

# Welcome Booklet



**A Guide for Newcomers and Visitors**



## Welcome from The Rev. Mark Stanley, Co-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 Sunday worship services, live streamed videos, adult Forums, Sunday School for children, Youth Group for teens, and Nursery Care for infants and toddlers. 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 committed to 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.

The information in this booklet will tell you 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 share the love of God through our worship, education, fellowship and outreach.

## Welcome from The Rev. Mary Luck Stanley, Co-Rector

I'm fond of saying, "We cherish people so they'll know they're cherished by God." Since every person is a beloved child of God, we strive to build an inclusive and loving community where everyone belongs. We see ourselves as Jesus's followers, and in this spirit, we commit to respecting the dignity of every human being, loving our neighbors as ourselves.

Whenever I meet visitors and newcomers, my first thoughts are, "What brings you to Old St. Paul's? What is your story? How can we support you?" We are a community of Christian friends who are eager to learn more about you so we can walk with you on your spiritual journey.

If you are searching for answers, then we want you to know we will honor your questions and search with you. If you're seeking peace, we hope our worship will provide a centering and uplifting experience for you. If you are yearning for greater understanding, then we invite you to join us for our excellent Christian enrichment programs. If you are drawn to finding companionship with people who share similar values, and feeling part of a spiritual community, then we welcome you and your loved ones 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. In this broken world, we are 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 from the Rev. Dr. Chris Dreisbach, Assisting Priest

I join Mark and Mary Stanley in welcoming you to Old St. Paul's. In 2013, they invited me to join them as an assisting priest, and I have considered it a blessing ever since. I hope you will experience the grace, serenity, history, and love that OSP embodies, both in its building and in its people.

In the midst of all that is wrong in this world—and, to be fair, all that is right in this world—is Christ's message that to God, no one is more important than you and for that reason alone you deserve God's love and our love. In that love there is hope and a reason for cultivating the faith that the Good News—the Gospel of Jesus Christ—is the final and eternal word.

If I were new to OSP and paying only a short visit, I would marvel at the history of the congregation and the aesthetics of the building. If I were able to stay for just one typical Sunday service, I would marvel at its celebratory nature and its focus on communion, where all are invited to celebrate as equals before God. Indeed, the Episcopal Church's particular way of celebrating communion was a significant reason why I moved from the Methodist Church and became an Episcopal priest (I say this knowing full well that Jesus, a practicing Jew, was neither Methodist nor Episcopalian, and that no Christian denomination has cornered the market on God's truth). But after nine years I marvel especially at the community, in which young children and old timers join together as one to thank and praise God and to prepare at each service to "Go in peace to serve the Lord," using the particular gifts that each of us has received from God.

May you leave here in peace, too, knowing that God loves you and that no one is more precious than you.

## 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, 1979

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?

## Sundays at Old St. Paul's

**10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship Service:** with choir, hymns, readings, prayers, a sermon, and the celebration of the Holy Eucharist (communion). Both in person and live streamed.

**11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon. Community Sundays:** On second Sundays of the month, we host a party for all ages in the back of the church.

**11:00-11:45 a.m. Education Hour** for all Ages & Stages: On Sundays that are not 2nd Sundays, we invite everyone to grab a treat and a cup of coffee after church and then move into a time of Christian formation for adults and children.

-The Forum for adults meets in the church

-Sunday School meets downstairs and Youth Group gathers in the Upper Room

**9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Nursery Care** for infants and toddlers while parents are in worship and programs

## Our Identity Statements

*At Old St. Paul's, Baltimore...*

### 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.*

## Here are some things we want you to know about us

Recently, a group of our members gathered to brainstorm some things we want to share with the many guests and newcomers who visit our church. Here is a summary of that conversation.

We are a historic church founded in 1692, and we enjoy the beauty of this sacred space, but the most important part of our church is the people. We're glad you're here and hope you will feel truly welcomed and accepted whenever you are with us. We want to get to know you and we invite you to tell us about yourself, your story, and what has drawn you to this place.

The mission of the Episcopal Church is to restore the unity of all people with God and each other in Christ. At Old St. Paul's, we prioritize sharing the good news that God loves all people unconditionally, no exceptions. Our church life is enriched by the diversity of our members, and we celebrate the many gifts that newcomers and visitors bring. We invite people to do the hard work of understanding and dismantling racism, sexism, homophobia, ableism, classism, and ageism. These unjust systems stand in opposition to the promises we make in our baptism to seek and serve Christ in all persons, respecting the dignity of every human being, and loving our neighbors as ourselves. Presiding Bishop Michael Curry is fond of saying, "If it's not about love, it's not about God."

We celebrate children, and the new life they bring to our community. In our church, children and youth are both seen and heard. We have special pews that we call "soft spaces" for families with young children, and we provide programs for children and youth, such as Nursery Care, Children's Worship, Sunday School, and Youth Group. We rejoice that our church includes so many young people and families.



At Old St. Paul's, you don't have to check your brain at the door. Through our adult Forums and other programs, we gather regularly to continue learning and growing. We understand that truth is best discerned in the midst of spirited conversations that are engaged with civility, honesty, and grace. We study the literature, poetry, letters, hymns, teachings, eyewitness accounts, folklore, sermons, and stories found in scripture and we use the Bible as a guide. God gives us reason to help us discern the truth and to make advances in areas such as science and medicine. God gives us free will to make our own choices in life, and to form our own beliefs. Our job is to be curious, open, and discerning.

If you consider yourself to be spiritual but not religious, then we welcome you to join us on your own terms. If you are wary of organized religion, then we want you to know we can relate. If you grew up in a different faith tradition, or with no religion at all, then we hope you will feel honored and inspired while you are with us. We celebrate who you are, and we rejoice that you were created in the image of God. Come as you are and get to know this group of friends who are walking together as we try to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

## 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 and companions. Jesus, who was a faithful though reforming Jew, encouraged unconditional love for God and for all people. Although he became popular with multitudes of people around him, he also made the Roman and 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 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 fellowship 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, both clergy and lay people, 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 seek to bring people together to worship even when people have differing opinions on important issues. 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 2006, The Rev. Mary Luck Stanley joined the staff and began working on launching a new service along with developing Christian education programs for all ages. 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.

In 2018, the Historic Rectory underwent a major restoration so that the church offices could move into the 2nd floor, and the first floor could be used for small group meetings, and fellowship events.

After working as the Associate Rector from 2006-2020, the Rev. Mary Luck Stanley was invited by Mark Stanley and the Vestry to serve as Co-Rector, working equally alongside Mark. On January 12, 2020, the church celebrated Mary's Installation as Co-Rector of Old St. Paul's---the first women rector in this congregation's history.

## 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, 1979*

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 will hand you a Service Leaflet to serve as a guide for your worship experience. Taken from *The Book of Common Prayer, 1979*, and other approved resources, 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. We invite everyone 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. In fact, the Greek root of the word Eucharist means thanksgiving.

Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, we invite you to join us to share this sacred meal. All are welcome to receive communion, including children and infants. When receiving communion you are invited to form a line in the center aisle and come forward to place one palm over the other so that the consecrated bread may be placed in your hands. We invite you to either consume the bread without receiving the wine, or you may receive a wafer dipped in wine, or guide the chalice to your lips, so that you may drink consecrated wine from the common cup (Covid restrictions permitting). Communion is something that each person receives; it is not something that people take. So, please hold out open hands, acknowledging that all grace is a gift from God. In the Episcopal Church, receiving either the bread or the wine constitutes a full communion. We invite those who do not wish to receive the bread and wine 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

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 has the power to soothe the spirit and uplift the soul as people experience beauty, which is a gift from God.

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, and 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 hope that the music program at Old St. Paul's will add enrichment to our collective worship experience.

Our music-making is led by Justin Weilnau, Minister of Music & Organist, who oversees the Old St. Paul's choir, which consists of 10 professional singers and auditioned volunteers from the congregation. We are also blessed to have JoyAnne Amani as our Artist-in-Residence, who is helping us explore and broaden our experience of music in worship. We strive to find new ways to express ourselves through music, ways that will help reach new people in new ways.

Our music programs are open to all, whether you are inclined vocally or instrumentally. We invite you to reach out to Justin Weilnau to learn more and see how you might fit into our programs here at Old St. Paul's.

## Children's Worship

During the first half of the 10:00 a.m. service, young children and one or more of their parents are invited to go downstairs to have their very own Liturgy of the Word. Gathered in a circle, children

are joyfully engaged through singing, playing percussion instruments, and listening to the good news for the day. We invite families arriving for the service 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, led by our musician, Joe Smith, and the clergy and staff. Children who are five and younger must be accompanied by a parent or older sibling. 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 on the floor.

### Welcoming Children and Youth

Several times in the New Testament, Jesus calls adults 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 includes 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 (other than 2nd Sundays which are "Community Sundays") during the Education Hour, from 11:00 to 11:45 a.m. We invite all to join us in the church sanctuary 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 members and 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

On Sundays (other than 2nd Sundays) during the program year, we invite young people in grades five and higher to meet in the youth room with Connie Saeger and an assistant. Youth Group will help young people in our congregation to grow in faith through knowing God's love, and finding the support of the friendships they make here. Young people will have the opportunity to explore their big and little questions about God, Christianity, the world, and themselves. We will offer trust building games, opportunities for friendship making, and times of conversation. Of course, each week, there will be snacks and laughter. Young people meet in the Upper Room (second floor above the church). During the year, there will be fun outings that are not scheduled on Sunday mornings. This will include community service projects, serving as narrators in the Christmas pageant, stuffing and hiding eggs for the annual Easter Egg Hunt, and outings just for fun.

## Sunday School

We invite children who are out of diapers and those through the fourth grade to participate in Sunday School, which meets from 11:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. on Sundays (other than 2nd Sundays).

Children are placed in groups by age and they meet in the undercroft classrooms downstairs. Our Sunday School is designed to help children explore and form their faith and to know that they are loved by God, their family, and their extended family at Old St. Paul's. Our teachers encourage children to experience God's love through storytelling, prayer, fun activities and inviting children to share their thoughts and questions. Children will experience a joy filled environment which will

encourage learning, and most importantly, foster community with each other through a deep love of God. Our teachers know and understand the child's needs and design the lesson and activities using the Episcopal curriculum called "Weaving God's Promises."

We meet on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and when applicable, 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month. On the second Sunday of each month, we have Community Sunday, an intergenerational social gathering. There are crafts and fun activities for children on Community Sundays.

### **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 9:30-12:30 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. Nursery Teacher, Qiana Scott, has been with us since 2008.

### **Changing Tables**

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

### **Spiritual Retreats, Workshops, 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, weekly

Compline services said on Zoom, Men's dinners, weekly Bible Study on Zoom, and other events.

## **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.

## **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. We invite everyone to attend our worship 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 worshipping 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. We invite adults and children wishing to be baptized 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

financial pledge drives, and we value both small and large pledge amounts. We invite you to express your gratitude and commitment to St. Paul's by making a pledge each year. This helps our finance committee to predict how much income the church will have in yearly donations so that they can plan the operating budget based on realistic numbers.

To become a pledging member of our church, you may send an email to the church administrator, at [office@stpaulsbaltimore.org](mailto:office@stpaulsbaltimore.org), stating how much you want to pledge for a given year. Include your contact information, and then fulfill your commitment by sending in donations. Some people enjoy putting checks, marked as pledges in the memo line, into the Sunday offering plate, while others prefer to either set up automatic giving through their bank, or mail in checks to the church office: OSP Office, 309 Cathedral Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201.

If you would like to become a "Sustaining Member" of our church, please let us know by sending the church office an email. Sustaining Members agree to two conditions: 1) their pledge rolls over from year to year, staying evergreen unless they raise, lower, or cancel it by notifying the church, and 2) automatic donations are set up through the bank, or through some other process, so that pledge payments are always up to date.

### **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 wherever 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. In addition, we invite all members of the Church 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.

## Worship Ministries

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

**Hosts:** greet people as they gather for the 10:00 a.m. 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 (depending on Covid restrictions).

**Acolytes:** wear vestments and lead our processions, carrying the cross, torches, banner, and Gospel Book. Typically, our acolytes are youth who are in 3rd-12th grades.

**Choir:** We invite men and women from our Church to join professional singers to provide music for our worship

**Sacristans:** set up the Holy Things for our worship services

**Vergers:** assist the clergy by serving as Masters of Ceremony, coordinating the various volunteers in our worship.

## 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 needs 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 more volunteers will join us in caring for the needs of our members. For emergencies, contact one of the clergy.

## Hospitality & Fellowship Event Volunteers

Throughout the year, we invite all in our parish to come together for various special events and celebrations. We rely mostly on volunteers to host these important events.

## Outreach Opportunities

The Social Justice & Service Committee coordinates community service activities. Contact: the Rev. Mark Stanley: mark@stpaulsbaltimore.org, or Anne Monroe, Chair, to learn more.

## Annual Diaper Drive

Each year we have a diaper drive through the Baltimore organization called "ShareBaby," <https://sharebaby.org/>. 1 in 3 families in the United States suffers from diaper need, and ShareBaby estimates that there are 25,000 children of diaper age living in poverty in Baltimore City. During Advent and Christmas each year, our congregation collects diapers, wipes, and diaper cream. We invite our members to do this as a way of celebrating the birth of our Savior who was born in trying circumstances.

## Parish Day of Service

Several times a year, members of our church are invited to make a difference in Baltimore by participating in a Civic Works Ricky Myers Day of Service. Volunteers from all over Baltimore gather on this day to plant, weed, paint, and clean at various sites. Contact Mark Stanley ([mark@stpaulsbaltimore.org](mailto:mark@stpaulsbaltimore.org)) for more information.

## Scholarship Awarded

We are delighted to announce that we have our first recipient of the Old St. Paul's Scholarship for a student to attend the Saint Paul's Schools in Brooklandville. Our scholarship recipient is a BEST (Baltimore Education Scholarship Trust <https://www.besttrust.org/>) student who is currently in the fifth grade in the Baltimore City Public School system. A reminder that our church founded both the Saint Paul's School for Boys and the Saint Paul's School for Girls which each had their beginnings as schools for orphan and poor children in Baltimore. This Old St. Paul's Scholarship enables us to get back in touch with the mission to promote education for those who are under resourced. Specifically, this scholarship is for African American students of high need who live in Baltimore City. The scholarship was partially funded by the sale of silver items that had been locked away for many years in our safe. One next step is to do more to increase this fund in order to provide additional scholarships.

## Vestry

The Vestry is composed of leaders elected at our Church's Annual Meeting, and 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 in the Historic Rectory at 24 West Saratoga Street. Mail cannot be sent to this address, so, all of our mail is addressed to St. Paul's Parish Office at 309 Cathedral Street, Baltimore, MD 21201. To contact someone in the church office, you are welcome to call the clergy and staff on their cell phones. Or you may leave a message at the office by calling 443-682-9587.

## **The Historic 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. In 2018, the Church undertook a major restoration of the Historic Rectory, and now the church offices are located on the second floor while the first floor is reserved for church meetings and gatherings.

## **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.

## **The St. Paul's Schools: 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 Co-Rector Mark Stanley serving on the board of trustees.

## Weddings

The first step in arranging to have a wedding at Old St. Paul's is to call the Rev. Mark Stanley, to discuss your interest in St. Paul's. Typically, couples meet with the officiating priest three times before the ceremony for pre-marital counseling, 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.

## Newsletters

Once or twice 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

The clergy 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 weekly emails, then

please contact the Church Office ([office@stpaulsbaltimore.org](mailto:office@stpaulsbaltimore.org)) with your email address, or go on our web site at [www.stpaulsbaltimore.org](http://www.stpaulsbaltimore.org) to sign up.

## Desiderata & Old St. Paul's, Baltimore

“Go placidly amid the noise and haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence.” So begins the popular poem known as Desiderata, which has comforted and inspired millions of people throughout the world. Known for its words of reassurance, Desiderata has been reprinted in national magazines such as Reader’s Digest, been recited at countless weddings and funerals, and was recorded as a hit pop song in 1972.

Over the years, the source of this well-loved poem has been shrouded in mystery. Legend has it that the Desiderata was inscribed on a wall at Old St. Paul’s Church in the late 17th century. In reality, it was written in 1927 by Max Ehrman, an Indiana attorney, poet, and author. Old St. Paul’s is in no way accountable for the poem.

So how did Desiderata become associated with Old St. Paul’s? To find the answer we must trace back to the season of Lent in Baltimore in the mid 1950’s. The Reverend Frederick W. Kates, rector of Old St. Paul’s from 1956 to 1961, plays a key role in this story. During Lent it was Reverend Kates’ custom to distribute inspirational poems and quotations to his parishioners. One particular Sunday, he placed Desiderata in the pews on parish letterhead, which contained the church’s founding date of 1692. One can only surmise a visitor then copied the poem, along with the misleading credit line, and distribution began in earnest. Even today it is rare to find a copy of Desiderata that fails to include the line “Found in Old St. Paul’s Church, Baltimore, Dated 1692.”

The parish has received inquiries on this piece of poetry from every state in the Union and from countries throughout the world. Desiderata's popularity endures and so does its mistaken association with Old St. Paul's.

## Desiderata

Go placidly amid the noise and the haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence.

As far as possible, without surrender, be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even to the dull and the ignorant; they too have their story. Avoid loud and aggressive persons; they are vexatious to the spirit.

If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain or bitter, for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself. Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time.

Exercise caution in your business affairs, for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals, and everywhere life is full of heroism. Be yourself. Especially do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love, for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment, it is as perennial as the grass.

Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth. Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness.

Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe no less than the trees and the stars; you

have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.

Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be. And whatever your labors and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life, keep peace in your soul.

With all its sham, drudgery, and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be cheerful. Strive to be happy.

### References for More Information

*New Revised Standard Version of The Bible*: This is the translation of The Bible that we use in church, and we recommend this version in particular.

*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

*Your God is Too Somber*: by The Rev. Dr. Christopher Dreisbach

The Episcopal Diocese of Maryland  
<https://episcopalmaryland.org>

### Security

On Sundays and at other special events, the Church pays Wolf Security to provide guards to look out for our safety. You will see these uniformed and trained guards in front of the Church, or walking around double checking on our safety. If you ever have a concern, or you see something that worries you, please tell a Wolf Security guard and a member of the clergy or staff.

## Clergy and Staff

The Reverend Mark Stanley, Co-Rector,  
[mark@stpaulsbaltimore.org](mailto:mark@stpaulsbaltimore.org)

The Reverend Mary Luck Stanley, Co-Rector,  
[mary@stpaulsbaltimore.org](mailto:mary@stpaulsbaltimore.org)

The Rev. Dr. Chris Dreisbach, Assisting Priest,  
[cd8757@comcast.net](mailto:cd8757@comcast.net)

Ms. Connie Saeger, Minister for Christian Formation,  
[connie@stpaulsbaltimore.org](mailto:connie@stpaulsbaltimore.org)

Mr. Justin Weilnau, Minister of Music & Administrator,  
[justin@stpaulsbaltimore.org](mailto:justin@stpaulsbaltimore.org)

Mr. Joe Smith, Musician for Children's Worship,  
[josephalansmith@verizon.net](mailto:josephalansmith@verizon.net)

Ms. Qiana Scott, Nursery Coordinator, [juicyqi83@gmail.com](mailto:juicyqi83@gmail.com)

Ms. JoyAnne Amani, Artist in Residence,  
[joyanneamanirichardson@gmail.com](mailto:joyanneamanirichardson@gmail.com)

Mr. Rick Tomlinson, Cemetery Curator,  
[ricktomlinson@verizon.net](mailto:ricktomlinson@verizon.net)

Ms. Ann Hall, Hospitality Coordinator

Mr. Chris Uehlein, Live Stream Videographer

## Contact Information

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

Office Mailing Address: St. Paul's Parish Office, 309 Cathedral Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21201

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

Office phone number: 443-682-9587

Email: [office@stpaulsbaltimore.org](mailto:office@stpaulsbaltimore.org)

Web Site: [stpaulsbaltimore.org](http://stpaulsbaltimore.org)

Join us on Facebook: St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
<https://www.facebook.com/st.pauls.baltimore>

To view recordings of past Live Streamed worship services, go to our Youtube channel: Old St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Baltimore  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9TkgMHZotdki2fwbB5Rnjg>

## 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 the alley behind the Church (off Saratoga Street) or from St. Paul Street, just past Saratoga and the Embassy Suites Hotel.

After you have parked in the garage, take the elevator to Level 2 (Charles Street side) and use the pedestrian walkway 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. Be sure to stamp your ticket as well, just in case the validation does not register when you exit the building. 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.

