

Learn God's Word
Live God's Love

St. Paul's
KENT



2024 Parish

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Contents

I.	Mission	2
II.	Our Hopes.....	2
III.	St. Paul’s Prayer for Our Time of Transition.....	3
IV.	Spiritual Life	4
V.	Parish Life	5
VI.	St. Paul’s Ministries.....	6
VII.	Stewardship	8
VIII.	Appendix 1: Financial Position	9
	Table 1: Summary of liquid assets (cash and investments) at the end of 2023 as compared to 2022	9
	Table 2: Summary income and expense	9
IX.	Appendix 2: Parish Administration.....	10
	Vestry Members.....	10
	Search Committee.....	10
X.	Appendix 3: Statistics	11
XI.	Appendix 4: History, Property, and Grounds	12
XII.	Appendix 5: Kent County and Maryland’s Eastern Shore	14

Learn God's Word, Live God's Love.

Our Hopes

A tradition of caring has been established at St. Paul's, both within and outside of our congregation. We hope to call a rector who will pastor to us and help us help each other. While we welcome and address the needs of young families, we continue to open our hearts to older parishioners and recognize the need we all have for support in difficult times.

We believe that we have stability as a congregation but wish to be stronger Christians. It is important to us to have a rector who will be our spiritual guide. We hope to read Scripture and learn how the Holy Word can be more evident in our everyday lives. We participate in the liturgy, the work of the people, but we look to a celebrant to head our worship. We seek a rector who can lead us, teach us, and help us see new, deeper meaning in old familiar stories and themes.

As an historic parish, tradition is respected at St. Paul's, particularly in the care of our church and churchyard. Such maintenance does have its price, though, and requires a higher level of stewardship, planning and fiscal attention than would be required of more contemporary structures. We want to work to meet this challenge and wish to have our new rector coordinate our efforts.

Our Creator gave us free will and reason - gifts our ancestors have used to bring us through controversy over the centuries. On issues of debate within the Episcopal Church and the broader Anglican community, our parish has members with opinions at both ends of the spectrum. As we strive to be better Christians, we would like to have a rector to help us reason, while still upholding the tenets of our Episcopal faith.

Recognizing the declining membership in the greater Episcopal Church and the demographics of our area, we hope to draw new members to us. We hope our rector will help us welcome new faces and let them know that the Holy Spirit is alive and well here.

So, what do we hope to accomplish at St. Paul's Parish, Kent? We want to be helped to be closer to Christ and his Word, to live out the mission "Learn God's Word, Live God's Love." We want to both invite others in and to reach out to our neighbors and beyond. We want to honor and maintain this holy place in the quiet countryside. We want to love one another, recognizing our differences, but understanding that we are members of one Body. Together, we hope to celebrate, collaborate, and cooperate.

St. Paul's Prayer for Our Time of Transition

Oh God, you know the needs of your Church in every place: We thank you for the many spiritual and material blessings with which you have equipped us in this parish. Guide us in discerning the person you have chosen to be our next rector that we may grow together in faithfulness of service and joyfulness of heart. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Spiritual Life

Spiritual life at St. Paul's centers around Sunday worship with two services of Holy Eucharist. About 12 people attend the 8 am said service; about 27 people attend the 10:30 am Choral Eucharist at which the choir is led by our music director/organist. Fellowship is held following the 10:30 am service where different families sign up to bring refreshments to share each week. A mid-week healing service has a small but devoted attendance. We have Morning Prayer daily at 8:30 am and Evensong is daily at 4:30 pm. Our parish has Stations of the Cross during Lent each Wednesday at 5:30 pm, followed by fellowship in the church hall serving soup and salad for all (again where parishioners volunteer to provide the food and refreshments). For all services in the church, the altar guild cares for and prepares the Sanctuary.

Under the direction of St. Paul's choir director, the choir has expanded its repertoire beyond the 1982 hymnal to include its supplement *Wonder, Love and Praise* and an African American hymnal *Lift Every Voice and Sing II*. The choir also performs a cantata twice a year in the Christmas and Easter seasons.

In the past, parishioners have been involved in DOCC (Disciples of Christ in the Community), Cursillo, and Stephen Ministry. Some have been Lay Eucharist Visitors, assisting the rector with visitations to house-bound members, local nursing homes, and Heron Point (a retirement community in Chestertown). We hope to have these and similar ministries encouraged and revitalized.

Four chapters of The Order of The Daughters of the King® (DOK) are currently active in the Diocese: Church of the Holy Trinity, Oxford; Shrewsbury Parish, Kennedyville; St. Paul's Parish, Chestertown; and Trinity Episcopal Church, Elkton. Ours is the St. Clare of Assisi Chapter and five women joined our chapter in January, 2024. All ten current members take a vow of prayer and a pledge of service and commitment to support the clergy for the good of the parish. They meet each month and perform works of charity to benefit our community in addition to attending the greater DOK Province III gatherings. There has been interest in beginning a chapter of The Brotherhood of St. Andrew for the men of St. Paul's as well.

Before the pandemic, St. Paul's had joined with other local Episcopal parishes to provide mid-week Advent and Lenten programs. Our diocese is developing and encouraging this kind of cooperation as a diocesan goal. We have inaugurated a new type of service on three Sundays in the summer, Church on the Beach, where we gather at the Rock Hall Town Beach on the Chesapeake Bay. This casual communion service includes music, and refreshments follow. Not to forget the non-humans, the Blessing of the Animals is held in the fall, followed by a picnic and pet treats!

Parish Life

Hospitality is a strength at St. Paul's. Frequently throughout the year, there are joint services with shared breakfasts and special events to draw everyone together. A coffee hour in the parish hall usually follows the 10:30 a.m. Sunday service, with a fire in the fireplace during the cold months. Fellowship is hosted each week by volunteers and includes hot and cold drinks, baked goods, cheeses, appetizers, and fruits. During Lent, the Wednesday evening Stations of the Cross service is followed by a soup and salad supper. Our current rector has hosted an open house at the rectory at Christmas time that has become a beloved event, and after the Christmas Eve service, a simple supper with a variety of delicious chilis, breads and salads is offered.

Our historic buildings and peaceful grounds often host diverse groups from the community. Meetings and retreats are held here for various organizations, such as the Rock Hall Garden Club, the Kent Quilters Guild, and the Chester River Chorale. Classical music performances are hosted annually during the first two weeks in June as part of the National Music Festival, and its off-season performance series called Resonance Concerts are performed monthly on Sunday afternoons in our Parish Hall. The St. Paul's Book Group meets on our grounds or in members' homes. Birders wander through our cemetery and along the shore of our pond, and bike racers stop in for respite. For several years, we've celebrated the summer solstice with events in the Churchyard that welcomed the community. Currently there is a project underway with Washington College on a Geographic Information System that aims to digitize our beautiful churchyard and cemetery and make it available online.

Outreach at St. Paul's has multiple aspects. There is an outreach committee that directs the giving with input from the parish, and generally the monies go to locally based organizations that provide food, cash assistance, and shelter to needy families and individuals in Kent County. Funds collected at our Church on the Beach service are donated directly to a local cause. In addition, our members often personally purchase items for designated organizations or local populations, bringing them to church to be delivered by the Outreach committee and/or St. Paul's DOK chapter. An "Angel Tree" is erected every Christmas season where parishioners find requests for gifts for needy children, which are then purchased, wrapped, and returned to the church for distribution. Many parishioners also volunteer on a regular basis and hold leadership roles in local non-profit organizations.

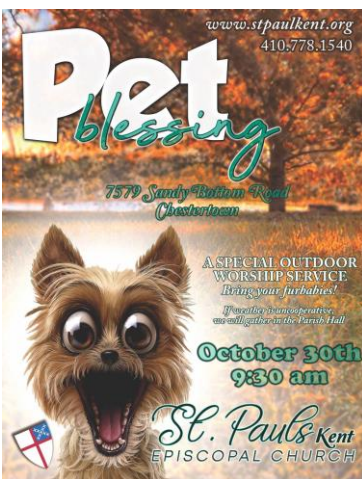
St. Paul's Ministries

Learn God's Word

Choir
Worship
Bible Study
Book Group
DOK
Pet Blessing

Live God's Love

Altar Guild
Outreach
Hospitality
Congregational Care
Church on the Beach
Christmas and Easter Cantatas



Attendance figures for
Church on The Beach and
Pet Blessing:

2022
Jul - 79
Aug - 95
Sep - 55
Pets, Oct - 39
2023
Jun - 62
Jul - 83
Aug - 63
Pets, Oct - 21



YouTube Video Link: <http://tinyurl.com/StPaulsKent>

The Order of The Daughters of the King® (DOK),
St. Clare of Assisi Chapter, St. Paul's Kent Episcopal Church
Province III Easton Diocese



Front row: Rev. Frank St. Amour III installs 5 new members of the St. Clare of Assisi Chapter of the DOK, January, 2024,

Stewardship

St. Paul's financial condition remains sound. The number of pledges is stable, and the average pledge has increased. Unpledged and loose cash donations have also been rising. Last year, the Vestry decided to deposit all loose cash donations to the Rector's Discretionary Fund to better support that form of outreach. Our current account balances are robust. Over the years, we have benefitted from substantial grants and bequests through which we have been able to add to our long-term investments, as well as support current needs. Investments have performed very well over time.

As a Parish, we treasure our historic church, Vestry House, churchyard, and cemetery. We are committed to good stewardship of our buildings and grounds as part of our unique heritage and in the interest of the community at large. Fortunately, we are supported in these efforts not only by the generosity of the congregation, but also by substantial investments funds. The Churchyard and Cemetery Fund has grown large enough that it can provide for most maintenance expenses for the grounds. The Sexton, responsible for this work, is resident on the Church campus and is supported by part-time groundskeepers. Building maintenance is supported by two endowment funds that provide for most needs there.

Our Vestry has ultimate responsibility for financial management. That includes our annual stewardship canvass, as well as special projects for property or other needs. Our Treasurer is supported by several other volunteers and our parish administrator to handle the day-to-day tasks involved in managing our accounts.

Appendix 1: Financial Position

Table 1: Summary of liquid assets (cash and investments) at the end of 2023 as compared to 2022 (in thousands of dollars)

	<i>Actual 2023</i>	<i>Budget 2024</i>
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Regular Giving	142	137
Investment Used for Operations	177	264
Other Operating Income	47	37
Grants and Major Gifts	21	20
Income-Misc.	2	1
Total Income	390	459
Expense		
Diocesan Apportionment	36	31
Outreach from Operations	17	10
Clergy Compensation	106	117
Lay Employee Compensation	140	154
Other Personnel Expense	12	18
Support Expenses	8	12
Plant Operating Expenses	61	112
Parish Program Expense	4	5
Total Expense	384	458
Net Ordinary Income	6	1
Other Income/Expense		
Total Other Income	543	15
Total Other Expense	10	10
Net Other Income	539	5

Table 2: Summary income and expense (in thousands of dollars)

	<i>Dec. 31, 2023</i>	<i>Dec. 31, 2022</i>
Assets		
Current Assets	187	199
Investments	6,390	5,874
Total Liquid Assets	6,577	6,073

Appendix 2: Parish Administration

The Rev. Frank S. St. Amour III, SSC - Rector

Mary Cain – Parish Administrator

Fred Welsh – Treasurer

Betty Spence – Registrar

Vestry Members

Eric Schless – Senior Warden

Severn Miller – Junior Warden

Lynda Wheatley

Chris Maxwell

Karin Cowperthwait

Jane Randall

Search Committee

Lynn Bickley - Chair

Earl Runde

Rebecca Taylor

Terry Lovell

Karin Cowperthwait (Vestry Liaison)

Frankie Mayo

Sev Miller (Vestry Liaison)

Appendix 3: Statistics

The Episcopal Diocese of Easton, which was created from the Diocese of Maryland in 1868, comprises the nine counties that make up the Eastern Shore of Maryland. The total membership of the diocese is about 7,000 people, in 39 congregations, with an Average Sunday Attendance of 1600.

Membership at St. Paul's Kent:

2020	109
2021	109
2022	77
2023	76

Services Per Year:

Year	Sunday & Daily Eucharists	Sunday Morning Prayer	Daily Offices
2019	179	0	455
2020	179	18	480
2021	184	1	459
2022	183	1	441
2023	199	6	465

Average Sunday Attendance:

2019	51
2020	16
2021	20
2022	34
2023	38
YTD 2024	40

From our Senior Warden, 2023 Annual Report: *“In science or mathematics a constant is a number that does not change. But in life, change is constant. Sometimes it is so slow we hardly notice it. Sometimes it is dramatic and shocking. In this past year at St. Paul's we have seen both. We are still here, another year to add to the 308. There is a great core of committed parishioners; some faces are missing, some are new, but ALL of us have served in vital ways”.*

From our Rector, 2023 Annual Report: *“As parishioners of St. Paul's Kent, we have lived together through the greatest challenge to the life of not only our parish but all churches with the onset of Covid. And we emerged, thanks in no small part, to a great core of committed parishioners keeping focused on the things that really matter. The branches may have been cut back, but the roots have grown deeper”.*

Appendix 4: History, Property, and Grounds



St. Paul's Parish is one of the 30 Anglican parishes established in Maryland in 1692 after William and Mary's ascension to the English throne.

The first church was a 40 by 24-foot frame building erected by Daniel Norris on this site in 1695-1696. It was not particularly well built, however, and the Vestry had decided by 1711 to build a new and slightly larger brick church at a cost of 70,000 pounds of tobacco. As a

result, St. Paul's Church is the earliest religious structure in Kent County and, with possible exception of Old Trinity in Dorchester County, the earliest surviving Anglican Church on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

The church was remodeled for the first time in the 1740's when an addition was built onto the north side to provide space for 23 new pews to accommodate the growing congregation. The Vestry House, built in 1766, is one of two surviving original Vestry Houses on the Shore.

A second major remodeling occurred in 1841 when a wood floor was installed over the brick and a sacristy was built at the east end of the north wall. The last major work was completed in the

1940's, a result of the generosity of Glenn L. Martin who had purchased what is now Chesapeake Farms. Mr. Martin restored the lake that was dry for many years and installed electricity, a heating system, and an electric organ at St. Paul's. This organ was replaced with a new Allan Renaissance organ with two manuals in April, 1999.





St. Paul's Parish Hall 1

A churchyard covering some 19 acres surrounds St. Paul's. Michael Miller sold the Vestry the original tract of about 8 acres of land out of his "Arcadia" holding on February 6, 1696 for 2,000 pounds of tobacco. Another two acres were added through a purchase from Charles Ringgold in 1707. The remainder of the property has been acquired in more recent times, much of it from the DuPont Company.

The oldest section of the churchyard is the section around the church itself, and many of the oldest graves are located quite close to the building. In the new Cemetery, our Memorial Garden has been blessed as a holy place. With a labyrinth, communal meeting space, and areas for quiet contemplation, the Memorial Garden is an integral part of the worship experience at St. Paul's. A portion of this garden is used as a spiritual and memorial site for those who wish to have their ashes returned to the good earth.



St. Paul's Parish Rectory

The original Parish House was completed in 1954. A Rectory was constructed in 1960. An addition to the Parish House to accommodate Christian Education rooms was completed and dedicated in 1999. A new home for the Sexton was constructed during the spring of 2000, funded by St. Paul's Churchyard Fund. As part of ongoing maintenance, new roofs have been installed on the Church, Rectory, and Vestry House.

Appendix 5: Kent County and Maryland's Eastern Shore

Kent County, located on Maryland's Eastern Shore, embodies the "land of pleasant living" with landscapes rich in shorelines, pastures, and woodlands. We at St. Paul's Kent love it here! A keen sense of place inspires us, whether we live in the country or in one of the towns or villages.

Kent County, founded in 1642, is the second oldest county in Maryland. Early settlers were greeted with a magnificent expanse of the Chesapeake Bay, the beautiful Chester and Sassafras Rivers, waters teeming with fish, myriads of waterfowl, mighty forests, and rich soil. Our 277 square miles of land is bounded by water on three sides, with over 300 miles of shoreline. Kent County's hallmarks continue to be the Chesapeake Bay, its tributaries, and rich farmland. These resources have shaped much of our economy, culture, and character. Although much has changed since then, much remains the same.

Kent County's population is the smallest of any Maryland county. We've enjoyed a significantly lower rate of growth than that of nearby counties, the region, and the state. There are several reasons why. The major determinant has been the county's relative isolation from urban and industrial centers. For over two centuries, there was little population change. In 1980, the Federal Census reported Kent County's population as 17,846, and by 2022 the population had increased to 19,320, 81% of which was white and 14% African-American.

Kent County's population is aging. 28% of our population is age 65 and older compared to 17% in the US. In recent times, Kent County's economy has transitioned from one based upon manufacturing and natural resources to one based upon service provision. There is an out-migration of younger adults and an in-migration of older age groups. The median income in Kent County is \$71,635 compared to the state median income of \$98,461.

Kent County has five public schools: one high school, one middle school, and three elementary schools. In 1998, public school enrollment was 2,903. In 2023, enrollment had declined to 1,786 pupils, with over 70% of these families income-eligible for free or reduced cost meals. Private schools in the county are Kent School (K-8th grade), Chestertown Christian Academy (K-8), Radcliffe Creek School (serving children with different learning styles), and Friendship Montessori School (ages 2-6).

The county is within a two-hour drive of Baltimore, Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, and Wilmington, DE. It is a lively place intellectually, culturally, and recreationally. There is a broad range of offerings, including theatre, music of all kinds, and visual arts. Abundant cultural activities include music at The Mainstay, a non-profit music venue in Rock Hall, music and theatre at the Garfield Center for the Arts, plays and musical theatre at Church Hill Theatre, programs at River Arts and Sumner Hall, as well as interesting shops and art galleries. The proximity of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries allows for wonderful boating, whether it be on a sailboat, fishing boat, cruiser, or kayak.

Washington College in Chestertown adds a special dimension to the county, offering resources, public lectures, concerts, a film series, and WC-All (a lifelong learning program for adults). For classical music, the National Music Festival is held at Washington College and venues around the county every June for two weeks and is open to all.

St. Paul's is located between the towns of Chestertown (county seat, population 5,603), and Rock Hall (population 1,192). Our church has been part of both towns' communities for over 300 years. Each town has distinct identities and heritage. Chestertown was once a colonial seaport larger than the port of Baltimore. It retains the brick sidewalks and historic homes, yet there are now multiple charging stations for electric vehicles. Rock Hall is a quaint harbor town founded in 1707 and boasts of the "nice people" who live there. It is perhaps best known for its fishing and seafood industries. The area is peaceful, and we enjoy a very low crime rate.

County planners place a high priority on agricultural preservation, the environment, and retaining Kent County's rural nature. (Closest malls are 35-45 driving minutes away). At the same time, Kent County is a destination, and there are many visitors who come to this area for recreation. More information can be found here: <https://www.kentcounty.com/visitors>.