



Budget Narrative for 2025

Total Budget: \$673,000

Worship:	\$200,000	Mission & Outreach:	\$136,000
Fellowship & Community:	\$78,000	Education & Formation:	\$160,000
Pastoral Care:	\$99,000		

This past year has been one of growth for St. Paul's, with Rev. Won-Jae Hur completing his first full year as rector. With more than 40 newcomers attending, we have seen new and reinvigorated ministries, education programs, and outreach. This report describes how your pledge supports every aspect of our parish life.

Worship 30% \$200,000

This is the day that the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it.

Worship at St. Paul's integrates the best of the traditional and the contemporary, welcoming all who enter our beautiful sanctuary. We come seeking inner nourishment to replenish ourselves from the week just past and prepare ourselves for the week to come at a quiet, contemplative 8:00 a.m. & a vibrant and musical 10:00 a.m. service.

Highlights:

- Sunday worship is full of joy, connecting us to God, each other, and the world.
- Sermons help us to connect our lives with God's word & make sense of what is going on in the world.
- Liturgy during the ecumenical Season of Creation in September celebrated the beauty of the world and the environment with special prayers and music.
- Music draws on many traditions and styles, with opportunities for all to raise a joyful voice. Many musical works are written by our Music Director Andy Clarkson. Our technical verger team continues to stream worship services.
- Special services include the Installation of Rev. Won Jae Hur (photo below), the 175th Anniversary Evensong, Messiah Sing, Candlelight Carols, Christmas Pageant, Blue Christmas, Lenten services, Blessing of the Animals, Godspell, and Easter Vigil.



Education & Formation 24% \$160,000

All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.

Our clergy and Elliott May, our Director of Children, Youth, Family, & Young Adults, are building an intergenerational community that integrates worship, education, and outreach for members of every age.

Highlights:

- Formation Forums explore the connection between Christian faith and contemporary issues with experts on climate change, faith-based social action, the situation in Israel-Palestine, global public health, and immigration.
- Introduction to Christian Spirituality book group and small group sessions focus on meditation, contemplative prayer, and spirituality.
- Walking the Way of Love introduces people to the practices and beliefs of the Episcopal tradition.
- Contemplative Practice Seminars introduce participants to the role of Christian contemplative practices in service and justice work.
- The Episcopal Path to Creation Justice program equips lay people to pray, learn, and advocate for climate justice through a year-long theological and spiritual formation course.
- Our growing Young Adults Group meets regularly for public theology, seasonal social events, and annual service projects, including serving dinner at the Pine Street Inn and a chili fundraiser for the Brookline Community Health Center.
- Our Sunday nursery care ministry continues growing, with two professional nursery workers caring for our youngest members.
- Our weekly Sunday school program serves kids ages preK - 8th grade each week in three active cohorts.
- Elementary and Middle school students train and serve as torchbearers, crucifers, and Eucharistic servers.
- Teens are involved in preparation for confirmation, worship leadership, and social outreach, including street ministry with CityReach and the Outdoor Church of Cambridge.
- St. Paul's is baptizing more and more young people as more families join the church. In response to this growth, we moved the child-friendly seating zone to a larger area beside the main entrance.



Mission & Outreach 20% \$136,000

Where you put your treasure, there your heart goes.

Social justice has always been a priority for St. Paul's. We come together to engage in God's work and partner with other groups to bring tangible change and hope. In 2025, your gifts – your time, your leadership, and your pledges helped make this possible.

Highlights:

- 2025 was a year of abundance for Ministry Outside the Parish (MOP). Thanks to your generous giving, plus \$10,000 from the St. Paul's Hoedown celebration, MOP donated approximately \$40,000 to worthy nonprofits. Reflecting our vision to support small organizations around the corner and around the world, we gave to PAIR, which works with a network of Boston-based law firms to provide pro bono immigration legal services; a piggery in Uganda that supports scholarships for primary school children; Steps to Success, an after-school program in Brookline; a school and rehabilitation center for children with disabilities in the West Bank; Outdoor Church for the unhoused in Boston led by our beloved Pat Zifcak; and we participated in the Protecting Nature and Water ballot initiative to create a state fund for climate care and protection.
- As a member of the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO), St. Paul's successfully advocated to increase state-level funding for improvements in existing public housing. Locally, St. Paul's, working with the Brookline Housing Authority, expedited improvements in our public housing and advocated for more affordable housing units in our community.
- Last year, our teens led our third annual Sock Drive, gathering over 350 pairs of socks to support unhoused neighbors in Cambridge.
- As part of our prison ministry, many parishioners purchased books for incarcerated individuals and delivered them with handwritten notes.
- We hosted the B-SAFE beach day for 100+ children, capping off their well-established summer camp program with a day of fun in the South End.
- Our Young Adults Group prepared meals for Pine Street Inn and led a chili sale that raised \$1,000 for the Brookline Community Health Center.
- This fall we will host our first annual Thanksgiving food drive, supporting the Brookline Food Pantry.
- Your stewardship helps provide safe space for five 12-step groups throughout the week, meetings that foster recovery and save lives.



Fellowship 12% \$78,000

There's a sweet, sweet spirit in this place.

The tapestry of St. Paul's members and visitors brings us together for celebration, contemplation, and hospitality.

Highlights:

- St. Paul's celebrated its 175th anniversary with a Hoedown, featuring a live band, square dancing, food, and a raffle of donated arts and gifts. The funds raised were given to Mission Outside the Parish and other outreach ministries. In addition, we also hosted a parish Arts Festival, featuring crafts, artwork, storytelling, and musical performances by parishioners.
- Our welcome ministry provides greeters at worship services and hosts a newcomers brunch.
- Over 40 new members have joined St. Paul's in 2024-5 and the Newcomer Welcome Ministry and Vestry are organizing the Ministry Fair to help new members get connected to the parish and involved in ministries.
- The newly started Men's Ministry Group meets monthly for check-in, Bible study, and fellowship.
- Our new LGBTQ+ Group meets regularly for meals, conversation, and fellowship.
- A summertime picnic drew us together to celebrate the close of school year.
- A pancake breakfast began the Lenten season, and house church drew us together for contemplative meals and Compline on cold, dark Fridays. The season closed with a Maundy Thursday dinner that filled the parish hall.
- Knitting, yoga, and art groups come together for meditation and conversation.
- Our longstanding annual giant yard sale continues to be a gathering point for the whole neighborhood, upcycling clothing, furniture, toys, bicycles, and electronics.
- Game nights featured lively competition and an abundance of laughter.
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Pastoral Care 15% \$99,000

Bear one another's burdens

St. Paul's provides emotional and spiritual support in times of celebration and need, visiting homes and hospitals. Clergy & lay ministers help individuals and families with grief and spiritual counseling.

Highlights:

- Our Pastoral Care Team, comprising clergy and trained lay leaders, visits and assists parishioners in any way that meets their needs. Regular trainings are provided by clergy to lay pastoral care givers.
- Lay Eucharistic Visitors bring Holy Communion to parishioners who are unable to attend church.
- Meal ministry - we bring meals and companionship to parishioners who are homebound due to illness and to families with newborns.
- Bereavement Support Group met from spring to fall of 2025 to provide space and support for people grieving the loss of loved ones.
- Healing Prayer Ministry offers prayers and anointing during services to those who seek comfort and solace.
- Parish Prayer list - we offer our collective prayers each Sunday for those on the prayer list.
- Our Knitting Ministry makes prayer shawls and squares, as well as hats for newborn members of the parish.
- Our Lay Ministers send birthday cards and send condolence cards to those who have lost a loved one.

NOTE: *The costs of salaries and benefits for clergy and staff, as well as property expenses and overhead, have been included in each category according to the percentage of those resources dedicated to each area of our parish life. . For an itemized budget, please visit our website, www.stpaulsbrookline.org/giving.*