

ANNUAL REPORT

OCTOBER 2021-SEPTEMBER 2022

The Gathering Place



Soon we will be gathering around tables for a meal of Gratefulness. Thanksgiving is a time to pause and reflect on the year. The Annual Report offers us a similar kind of opportunity.

In the following pages, we highlight how God has blessed us. Like the story of Abraham and Sarah, God blesses us so that we can bless others. You'll see the impact of your faithfulness and generosity in providing support to the congregation, our local community, and beyond.

Our budget provides a beautiful campus as a gathering place. It makes possible missions and ministry to all ages, and a committed staff who devote their working hours to sharing the gospel's good news.

We began the year reflecting on three words, "Invite, Encourage and Connect." St. Paul is a gathering place, not only for worship and our congregation's many activities but for over a dozen community groups. The year has included moments of blessing, lament, and hope. We've had funerals, weddings, and baptisms. Our youth and children have sung songs of joy, and we've seen a re-energized SPAMS group.

We welcomed and responded to some of the most vulnerable among us through the Mobile Resource Center, our partnership with Kentucky Refugee Ministries, and the flood relief efforts for Eastern Kentucky. Our giving supported the Kentucky Conference and the Heartland District in our connectional missions.

We've reached some critical milestones in the year too. We've seen momentum building in worship on Sunday mornings and in our ministry events. The vision team is leading us in working on our goals. We have welcomed new staff, created a new directory, and balanced the financial ledger.

As you explore this Annual Report, would you join your heart with mine in a deep sense of gratefulness for the blessings offered in and through St. Paul's ministry.

Grace and Peace,

Darren



Spiritual Formation & Discipleship

The past year has been a great one for Discipleship at St. Paul!

Much work has been done on tracking participation in various church small groups and ministries. Tracking is ongoing, but numbers on adult participation show that over 150 St. Paul adults are involved in at least one group or ministry outside of Sunday morning worship! Information for kids and youth is being gathered and will add to this number. An up-to-date small group directory is available for people to see the various offerings that St. Paul has for folks to take part in.

150 St. Paul adults are involved in at least one group or ministry outside of Sunday morning worship

2021-22 Wesley Night averaged
45 at the meal
19 at adult studies

2022 Wesley Night kickoff saw
67 diners
21 class attendees
35 children and youth

In the fall of 2020 and spring of 2021, Wesley Night saw an average of 45 people at the meals and 19 at the adult studies. The fall 2021 Wesley Night season began on September 14th. The first meal had 67 people in attendance! Twenty-one people attended the first class session of the adult study on *Resilience in Life and Faith*, a book study on resilience both in the Scriptures and our lives. Also, 35 children and youth attended the kids choirs



and youth activities for the first Wesley Night of the year.

On May 22, the church hosted a New Member and Visitor Breakfast. 14 of our newest members or interested visitors attended. At this meal, they were honored and welcomed. They were also introduced to staff and lay leaders of various church groups and invited to ask questions and get to know more about our church, its people, and its opportunities.

14 people welcomed at the New Member and Visitor Breakfast



14 retreat participants

In September, 2022, about 21 members from St. Paul participated in a retreat at Mt. St. Francis Retreat Center. This day-long experience was a wonderful time of renewal, spiritual rejuvenation, and relationship building. The Discipleship and Spiritual Formation team intends to plan more retreats for the future!

Star Words were distributed on Epiphany Sunday, offering each person in attendance a word to reflect on throughout the year.

Approximately 150 prayer beads were made and distributed by our pastors to new members, as well as those who were grieving or in need of extra support.



150 prayer beads made and distributed

Worship & Music

St. Paul celebrated weekly worship services, plus special services for Advent and Holy Week. These services were done with the help of many dedicated volunteers, including communion servers, ushers, children's choirs, youth choir, adult choir, instrumentalists, handbell ensemble, various soloists, and lay readers.

All Saints Sunday, Nov, 2021

Our All Saints celebration in Traditional worship included a string ensemble, which provided beautiful music for the Prelude and Postlude. In both services, we celebrated the lives of 27 saints who have gone on before us by speaking their names aloud, ringing a bell in their honor, and offering flowers to family members who were present at the services.

Advent and Christmas

December 5: **Children and Youth Advent Concert** featuring our preschool music class, children's choirs and youth choir.

December 15: **The Longest Night Service** was held December 15. This well-attended service offered support and solace to those who find the holiday season challenging.

December 24: **Christmas Eve Candlelight** services resumed in person after Covid

Our Lenten journey began on Ash Wednesday with Communion and the imposition of Ashes. We collected our burdens by writing them on cards and then burned them in a fire to offer them to God.

Holy Week

Maundy Thursday: During this service, led by the Koinonia worship team, we relived the events of the Upper Room with monologues, special music, meditations, and prayer stations.

Good Friday: a noon service remembered the crucifixion of our Lord and Savior through prayer, scripture, hymns, and special music. An evening service of Tenebrae was led by the Chancel Choir, which provided musical commentary to the reading of the scriptures describing the passion and crucifixion of our Lord, ending in complete darkness and silence.

Easter Sunday: We celebrated the resurrection of our Lord in three services. An outdoor sunrise service celebrated with music, singing, preaching of the word, and lighting of candles as we watched the sun rise over the church. Our Koinonia worship service was a celebration of joy and color and Alleluias to rejoice in the Good News of Christ's resurrection. Our Traditional service was a festive service with organ, choir, and brass ensemble as we with hymns, anthems, preaching, and many Alleluias!



Children and Youth Music

Our Youth Choir Sang for Perry United Methodist Church and Dooly Youth Camp, near Perry, GA, as a part of the **Youth Fusion Summer Mission Trip**.



August 2022: **Youth Choir** resumed rehearsals and will continue to participate in worship throughout the year. The Youth Choir has grown in numbers and has **thirty 7th-12th graders** currently participating.

Some **36 children and 18 youth** participated in our **Annual Summer Music Camp** and led us in worship on July 17.



Children's Choirs have resumed for the fall, with **12 Preschool/Kindergartners** participating in Music Milestones Class, **14 1st-3rd graders** in Joyful Song Choir, and **12 4th-6th graders** in Wesleyan Choir.

Worship & Music

Instead, be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. - Eph. 5:18b-20

In Koinonia, worshippers have sung **156 songs and hymns**, an average of 5 per service! In Traditional, worshippers have sung more than **107 songs and hymns**.

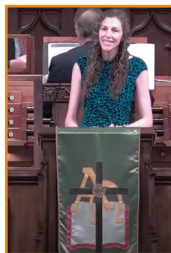
We have **read the scriptures and prayed together more than 208 times** in worship.

110 corporate worship experiences offered

We added **5 new worship team singers** to the Koinonia worship team and are looking for volunteers to help with the Koinonia tech team.



Our celebration of Communion has evolved from pandemic-driven drive-thru only options to pre-packaged communion elements and now to various modes, including taking communion at the rail with the help of lay servers. A group of Communion Stewards was formed to prepare Communion.



In September a Lay Reader Breakfast was held, and we now have **22 readers** scheduled in our Traditional service with youth and others reading at other times.

Worship attendance has increased
41% overall: 49% in Koinonia and 38% in Traditional

And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near. - Heb. 10:25

Our **live-stream ministry** is found on Facebook with links on our webpage. Online streaming is a vital connection for those unable to worship in person and has reached people as far away as South Africa and the Philippines.

Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it. - Prov. 22:6

The youth band grew to 8 members over the last year. They performed at the Fall Festival last October and helped lead Koinonia worship during Youth Futures in the spring.

This group continues to be committed to their time together improving their craft, having fun, all while learning to be better worshippers and worship leaders.

8 new members in Youth Band



Adult Music

August 2022: **Chancel Choirs** resumed rehearsals and will continue to participate in worship throughout the year. The Chancel Choir has also welcomed a few new wonderful members and welcomes more!



September 2022: **The Bells of St. Paul Handbell Ensemble** resumed rehearsals and will participate in worship during the coming months.



Families and Children

The Family & Children's Ministries have offered many different opportunities in the past year that gave families the chance to experience fun, fellowship and a deeper understanding of Christ. As we continue to emerge from the pandemic, we are excited to see programs forming that encourage strong relationships and a deeper understanding of what it means to be Christ's hands and feet in the world. We acknowledge that we live in a changed world and strive to be sowers of God's word by welcoming, nurturing, and loving all children and their families whether they grace our doors at one event or on a weekly basis. A small but caring and committed group, the Family & Children's Ministries team has provided great leadership in the past year and will continue to support the families at St. Paul through consistent, streamlined programming that concentrates on building relationships and welcoming all into the St. Paul community.



WELCOME EVENTS



Fall Festival

Approximately 100 in attendance to enjoy dinner, games, a performance by youth band, a baking contest, and trunk-or-treat!



Breakfast with Santa

Approximately 50 in attendance

Nerf Games

Approximately 100 in attendance

Easter Egg Hunt

Approximately 100 in attendance



SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Sunday School: 3 years - 6th grade
Children's church: 3 years - 4th grade
KICS: K-4th grade
Tweens: 5th & 6th grades

FAMILY EVENTS

Family bowling event
Family game nights
Family day at Bats game
Family VBS night



Back to School Bash - over 100 in attendance



CHURCH EVENTS

Fat Tuesday
Palm Sunday Parade
Epiphany Celebration



Church-wide Picnic - over 120 attended



Youth

St. Paul's Youth Group is back in full swing! This group consisting of 7th-12th graders meets weekly on Sunday nights in the Youth Center for worship, games, fellowship, dinner, and small group time. A number of these students also meet on Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour for weekly small scale service projects. We also have a group that meets on Wednesdays for a jam session and hangout during Wesley Night.



Other summer activities included weekly hangouts, volunteering at Music Camp, a service day at Portland Promise Center, and an outing to Putt Putt.



The fall semester of the 2022-2023 school year is off to a great start. Our new 7th grade students have jumped right into weekly activities with the group. We look forward to finishing out the semester with our Fall Retreat to Camp Loucon (in November) and Progressive Dinner (in December).

We wrapped up the 2021-2022 school year with some celebrations. Our confirmands

Confirmands: 5 Students



began their journey on Ash Wednesday 2022 and continued to the celebration of their confirmation on Sunday May 1st with the church service and brunch. On May 22nd we celebrated our graduating seniors in both church services and with our Senior



Graduating High School Seniors: 5 Students

Banquet.



Fusion Trip

This year also saw the return of the annual Fusion trip for the Youth! We departed St. Paul the morning of June 4 and traveled through Atlanta, Perry (GA), and Nashville. The Youth Choir participated in services at Perry United Methodist Church on Sunday morning. They spent the rest of their days working at various mission sites in the area. A full recap of each of these days can be found on the St. Paul Facebook or Instagram.

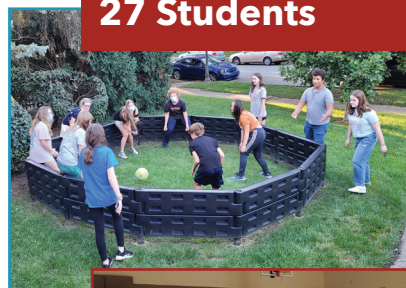
Fusion Participants: 20 students + 7 adults
(only 4 of these students had ever been on a Fusion trip before!)



Sunday Morning: 6 Students
Wesley Night: 8 Students



Youth Group Spring 2022: 20 Students
Youth Group Fall 2022: 27 Students



Missions & Outreach

St. Paul members and friends displayed their generous hearts over the past year, supporting our Monthly Mission focuses, as well as other community needs.

120 Thanksgiving Boxes

donated to the Waller-Williams school



106 Christmas Stockings

brightened the holiday for Waller-Williams students



Christmas Gift Card Drive

assisted Highland Community Ministries in providing some holiday cheer to families in need in our community

60 Blankets

 donated to Blanket Louisville

Clothing and supplies

donated to Free2Hope to support survivors of human trafficking

Mobile Resource Center celebrated its 1-year anniversary

for the St. Paul Mobile Resource Center. Around **16 volunteers** give their time every month to provide clothing, toiletries, and more to an average of **60-70 guests** at the Open Door Community Ministry. Our on-site Resource Center continues to serve those who come to St. Paul's doors during the week.



Faith Quilters welcomed **2 new members** and **blessed 64 blankets** to comfort children affected by tornadoes, floods, and other traumatic circumstances.

67 Donors gave the gift of life at 3 Highlands Community Blood Drives hosted by St. Paul

Supplies and toys

donated to Portland Promise Center



Hygiene supplies

donated to the Loaves and Fishes Pantry in Georgia and delivered by the St. Paul youth during their Fusion trip.



Activities supplies & financial donations

donated to Wesley Manor

Food and School Supplies

donated to Highland Community Ministries

Supplies and financial support

for the Open Door Community Ministry at Fourth Ave. UMC

Financial donations

supported the work of Smoketown Family Wellness Center during Give for Good Day.



2 Refugee Families

settled by St. Paul through Kentucky Refugee Ministries



\$6,200 YTD donated to create flood buckets for those affected by the eastern Kentucky floods



14th Habitat for Humanity house completed by St. Paul, in conjunction with other United Methodist Churches in Louisville.



Resilience

A Sunday school gathering that developed from a short-term class organized by the resilience team in 2019 has continued to meet; the class is now called Resilient Faith. The class was meeting by Zoom and has transitioned back to meeting in person. Studies in the last year have included **Resilient Faith**, by Mary Jo Sharp, based on 1 Peter, and **Even If: A Study of Habakkuk**, by Kristin Schmucker with the Daily Grace Co.

Two members of the resilience team visited members of the congregation who are not

able to get out much and delivered treats and notes to them.

Two team members prepared videos to incorporate into children's ministry lessons. The team also compiled video resources for emotional health for St. Paul youth: <https://www.stpaulchurchky.org/resilience-resources-for-youth/>

The initial fall Wesley Night series for 2022 featured resilience, as the participants discussed the book **Resilience in Life and Faith: Finding Your Strength in God**, by Tony Horsfall and Debbie Hawker.

SPAMS, the St. Paul Adult Ministries for Seniors, returned in 2022 after a 2-year hiatus due to Covid. From the Spring Fling, featuring entertainment by the St. Paul staff, to outings to the Cathedral of the Assumption and a Mary Miller Steamboat cruise, the SPAMS group has enjoyed food, fellowship, and educational opportunities, with more planned!



SPAMS



Christian Action Group

Continuing the work it began in early 2020, the Christian Action Group held and supported work to call attention to racial justice, the climate crisis, and United Methodist Church policies on same-sex marriage and ordination.

United Methodist Policies on Human Sexuality

In 2022, Christian Action worked closely with St. Paul's Strategic Renovation Team to conduct a survey of the attitudes of St. Paul members related to the sexuality issues being debated by the worldwide United Methodist Church.

Organizing for Clean Energy

Christian Action's environmental focus took the form of being one of the key sponsors of a series of quarterly Zoom events, titled "REAL Good News," to help encourage implementation of a Louisville Metro Council resolution for the city to get 100% of its energy from renewable resources



by 2040. In the spring of 2022, REAL Good News held a virtual mayors forum focused on the clean energy resolution, just ahead of the mayoral primary. Seven of the candidates answered questions about the resolution and the event was attended by more than 100 people. In September REAL Good News held its eighth event; this one focused on progress toward renewable energy by Louisville and Cincinnati, which passed a similar green energy resolution.

Support for Racial Justice

In 2021, Christian Action supported St. Paul's Spiritual Formation Team in a series of conversations with Coke Memorial United Methodist Church about racial justice.

Learn more about the work of Christian Action at the St. Paul website:

<https://www.stpaulchurchky.org/christian-action-group/>

Trustees

Thanks to ongoing generosity and bequests, the Trustees have been able to complete several projects this year. These include:



A professional roofing consultant was hired to examine the Family Life Center roof situation, to analyze **bids of roof replacement**, and to

create a scope of work for companies to follow in replacing the FLC roof. This is a major job, and the Trustees are making plans for replacing this roof when sufficient funds are available.

The church partnered with the Highland Community Ministries daycare to purchase and install a new **commercial grade dishwasher** for the kitchen. The new unit is functioning well and will ensure the smooth running of church functions involving food for years to come.



Several dead and ailing trees have been removed or trimmed on the church campus. This **keeps our grounds looking great** and also keeps them safe for everyone to enjoy.



The Trustees began receiving **bids to rebuild the retaining wall** to the right of the handicap entrance on the church grounds. The hope is to have an attractive and functional wall in place soon.

The Trustees continued this year in reviewing the church's various building-related contracts and working to make sure the church is getting the best deal possible in all the various services it requires.

Various other repairs, including HVAC maintenance, plumbing jobs, and electrical work, are also made possible by the generosity of our congregation.

Scouts

Scout Troop 40, which is sponsored by St. Paul, celebrated 100 years as an active troop during an open house on Saturday May 21, sharing artifacts and photos from their long history.



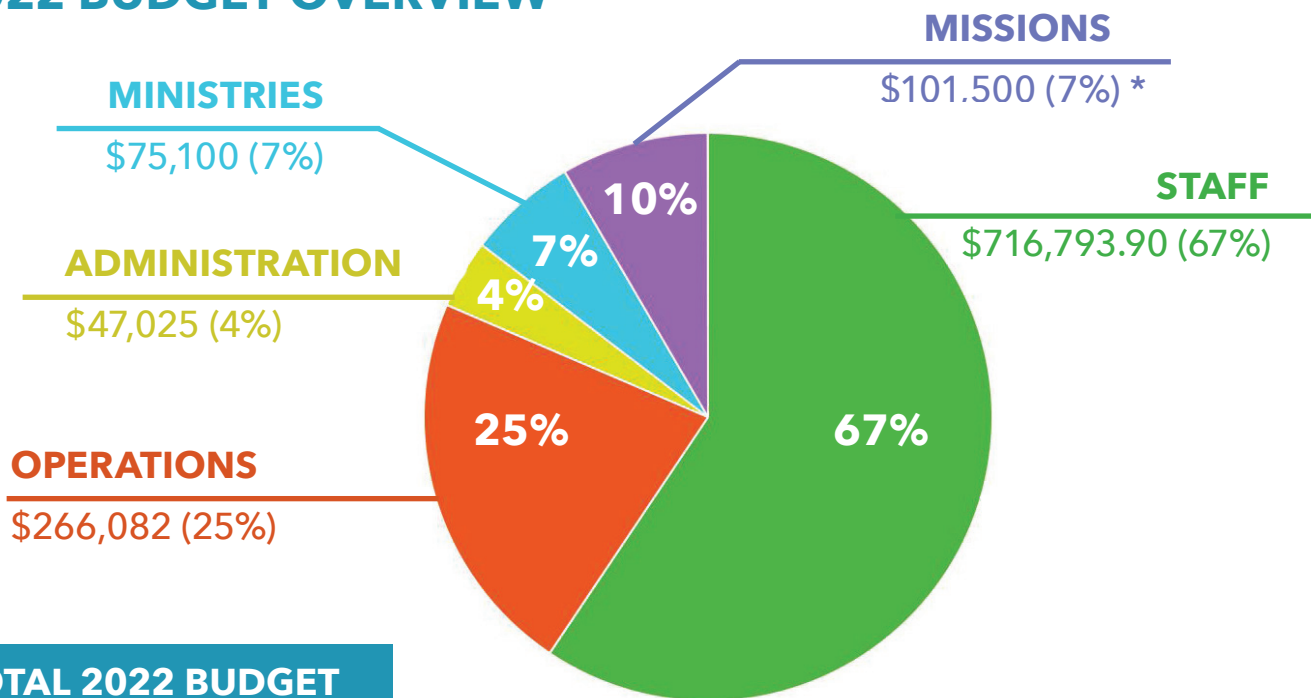
Stop Human Trafficking Conference

The Third Annual Stop Human Trafficking Conference, held at St. Paul UMC on Saturday, February 12, 2022, was well attended. The conference, which was covered by WDRB TV, featured presentations from local government and law enforcement representatives, as well as those working in our community to stop human trafficking.



Finances

2022 BUDGET OVERVIEW



TOTAL 2022 BUDGET
\$1,206,500.90

*Kentucky Conference and District included in this amount

ENDOWMENT AS OF AUGUST 2022

\$1,211,416.24

Each year we make a disbursement from the Endowment. We take the average of the previous 3 years and distribute 5%.

Here are the 2022 totals:

- Trustees: \$49,219 (72.2%)
- Music Enhancement: \$9,544 (14%)
- Missions: \$5,454 (8%)
- Scholarship Fund: \$1,704 (2.5%)
- Flower Fund: \$2,250 (3.3%)



Other notable Mission Giving YTD beyond budgeted giving:

Eastern KY Flood Relief: \$6,200
 Refugee Ministries: \$8,645
 Habitat for Humanity Home 2021: \$16,000
 Good Samaritan Fund: \$3,887.50
 Missions Fund: \$2,961





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