

L e a r n G o d ' s W o r d

L i v e G o d ' s L o v e

St. Paul's
K E N T

2 0 1 5 P a r i s h P r o f i l e

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Contents

- Mission..... 2**
- St. Paul’s Prayer for Our Time of Transition 2**
- Parish Administration..... 2**
 - Vestry Members2
 - Profile Committee.....2
 - Search Committee.....2
- History, Property, and Grounds 3**
- Kent County and Maryland’s Eastern Shore 4**
- Spiritual Life 6**
- Parish Life 7**
- Stewardship..... 8**
 - Church Finances8
- Our Hopes 9**
- Appendix 9**
 - Table 1: Statement of Financial Position (All Funds/Accrual Basis) as of August 31, 20159
 - Table 2: Revenue and Expense Budget Summary (Accrual) for Current Fiscal Year (Jan. 1, 2015 – August 31, 2015) 10
 - Table 3: St. Paul’s Ministries 11

Learn God's word, Live God's love.

St. Paul's Prayer for Our Time of Transition

Gracious God,

Bless us all as we open our hearts to the possibilities for renewal and growth at St. Paul's. Help us to recognize that this place and these people can be our pathway to God. Help us to unburden ourselves from the past. Grant us the perseverance and patience to carry out the work we have begun and to still our fluctuating hearts, finding peace in your changeless energy of burning love. All this we ask in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen. –Kim Fletcher

Parish Administration

The Rev. Samuel Hartman – Interim Rector

Mary Cain – Parish Administrator

Fred Welsh – Treasurer

Betty Spence – Registrar

Vestry Members

Jim Peace – Senior Warden

Lynda Wheatley – Junior Warden

Chris Maxwell

Tony Biddle

Susanne Hayman

Alice Ritchie

Connie Metcalf

Pete Dillingham

Anne Bricker

Jean Austin

Profile Committee

Jim Peace

Lynda Wheatley

Alice Ritchie

Susanne Hayman

Search Committee

Louise Durocher

Melissa Baile

Lynn Bickley

Sally Borghardt

Betsy Butler

Benny Jetton

Marti Maxwell

Joel Poorman

Lynda Wheatley (Vestry Liaison)

The Parish as of early in 2015 had **118 members**, over the past year increases and decreases of membership effectively cancelled each other out. Average Sunday attendance is **60 persons**.

History, Property, and Grounds



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

The first church was a 40 by 24foot 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 the 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 in which to accommodate the growing congregation.

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



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. Over the past five years the Church, has been able to put new roofs on the Church, Rectory, and Vestry House.



St. Paul's Parish Hall

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.

Blessed as a holy place is our Memorial Garden in the New Cemetery. 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 will be used as a spiritual and memorial site for those who wish to have their ashes return to the good earth.

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.

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. Although much has changed since then, much remains the same. 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.

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 almost no population change, but recent decades have brought steady population growth. In 1980, the county's population was 17,846. Current population per census projections is 20,197, eighty percent of which is Caucasian and fifteen percent African American.

Kent County's population is aging. Approximately half of our present population is age 45 and older. Almost 25 percent of our population is age 65 and older; in comparison statewide the percentage of folks 65 and older is 13.4%.

Well-paying jobs are scarce. In more recent times our economy has transitioned from one based in manufacturing and natural resources to one based in service provision. There is out-migration of young adults, largely because of job scarcity, and in-migration of older age groups, especially those of retirement age. Median income in Kent County is \$56,254 compared with the state median of \$69, 272.

Kent County has eight public schools: one high school, one middle school, five elementary schools, and the Intensive Behavior and Academic Learning Center that serves as an alternative school program. While public school enrollments across the state are typically increasing, Kent County's enrollments are steadily declining. In 1998, public school enrollment was 2903 pupils. Enrollment is now 2100 pupils, 52 percent of which are family income eligible for free or reduced cost meals.

Kent County is also home to the following undergraduate, private schools: Kent School, serving kindergarten through grade 8; the Chestertown Christian Academy, serving kindergarten through grade 12; Radcliffe Creek School, serving children with average to above-average intelligence who cannot learn successfully in conventional school settings; and Friendship Montessori School, offering a Montessori program to children ages two to six.

St. Paul's is located between the towns of Chestertown (county seat, population 5,252), and Rock Hall (population approximately 1,300). 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 and is the home of Washington College, established in 1782. 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, environment, and retaining Kent County's rural nature. Rural, of course, is not for everyone. Shopping mall? Nope. (Closest are 35-45 driving minutes away). Box store? Absolutely not!! Chucky Cheese? Who's he?

Major population centers, including Baltimore, Washington, DC, and Philadelphia, are within a two hour drive. Relative isolation does not, however, hinder Kent County from being a lively place intellectually and culturally. We enjoy a broad range of quality communitysupported recreational activities, theater, music and visual arts right here at home. In fact, it's surprising how often a single evening or weekend has multiple happenings and one simply cannot do it all!

We enjoy abundant local cultural activities: music at the Mainstay in Rock Hall, shows at the Prince and Church Hill Theatres, programs at Chestertown Arts League and Artworks, and a growing host of interesting shops and galleries. Washington College adds a special dimension

to the county, sharing resources, public lectures and concerts, and sponsoring a Lifelong Learning program for mature adults. Local shops and stores are sufficient for most needs and are supplemented by internet shopping or a trip to a one of the larger towns within an hour's drive. Delaware, which lies on our eastern border, has the closest mall and a bonus: no sales tax!

Spiritual Life

Spiritual life at St. Paul's centers around Sunday worship with two services of Holy Eucharist. About 25 - 30 people attend the 8 am Rite I service; about 45 people attend the 10:30 am Rite II Choral Eucharist. Between services, interested members meet to study the lessons of the day. A mid-week healing service has a small but devoted attendance. Recently a small group has been meeting for Bible Study on Wednesday from 10 - 11 am.

A volunteer parish member did a marvelous job nurturing our youngest members in Sunday School for the past two years; this year she has retired. Several young mothers offered to continue the program and so it is up and running with flexible Godly Play format. The size of the school is small but growing at an amazing rate!



Sunday School children preparing to plant bulbs in the Memorial Garden

In the past, parishioners have been involved in DOCC, Cursillo, and Stephen

Ministry. Some have been Lay Eucharist Visitors, assisting the rector with visitations to housebound members, local nursing homes, and Heron Point (a retirement community in Chestertown). They hope to have these ministries encouraged and utilized.

St. Paul's usually joins 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 seek a rector devoted to our Lord Jesus Christ; someone with enough energy and passion to work collaboratively with the other churches (Episcopal and otherwise) in the region to evangelize our communities; someone to oversee the maintenance of the property and cemetery in addition to shepherding our aging congregation; someone who values the history of St. Paul's Parish.

Parish Life

Hospitality is St. Paul's strength. Frequently throughout the year there are joint services, shared breakfasts and special events to draw everyone together. A coffee hour usually follows the two Sunday services. In the fall there is the famous Turkey dinner for over two hundred and fifty. Turkey and all the trimmings is served by parish members using china, silver, and cloth napkins. It is a big effort but the Parish pulls together and welcomes the community. Over the years there has been a custom to do a reception after funeral services for parishioners. Recently, over a weekend, the parish pulled together a luncheon for 200 for a long time member.



St. Paul's 55th Annual Turkey Dinner

Outreach at St. Paul's has a number of aspects. There is a direct budget item for giving and generally the monies go to locally based organizations that provide food, cash assistance and shelter to poor families and individuals in Kent County. In addition, each month, the congregation personally purchases items for designated organizations or local populations, brings them to church to be delivered by the Outreach committee. Over the year the schools, shut-ins, disabled folks, the Humane Society et al have useful items they need. Many parishioners volunteer on a regular basis and hold leadership roles in local non-profit organizations. Because we live in a small community much that we do is hands-on; we are all neighbors.

So our life has strengths and it has needs. Our strengths are commitment to church, family and community. We seek as a church to engage in more outreach to the immediate community. We need to grow in numbers. We need to develop our programs to expand our spiritual growth, so we have more to offer to those to whom we reach out. We need to make more use of our buildings. Our rural setting while beautiful is away from town and presents transportation challenges. We have a loving family here and we would like to share that community.

Stewardship

Church Finances

While financial management of operations is always a challenge, our current financial situation is sound. The number of pledges is stable, but the average has increased. Also, we have benefitted from some substantial bequests which have allowed us to address a number of longstanding property maintenance and renewal tasks, and our endowments provide a significant supplement to regular giving. St. Paul's is blessed to be located in a venue shown statistically to be the third highest in the State of Maryland for charitable giving. Our Vestry has ultimate responsibility for financial management and is assisted by a thoughtful Finance Committee that reviews proposed projects and investment policies in detail, manages stewardship, and consults on proposed budgets. We hope to renew efforts for a planned giving program in the near future.

As a Parish, we treasure our historic church, Vestry House, churchyard and cemetery. We are challenged by the expense of maintaining these structures, but 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.

The Parish is fortunate to have two main endowments, one for the churchyard and cemetery (which covers their operations), and the second for the church. The churchyard assets, amounting to \$2,096,420 at the end of 2014, are segregated from operations and are managed by the Finance Committee under policies approved by the church. Assets for the general (church) endowment were \$1,422,803 at the end of 2014.

Our Hopes

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.

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.

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.

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.

Appendix

Table 1: Statement of Financial Position (All Funds/Accrual Basis) as of August 31, 2015

	<i>Aug 31, 15</i>	<i>Aug 31, 14</i> ASSETS
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings	158,431	124,074
Accounts Receivable	30,304	30,927
Total Current Assets	188,735	155,001
Other Assets	3,960,988	4,020,310
<i>TOTAL ASSETS</i>	4,149,723	4,175,311
<i>LIABILITIES & EQUITY</i>		
Liabilities	4,192	1,006
Equity	4,145,530	4,174,305

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 4,149,722 4,175,311

Table 2: Revenue and Expense Budget Summary (Accrual) for Current Fiscal Year (Jan. 1, 2015 – August 31, 2015)

	<i>YTD Actual</i>	<i>Annual Budget</i>
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Regular Giving	132,069	135,150
Investment Used for Operations	121,031	158,267
Other Operating Income	16,516	23,400
Total Income	269,616	316,817
Expense		
Diocesan Apportionment	19,615	29,423
Outreach from Operations	4,750	7,000
Clergy Compensation	14,467	38,912
Lay Employee Compensation	58,832	90,875
Other Personnel Expense	26,112	32,070
Support Expenses	6,361	11,300
Plant Operating Expenses	30,138	58,470
Parish Program Expense	9,349	10,800
Total Expense	169,624	278,850
Net Ordinary Income	99,992	37,967
Other Income/Expense		
Total Other Income	(55,236)	135,773
Total Other Expense	37,842	10,000
Net Other Income	(93,078)	125,773
<i>Net Income</i>	6,914	163,740

Table 3: St. Paul's Ministries

Learn God's Word

Worship
Bible Study
Camp Agape
Sunday School
Christian Education
Lay Readers
Acolytes
Church Book Club

Live God's Love

Choir
Altar Guild
Garden Angels
Churchyard and Cemetery
Coffee Hour Hosts
Eucharistic Ministers
Eucharistic Visitors
Hospitality
Greeters
Holy Roller Drivers
Memorials and Gifts
Stewardship
Annual Turkey Dinner
Congregational Care
Ushers
UTO Organizers
Website
Prayer Chain
Outreach to outside organizations