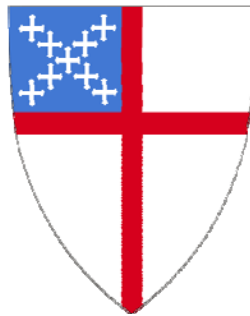


Welcome

to

St. Paul's Episcopal Church



Baltimore, Maryland

A Guide for Newcomers and Visitors

A Greeting from the Rector

“All guests who present themselves are to be welcomed as Christ.” - Saint Benedict

Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, please know that you are most welcome here at St. Paul’s Church, also affectionately known as Old St. Paul’s.

We offer a variety of Sunday morning worship services appealing to different types of people. Our congregation is alive with the hustle and bustle of children’s programs; our adult Forums are the finest in the area and our choir offers inspirational sacred music.

While we are a historic parish founded in 1692, we are also a living community of Christians who care deeply about each other and are sharing God’s love with those around us. We are a downtown congregation that seeks to offer warmth and inspiration to all who come through our doors.

It is my hope that the information in this booklet will tell you a little more about who we are and how we live out our Christian faith together in this place. If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to join us as we strive to celebrate and spread the love of God through our worship, education, fellowship and outreach.

God bless you,
The Rev. Mark Stanley

Welcome from the Associate Rector

When I think about the many visitors and newcomers who come to St. Paul’s, the first thoughts that pop into my mind are:

What brings you to Old St. Paul’s?
What is your story?
How may we be of support to you?

Everyone has a story to tell about their own religious background, as well as the things that are causing them to search for a new spiritual home. We are a community of Christian friends who are eager to learn more about you so that we can support you in your spiritual journey.

If you are searching for answers, then we want you to know that we honor your questions and will search with you. If you are seeking peace, then we hope our worship will provide a peaceful and uplifting experience for you. If you are yearning for greater understanding, then we invite you to join us for our excellent Christian Education programs. If you are drawn to finding connections and companionship with other Christians, then we welcome you into our circle of friends.

At Old St. Paul’s we do not claim to have all the answers, nor do we strive to be all things to all people. Instead, we claim our deep desire to follow in the footsteps of Jesus by offering a genuine sense of welcome, forgiveness and acceptance, and a fellowship of companions who are walking the Christian journey together. We are blessed that our life as a Christian community can be lived out in this beautiful sacred space. Welcome to St. Paul’s Episcopal Church!

Peace to you,
The Rev. Mary Luck Stanley

Who we are at St. Paul's Church

In 2012, members of our church were invited to reflect on the following questions. “What makes your heart sing.” and “At Old St. Paul’s, we _____(fill in the blank).” Over the course of six months, our parishioners generated more than four hundred responses to these questions. Below is a summary of what people said about who we are as a Christian community.

At Old St. Paul’s...

Friendship & Community

We are a warm and accepting community of friends, caring for each other as we walk together on the Christian journey.

Welcoming & Diverse

We are open minded and open hearted, following in the footsteps of Jesus by welcoming ALL people---no exceptions!

Cherishing Children

We enjoy the energy and spirit that children and families bring to our community. We cherish children so that they learn they are cherished by God.

Worship & Music

Through worship, we open ourselves to God and each other, being uplifted by the beauty, traditions, and music in our services.

Christian Education

We value curiosity, inquiry, and discernment, and admit that we do not have all the answers as we explore the big questions of life.

Reaching Out and Caring for the world

Our members turn to each other for support as they work and serve in the name of Christ. We promote respect for the dignity of every human being through local and global social justice initiatives.

Sundays

8:30 a.m. Worship Service: Holy Eucharist

9:15 a.m. Social time for Sunday School families in the Undercroft

9:15 a.m. Coffee for Forum participants at The Grand

9:25 a.m. Opening Ritual for Sunday School families

9:30-10:20 a.m. Education Hour for All Ages and Stages

-The Forum for adults at The Grand

-Youth Group for tweens and teens, 5th grade and older

-Breakfast Club for 2nd, 3rd, and 4th graders

-Rainbow Kids for older 5s, 6s, and 1st graders

-Little Lambs for our youngest children who are older 3s (accompanied by a parent), all 4s, and younger 5s, must be independent in the bathroom

10:30 a.m. Worship Service: Holy Eucharist

Joyful celebration with choir, sermon, and communion, with Children's Worship downstairs during the sermon.

9:00-Noon Nursery Care

For infants and toddlers while parents are in worship & programs

Wednesdays: The Noon Eucharist in the Church

Worship at Old St. Paul's

“When Christians gather together for worship, we unite ourselves with others to acknowledge the holiness of God, to hear God's Word, to offer prayer, and to celebrate the sacraments.” -*The Book of Common Prayer*

In describing Christian community, St. Paul used the image of a body to remind us that we each have a purpose, our diversity is a strength, and all parts are important. In worship, we give thanks and celebrate the reality that through the grace of Jesus Christ, we are one body, one spirit, one people. In our worship, we work toward fulfilling the mission of the Church to be at unity with God and each other in Christ. We are reminded that we are all cherished by God. The love of Christ strengthens us so we may extend God's unconditional love to all people, working for the restoration of unity in the whole of creation.

Service Leaflets

When you enter the Church to attend one of our worship services, a host or usher will hand you a Service Leaflet to serve as a guide for your worship experience. Taken from *The Book of Common Prayer, 1979*, all of the words of the service will be provided in the Service Leaflet, and words spoken by the congregation will be listed in bold print. Hymns and other sung music will either be printed in the Service Leaflet or will be listed by page number to refer you to the blue Hymnal located in your pew. Those gathered for worship all share in the creation of that experience, with each person adding his or her own voice. All are invited to sing out on the hymns and speak boldly during the parts said by the congregation.

Receiving Communion

At the Last Supper, Jesus gathered with his friends for a sacred meal where he blessed bread and wine, and shared it saying, “Do this in remembrance of me.” In the celebration of the Eucharist, we gather around a common table, participate in Christ's heavenly banquet, and are spiritually nourished by the consecrated bread and wine. It is a shared meal much like a Thanksgiving feast.

At St. Paul's, all are welcome to receive communion, including children and even infants. When receiving communion you are invited to place one palm over the other so that the consecrated bread may be placed in your hands. After eating the bread, you are invited to guide the chalice to your lips so that you may drink consecrated wine from the common cup. Some may prefer to “intinct” by dipping the bread into the wine rather than drinking from the common cup. Either practice is welcomed in our Church. A full communion may be made by receiving either the bread or the wine. Those who do not wish to receive the bread and wine are

invited to come forward to receive a blessing and are asked to place their arms across their chest as a signal to the priest.

Music in our Worship

As Bishop Sutton recently stated, “Good worship consists of its own three legged stool: music, liturgy, and preaching. Each leg of that stool is important.” In the church today, the role of our music program is two-fold. First and foremost, it provides leadership by supporting the congregational singing of our hymns and other service music. Second, a music program provides a sense of heightened spiritual and intellectual understanding to the message and Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We know that Christ’s message of love can be both simple and profound, and like his message, great worship music can offer both an immediate connection to the Gospel as well as glimpses of the sublime and mysterious. Whether it is the simplicity of a familiar hymn-tune or the transcendental effect of a beautiful choral anthem, we are hopeful that the music program at Old St. Paul’s will add enrichment to our collective worship experience.

We have assembled a talented musical team including our Director of Music, John Smedstad, and our Organist, Katie Hunt El-Diwany. They are joined by a choir of twelve professional singers plus a number of dedicated volunteers who rehearse on Thursday evenings and sing at our Sunday services at 10:30 a.m.

If you are musically inclined, can read music, and are interested in joining the choir, please contact John Smedstad about our choral program. We are also interested in people’s gifts for instrumental music.

Children's Worship

During the first half of the 10:30 service, young children are invited to go downstairs to have their very own worship experience. Gathered in a circle on the floor, children are joyfully engaged through singing, playing percussion instruments, praying, and listening to the good news for the day. Families arriving for the service are invited to find a seat in a pew upstairs, sing the opening hymn together, and then when the priest invites children to go downstairs for Children’s Worship, they may go through the side door with their friends to gather in the Undercroft for a special worship time together. Children who are five and younger must be accompanied by a parent or older sibling. Parents are always welcome to join us. Before the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, the children will rejoin their families upstairs so that all ages in our congregation can enjoy receiving communion together.

Soft Spaces

In the body of the Church we have created several soft spaces for families with infants and toddlers. By removing pews and installing extra soft carpet we hope these areas will be comfortable spaces where families can worship together while wiggly ones play nearby.

Welcoming Children and Youth

Several times in the New Testament, Jesus makes clear that adults are called to value and respect the spirituality of children. “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these” (Matt. 19:13-14). In Jesus’ day and age, when children had even less status than they do today, this would have been a radical thing to say. At St. Paul’s we value the presence of children and teenagers in our

Church. We strive to include them as equal members of our congregation, recognizing that they bring special gifts to enrich our community.

Christian Education for All Ages and Stages

At St. Paul's, we invite members to be spiritually nourished by spending two hours with us on Sundays – one hour in worship and one hour in Christian Education. Our Sunday Education Hour, from 9:30-10:20 a.m., has groups for all ages.

When you enter St. Paul's you do not have to check your brain at the door. In fact, we invite you to use your God given sense of reasoning to think through questions of faith so that you may grow in your understanding and knowledge of God. In the Episcopal Church we strive for a middle way (the “via media”) among extremes by looking to scripture, tradition, and reason in order to understand God's revelations to us. Taking a broad view, we see God at work in both science and religion, through the past and the present, and we have faith that God will continue to reveal new insights in the future. In order to understand God's incarnation in the person and ministry of Jesus, we need to study scripture and the works of theologians, biblical scholars, and spiritual writers.

The Forum

The Forum is an adult education program provided by St. Paul's Church and is hosted on Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:20 a.m. at The Grand, located next door to the Church. All are invited to join us for these “Sacred Conversations about Life” where guest speakers, clergy, and leaders from our Church will stimulate deeper thought and questions about what it means to live as Christians in a complex world.

Detailed schedules of the topics and speakers will be published and made available through brochures, the parish newsletter, in Sunday leaflets, and on our web site. We hope that members and their friends will look over The Forum schedule and attend those programs that are of the most interest. No preparation is needed and there is no homework assigned.

Youth Group

Every Sunday during the program year, young people in grades 5 and older are invited to come to our Youth Group in the Upper Room. Youth Group is a time for the young people in our congregation to support each other and to grow in faith and friendship. From time to time, the Youth Group will participate in community service projects as well as special events, like serving as narrators for the Christmas Pageant and hiding eggs for the annual Easter Egg Hunt for the younger children. Our Youth Minister, Audrey Gagnon, has a long history of doing youth ministry in the Episcopal Church.

Sunday School

Children who are out of diapers through fourth grade are invited to participate in our Sunday School groups on Sunday mornings during the Education Hour from 9:30-10:20 a.m. in the Undercroft. Using the Episcopal curriculum “Weaving God’s Promises” teachers design weekly lessons for the kids that are both fun and informative, covering the basics of the Christian faith. Our Sunday School classes are led by volunteer teachers who are committed to creating the kind of Christian community where our children will be nurtured in the knowledge that they are loved by God. To learn more contact Jeanne Neifert, who is our half-time Sunday School Director. sjn612@comcast.net

Playgroup: for infants, toddlers, and parents

We are having a baby boom and we are eager to support parents as they raise their children. So we have hired Kate Brantley, a mother of two, to serve as our Community Builder for Families with Infants and Toddlers. She is excited to be hosting monthly fellowship events for parents and their children to gather on Saturday mornings for coffee, conversation, and playtime. Contact: brantley.kate@gmail.com.

Nursery Care

We want young children to feel warm and comfortable as they develop early associations about what it means to be a cherished member of a Christian community. We provide supervised childcare on Sundays from 9:00-Noon downstairs in the nursery. This program is intended for children ages 0-3 (until out of diapers) while their parents are attending worship or the Education Hour. Our childcare coordinator, Theresa Pearson, is also the Director of the Charles Street Child Care Center on North Charles Street.

Changing Tables

We ask parents and caregivers to only change diapers in one of the two changing areas that are provided. One changing table is located in the private downstairs restroom, near the kitchen. The other changing table is located down the hallway from the nursery, in the alcove near the elevator.

Spiritual Retreats, Classes and Groups

Throughout the year, we offer a variety of spiritual formation opportunities for our parishioners. In the past few years, these have included Lenten Retreats for Men and Women, Summer Bible Study, and Soup Supper and Study Series on Bible passages and on Christian ethics.

Fellowship Events and Groups

Recognizing that we live in a broken world, where divisions often separate people from each other, we wonder what would happen if every ministry, every committee, every group in our Church worked to restore the unity of all people? To this end, at St. Paul's we value community building as a high priority. Upcoming events are published in our newsletters, in the Sunday leaflets, and in weekly St. Paul's E-pistles. A few times each year, Carol Sholes organizes opportunities for members to go out to lunch on Sundays after worship, (carolsholes@verizon.net). Sunday School and Youth Group Leaders host several family fun events each year. The young adults in our parish regularly host fellowship events and these are advertised in our newsletters, E-pistles, and Sunday leaflets.

Young Adult Special Events

With so many young adults in their 20s and 30s in our congregation, our members often host social events like parties, happy hours, outings to Oriol's games, and group hikes. Staff member Kate Brantley regularly gathers young families for Saturday morning Playgroups for infants, toddlers, and their parents, (brantley.kate@gmail.com). If you are interested in hosting an event or you want to learn more, please contact The Rev. Mary Luck Stanley at mary@osp1692.org.

Belonging

At St. Paul's we seek to open our doors wide to welcome all in the spirit of God's inclusive and unconditional love. Everyone is invited to attend our services, events and classes. Some people prefer to participate in services and activities without formally joining. Others want to join the Church in more formal ways through pledging, baptism, confirmation, and reception. As a community of faith, we invite you to get involved by worshiping with us, participating in our Education Hour, attending fellowship events and taking on a ministry in the Church.

Becoming a Christian through Baptism

“Holy Baptism is full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into Christ's Body, the Church.” *-The Book of Common Prayer*

The sacrament of baptism is the only requirement for a person to become a full member of the Church. Through baptism, we are born into a Christian family where a sense of belonging and meaning is nurtured over the course of years. The Episcopal Church recognizes as valid any baptism administered with water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Adults and children wishing to be baptized are invited to contact one of the clergy so that they may set up a meeting to discuss options for formation in the Christian faith.

Becoming an Episcopalian through Confirmation & Reception

“Confirmation is the rite in which we express a mature commitment to Christ and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop.”

-The Book of Common Prayer

If baptism is about becoming a Christian, then Confirmation is about becoming an Episcopalian. Members of the Church who were baptized as infants may choose to affirm their faith as adults through the Rite of Confirmation, administered by one of the Bishops of Maryland on their annual visitations. Those who have been confirmed in other denominations by a bishop in the historic succession (Roman Catholic, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, or Eastern Orthodox) may be received into the Episcopal Church by our Bishop. If you would like to be confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church, please contact one of the clergy to begin a conversation about next steps in your spiritual journey.

Becoming a Pledging Member of Old St. Paul's

Since everything in our lives is a gift from God, our human response is gratitude. Our sense of thankfulness leads us to want to give back using the God given resources in our lives. At St. Paul's, we encourage everyone to take joy in giving of the time, talent and treasure that God has bestowed upon us. Members of our Christian community express their commitment through pledging, participation, and volunteering to be involved in the leadership of the Church. We strive for 100% participation in our pledge drives and we value both small and large pledge amounts. You are invited to express your gratitude and commitment to St. Paul's by filling out a pledge card, available from the Church Office, or by pledging through our web site.

What is the Mission of the Church?

“The mission of the Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ. The Church pursues its mission as it prays and worships, proclaims the Gospel, and promotes justice, peace, and love. The Church carries out its mission through the ministry of all its members.”

-The Book of Common Prayer

As we seek to be a healing and reconciling force in the world, we ask how we can break down the barriers that prevent people from seeing that they are united by God's love?

The Story of Jesus

The religion of Christianity is established on the life, work, death, and resurrection of a man named Jesus of Nazareth, as the story is told in four books of the Christian Bible, known as the Gospels, which means Good News. According to the New Testament, Jesus was a Jew who lived about two thousand years ago in a region of Israel, and who spent some three years of his adult life traveling around, teaching, preaching, and performing miracles of healing and reconciliation with his twelve disciples. Jesus encouraged unconditional love for God and for all people. Although he became popular with multitudes of people around him, he also made the Jewish leaders of his day angry by the things he was preaching and doing. Jesus became so popular, in fact, and the leaders were so upset by his activities, that finally, he was betrayed by one of his own disciples to the authorities, and the Roman government put him to death by nailing him to a wooden cross outside of Jerusalem. The story might have ended there, except that three days after he died and was buried; he came back to his disciples, resurrected from the dead. He spent time with his disciples and commissioned them to continue in his teaching and miracles, spreading the good news of his life, work, and resurrection to others. Finally, he promised to be present with us forever.

St. Paul's is an historic Episcopal Church

St. Paul's Parish, affectionately known as Old St. Paul's, was founded in 1692 as a Mission Church of the Diocese of London. It moved to its present location in 1729 when Baltimore City was founded. The present Church was designed by renowned architect Richard Upjohn and was built from 1854-1856. The peacock mosaic behind the high altar was designed by Tiffany Studios in 1902. Several of the stained glass windows are notable works of art.



With its roots in the Church of England, The Episcopal Church is part of the Anglican Communion, which is a federation of churches around the world. The Episcopal Church is self-governing and is set up much like the United States government, with a system of duly elected representatives and a democratic process for decision-making. Every three years, elected bishops, priests, deacons, and lay representatives gather for General Convention where they prayerfully consider and vote on matters that are important in the Church, including changes to our Canon Law. The Greek word "episcopal" means bishop. And in the Episcopal Church we are governed by our bishops along with the elected members of the General Convention.

In the spirit of Anglicanism, Episcopalians walk the middle way (the "via media") between the Roman Catholic and Protestant traditions. We see God's truth being revealed through scripture, tradition, reason and experience. We believe God speaks to us through education and the arts. We value God's ongoing revelation through science, beauty, culture and the natural world.

Over the years, St. Paul's has been involved in the early movement for the abolition of slavery, as well as founding St. Paul's School and St. Paul's School for Girls, which were originally started to provide education for poor children.

The Rev. Mark Stanley was called as Rector in 2004 and he worked with members to develop a vision for how to grow the parish. In the fall of 2006, a new Rite II family friendly worship service, along with an enhanced

Education Hour, were added to the Sunday morning schedule with the hope of drawing new members to the church. In 2006, The Rev. Mary Luck Stanley joined the staff and began working on launching the new service along with developing Christian education programs for all ages and stages. In the years since, these ministries have brought a lot of younger adults, families, and children to our church.

In the summer of 2013, St. Paul's Church underwent a renovation of its interior, including repainting, enhancing the lighting, and adding gold stars to the ceiling. People were invited to "buy stars" for their loved ones, and many people contributed to this effort to carry out the original and unfulfilled plan to paint stars on the ceiling.

Getting More Involved by Taking on a Ministry

"The ministry of lay persons is to represent Christ and his Church; to bear witness to him where ever they may be; and, according to the gifts given them, to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world; and to take their place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church."

-The Book of Common Prayer

On Sundays we strive to equip and support our members so that they will be ready to do their ministries on the other days of the week. All members of the Church are invited to take on a ministry within the life of St. Paul's. The clergy are eager to empower and support those who are excited about carrying out various ministries. As you learn more about our communal life, please let us know what interests you so that we can assist you in discovering your ministry in our Church.

Outreach Opportunities

The Social Justice & Service Committee coordinates community service activities which include serving and making casseroles for Our Daily Bread, the Angel Tree, and BUILD. Contact: The Rev. Mark Stanley, mark@osp1692.org.

Worship Ministries

Please contact the clergy if you would like to take on one of the following ministries:

Hosts: welcome people as they gather for the 10:30 service, hand out leaflets, take up the offering, and follow up with newcomers

Readers: read the scriptures and prayers at all Sunday morning worship services

Chalicians: administer the chalice for people to receive wine at the Holy Eucharist

Acolytes: wear vestments and lead our processions, carrying the cross, torches, banner, and Gospel Book.

Choir: men and women from our Church are invited to join twelve professional singers to provide music for our worship

Sacristans: set up the Holy Things for our worship services

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care is the work of our whole Church community and is a ministry to those who may be ill, in the hospital, shut in, grieving a death, or in crisis. If you or someone you love is in need of pastoral care, please contact the Church Office. Clergy and lay leaders would be happy to take communion to those who are in the hospital or are home bound. We hope that more volunteers will join us in caring for the needs of our members. For emergencies, contact one of the clergy.

Sunday School Teachers, Youth Group Leaders and Forum Planning Team

It takes many volunteers to plan, lead, and coordinate our Christian Education programs. If you would like to get more involved, either on a regular basis or on an occasional basis, please contact The Rev. Mary Luck Stanley.

Fellowship Event Volunteers

Throughout the year, all in our parish are invited to come together for various special events and celebrations. We rely mostly on volunteers to host these important events. If you would like to work with a team of volunteers to host one of our social events, please contact the Associate Rector.

Vestry

The Vestry is composed of leaders elected at our Church's Annual Meeting, who serve by meeting monthly to oversee the stewardship, budget, buildings and grounds, and finances.

Parish Office

The Office is located one block west of the Church at 309 Cathedral Street, Baltimore, MD 21201. 410-685-3404. office@osp1692.org

The Rectory

The historic Rectory is located at 24 W. Saratoga St., one block west of the Church on land that was originally donated by vestryman John Eager Howard. Constructed between 1789 and 1791, it is one of the oldest existing houses in the city. It was originally built for Dr. William West, a friend and former neighbor of George Washington.

Old St. Paul's Cemetery

Our cemetery is a 2.4 acre walled burial ground in south-central Baltimore at Redwood and Martin Luther King Boulevard. Laid out in 1799, Old St. Paul's Cemetery is one of the two oldest cemeteries in Baltimore. Samuel Chase, John Eager Howard, George Armistead, and Francis Scott Key (later moved) were buried in the cemetery.

St. Paul's School & St. Paul's School for Girls

St. Paul's School is a K-12 Episcopal college preparatory school. It was founded in 1849 by St. Paul's Church as an outreach ministry to poor boys. Its campus is now in Brooklandville, Maryland. Today, St. Paul's is co-ed through the fourth grade, and all-male from fifth through twelfth grade. St. Paul's School for Girls is an all-girls 5-12 Episcopal college preparatory school. The Benevolent Society of St. Paul's Church founded a precursor to

this girl's school in 1799. The current campus is adjacent to St. Paul's School and was created in 1959. St. Paul's Church maintains its longstanding relationship with these schools with the Rector serving on both Boards of Trustees.

Prayer Requests

Petitions and thanksgivings for parishioners and loved ones are included in the Sunday Leaflet. To add a person or concern to the prayer list, please contact the Church Office.

Weddings

The first step in arranging to have a wedding at Old St. Paul's is to call the Church Office to speak with The Rev. Mark Stanley, Rector, to discuss your interest in St. Paul's. Typically, couples meet with the officiating priest three times before the ceremony, as well as meeting once with our Director of Music Ministries.

Funerals

Please contact one of our clergy to begin the process of making plans to have a funeral at St. Paul's.

Flower Donations

Members are invited to donate flowers for our worship services, especially to honor or remember their loved ones. In order to set a particular date, and to have a notice put in the Sunday leaflet, please contact the Church office. Then members may order flowers from a local florist and arrange for the delivery in coordination with the Church office.

Newsletters

Several times a year, our staff mails newsletters to those who are on our mailing list. If you would like to be on our mailing list then please include your address in the newcomer book in the back of the Church, or call or e-mail the Church Office to let us know your contact information.

E-pistles

Between newsletters we send out weekly email blasts, called the St. Paul's E-pistle, to remind people of upcoming events in the life of our parish. If you would like to receive these electronic updates, then please contact the Church Office with your email address, or go on our web site at www.stpaulsbaltimore.org to sign up.

Our Blog: Living Our Faith St. Paul's

We publish occasional essays about faith related issues on our blog page, maintained and edited by Katie Mead-Brewer. On the web go to (livingourfaithstpauls.com).

References for More Information

New Revised Standard Version of The Bible

The Book of Common Prayer, 1979

Includes the words for worship services, psalms, prayers, the Outline of the Faith, and historical church documents

Welcome to the Episcopal Church: an introduction to its history, faith, and worship by Christopher L. Webber

www.stpaulsbaltimore.org

St. Paul's Church web site for current information

livingourfaithstpauls.com

Living Our Faith St. Paul's: our blog

www.ang-md.org

The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland

Join us on Facebook: St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Safe Church Policies Established in 2007

The following five policies for St. Paul's Church are intended to create a safe environment for all parishioners. They correspond to the Safe Church policies for the Diocese of Maryland, and reflect our congregation's desire to promote a loving community.

#1 Policy concerning distribution of money or other items.

Old St. Paul's does not hand out any items (money, books, clothing, food, etc.), even on Sundays.

Background: We have experienced people panhandling parishioners in church before or during worship, or interrupting worship or the greeting line to ask for various items from the clergy. At St. Paul's we typically do not give direct aid to individuals, but contribute through our outreach committee to organizations with the resources to be effective and helpful. We refer individuals to organizations such as Our Daily Bread.

#2 Policy concerning hospitality for street people:

Staff, ushers, and other parishioners are asked not to invite or escort street people downstairs for food or coffee before or during Worship or during Education Hour. All people are welcome to participate in designated fellowship times.

Background: We regularly have adults unknown to our community wandering in the undercroft, sometimes asking for money or other items, and often helping themselves to food or coffee from the kitchen/coffee bar. We have even had occasions of theft. While it once may have been safe to invite street people to receive hospitality downstairs, it is no longer possible given our schedule and staff resources to extend this hospitality while also protecting the safety of our parishioners.

#3 Policy concerning the supervised nursery-care program:

We provide supervised nursery-care on Sundays from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. This program is intended for children ages 0-3 (until out of diapers) while their parents are attending Worship or Education Hour. During the supervised nursery-care program, only childcare providers and parents assisting their children may be in the nursery.

Background: We aim to create an environment that is comfortable and safe for children, childcare providers, and parents. Given the size of our nursery space, it is preferred that the childcare providers be the only adults in the room. We comply with the child to adult ratio of 5:1 outlined in the safe church policy of the Diocese of Maryland. We support parents who need to be present in order to transition their children to our program.

#4 Policy concerning program space for children and youth:

On Sundays during Education Hour and Children's Worship (9:00– 11:00 a.m.), the large undercroft space, Sunday School rooms, the South Tower, and the Upper Room are reserved for Children's Sunday School and Youth Group. Adults other than program leaders and parents of participants are asked not to be present.

Background: As our programs for children and teens have grown, it has become necessary to use all the areas named above on Sunday mornings. To create a safe space for these programs, or at any time there is program for children or teens going on in a specific room or space, the only adults who are welcome to be present are the leaders and volunteers responsible for the program, or parents who have children participating in the program. We follow the safe church policy outlined by the Diocese of Maryland, which maintains open access for parents to programs in which their children are directly participating.

#5 Policy concerning communication with children:

At no time should children or youth on the campus of Old St. Paul's, or participating in Old St. Paul's events, be yelled at, shamed, or demeaned in any way.

Background: As a faith community, we have the responsibility of raising our children in the knowledge and love of God. While we uphold discipline and structure in children's and youth programs as important factors in creating a safe environment, our guiding principle is to continually strive to live into the words of our Baptismal Covenant: "To respect the dignity and freedom of every person." When we gather as a church, we are called to rise above the norms of our culture by modeling self-discipline and an extra measure of patience, kindness and care for the emotional well-being of others, especially the children in our midst.

Security

On Sundays and at other special events, we pay Downtown Partnership to provide two Safety Guides to look out for our security. You will see these uniformed and trained Safety Guides in front of the Church, or walking around double checking on our safety over at The Grand and in the undercroft during children's programs. If you ever have a concern, or you see something that worries you, please tell a Safety Guide so that they can take charge of the situation. Note that we very much appreciate what a good job our Safety Guides do for us. They have become a vital part of our community.

Clergy and Staff

The Reverend Mark Stanley, Rector, mark@osp1692.org

The Reverend Mary Luck Stanley, Associate Rector, mary@osp1692.org

The Rev. Dr. Chris Dreisbach, Assisting Priest, cd8757@comcast.net

Mr. John Smedstad, Director of Music, jsmedstad@stpaulsschool.org

Ms. Katie Hunt El-Diwany, Organist,
katie.eldiwany@gmail.com

Mr. Chuck Brawner, Business Manager, chuckb@osp2692.org

Ms. Laura Brodsky, Administrative Assistant, laura@osp1692.org

Mr. Gordon Stick, Property Manager, gordonstick@gmail.com

Ms. Jeanne Neifert, Sunday School Director, sjn612@comcast.net

Ms. Audry Gagnon, Youth Minister, acgagnon@charter.net

Ms. Kate Brantley, Community Builder for Families with Infants and Toddlers, brantley.kate@gmail.com

Mr. Joe Smith, Musician for Children's Worship, josephalansmith@verizon.net

Ms. Theresa Pearson, Nursery Care Coordinator, teresa.pearson@comcast.net

Ms. Qiana Scott, Nursery Care Provider, juicyqi83@gmail.com

Ms. Nadine Williamson, Nursery Care Provider, nad32327@hotmail.com

Mr. Rick Tomlinson, Cemetery Curator, ricktomlinson@verizon.net

Contact Information:

Church Location: 233 North Charles Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201 (at the corner of N. Charles and Saratoga Streets)

Office Location and Mailing Address: 309 Cathedral Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201, Telephone: 410-685-3404

Rectory Location: 24 West Saratoga Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Email: office@osp1692.org, Facsimile: 410-385-0186

Web Site: stpaulsbaltimore.org

Blog: livingourfaithstpauls@com

Directions and Parking

St. Paul's Church is located in downtown Baltimore at the corner of N. Charles Street and Saratoga and is four blocks north of Harbor Place and the Convention Center.

Free parking for Sundays and major holidays is available at the St. Paul Place Garage.

You may enter this garage through Saratoga Street) or from St. Paul Street, just past the Embassy Suites Hotel.

After you have parked in the garage, take the elevator to Level 2 (Charles Street to Charles Street. Turn right and the Church is on the corner of N. Charles Street and Saratoga. Take the parking ticket with you so that you can validate it using the machine located at the back of the Church. In order to re-enter the garage you must have your ticket with you.

For Church events that are hosted on Mondays through Saturdays, parking is available at the same garage for a \$1 fee, once you have gotten your ticket validated at the Church.



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