The new millennium brought a time of turmoil. Trust was broken, and in the uncertainty and pain, our membership declined. For some of those who remained, the hurt would remain also. In 2010, the parish engaged in the CAT (Church Assessment Tool) survey and small group meetings. Facilitated by a diocesan consultant, old wounds were brought to light and, at last, the healing process began. There is now an atmosphere of joy in the present while we look forward to a brighter future.

