



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

PARISH PROFILE
2025

SEEKING. SERVING. LOVING. *TOGETHER.*





Welcome TO ST. PAUL'S

The people of St. Paul's, Cleveland Heights are seeking a Rector who can help lead and inspire us in new and exciting ways to live out our Baptismal Covenant by living into Jesus' example in our community and in the world.

- We are a progressive and inquiring faith community whose worship is grounded in the Episcopal tradition, with inspiring and thoughtful sermons, sacred spaces, and transcendent music.
- We seek to make deep and meaningful connections with each other as we come together to worship, learn, and play.
- We yearn to continue to find effective ways to be God's hands and feet in the world through our outreach to the community and the world.
- We are a resource parish with a diversity of experiences, talents, and ideas.

WE INVITE YOU TO GET TO KNOW ST. PAUL'S ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES

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www.stpauls-church.org



Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

~ The Baptismal Covenant, BCP, p. 305



HOW WE Worship

Worship is at the heart of our identity at St. Paul's.

We cherish tradition in the beauty of music and the prayer book liturgy. We seek a deeper connection between how we worship and how we are the Church in our corner of the world; in other words, worship that informs how we live, and living that informs how we worship.

We strive for the best of ancient form and contemporary innovation, including the use of expansive and alternate liturgies. We offer choral evensong, bluegrass Eucharists on the front lawn, and an annual Pride Eucharist.

In 2022, the Vestry endorsed a clergy and staff proposal to replace the pews in St. Martin's Chapel with high-quality movable chairs, allowing us to worship in the round during contemplative services, improve worship for families with small children, and accommodate more parishioners for large services.

"We were drawn to St. Paul's because of the combination of traditional, reverent liturgy and the theology of full inclusion. Our weekly common worship grounds our lives in the rhythms of the church year."

St. Paul's Parishioner



Sunday Worship Schedule

- 7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist St. Martin's Chapel
- 9 a.m. Holy Eucharist Nave
- 11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist Nave, [Livestream](#)

Wednesday Holy Eucharist

- 6 p.m. St. Martin's Chapel
An intimate weekday service often observing the Lesser Feasts of the day.

Our Worship Ministries Include:

- Acolytes' Guild
- Altar Guild
- Chalice Ministers
- Children's Choirs
- Youth Choir
- Senior Choir
- Handbell Choir
- Lay Eucharistic Visitors
- Lectors
- Ushers





At St. Paul's, our profound love for music is integral to our spiritual and communal life.

Rooted in the classical sacred music tradition, our choirs draw heavily from the Anglican repertoire while embracing diverse traditions, complemented by new texts and tunes from the ever-evolving world of hymnody and service music.

Musical Resources

Our music program is supported by a highly skilled team. Together, they foster and nurture our exceptional musical resources. Three remarkable organs grace our nave. Additionally, a practice organ is located in the music office, and a pump organ/harmonium is housed in Tucker Hall's library. Located in our landmark belltower is a 47-bell concert carillon that was recently expanded from 25 bells.

Choirs and Musical Offerings

St. Paul's offers choirs for all ages:

- Adult Choir, Children and Youth Choirs, and Handbell Choir
- Seasonal music offerings include Easter brass musicians from the Cleveland Orchestra, drama presentations by youth, and collaborations with Apollo's Fire, Cleveland's baroque orchestra, further enrich our music ministry.

Musical Excellence Beyond Worship

St. Paul's is a hub for the broader music community. The nave's acoustics attract local and touring artists, and Tucker Hall is a preferred venue for recitals. St. Paul's musical legacy is enriched by the contributions of internationally renowned musicians like our recently retired organist-choirmaster, Karel Paukert. His influence extends beyond St. Paul's, having helped acquire the McMyler pipe organ for the Cleveland Museum of Art, recently featured by Grammy-winning artist Jon Batiste.



TUNE IN TO OUR MUSIC

[Listen online](#)

"Singing together makes me feel closer to God"
St. Paul's Parishioner



Visual Arts AT ST. PAUL'S



The visual arts are woven into the fabric of life at St. Paul's, inspiring reverence and reflection through sculpture, stained glass, and tapestries.



Our mission is to celebrate God's gift of artistic expression by sharing these works with our community. Through these exhibitions, we encounter the divine in the beauty of creation and share that experience with our neighbors.

Our courtyard and gardens (named in 2014 for former Rector, the Rev. Alan Gates, and his wife, Tricia Harvey) are themselves works of art, with their thoughtful landscaping, flowering trees, and colorful beds, providing a serene and welcoming atmosphere.

[The N.B. White Gallery](#)

In 1990, under the visionary leadership of the Rev. Nicholson B. White and architect William Collins, the South Wing Gallery was established. Renamed the N.B. White Gallery in 2014, it serves as a dynamic space for art exhibitions, showcasing local and national artists. A dedicated committee curates 4-5 shows annually, tapping into Cleveland's vibrant arts scene and the talents of parishioners.

Together, the music and arts ministries of St. Paul's reflect our commitment to celebrating God's presence through creativity, excellence, and community engagement. They are foundational to the life of our parish and our witness in the world.





Parish Life

AT ST. PAUL'S

While one challenge for the future identified in our Holy Cow survey is a desire to form deeper connections, St. Paul's currently offers several avenues for [fellowship](#).

Our next Rector will have an opportunity to help build on these foundations as we seek to grow spiritually and increase our sense of connectedness as a parish family.

Women's Council – open to all women in the congregation. Gatherings include dinner meetings combining both fellowship and service projects. They also organize the annual Ice Cream Social.

Men's Council – open to all men in the congregation. The Council combines fellowship and outreach, including the annual Pancake Breakfast and Advent greens sales, which supports our outreach to Journey Center for Safety and Healing (a domestic violence protection agency).

The Village – a fellowship group for families with children ages 0-9. This group organizes seasonal events, such as Trunk or Treat, and gatherings on the St. Paul's playground.

The Lay Weeders – a group of adult volunteers who care for the gardens surrounding St. Paul's. They organize the annual Herb Harvest Sale of jams, jellies, and other gifts in support of the St. Paul's Gardens.

Intentional Small Groups – groups of 6-10 parishioners who meet every other week during the program year to check in, share a meal, discuss scripture, pray together, and build deeper relationships.

Holy Hiking – an opportunity for parishioners to lace up their hiking boots together for an exploration of local parks. Each hike features a brief service of Holy Eucharist, overlooking God's creation.

The Eliza Backus Guild – a ministry of women who enjoy fellowship together as they sponsor programs and raise funds for groups connected to St. Paul's. They sponsor an annual Greens Workshop.

The Parish Fellowship Committee – coordinates coffee hour on Sunday mornings, as well as special events such as the annual Chili Cookoff, the Parish Picnic, and the annual Commitment Sunday celebration. An annual overnight women's retreat focuses on fellowship, friendship, and fun.

Deaf Community - Our 9 a.m. service is ASL-interpreted for our deaf parishioners, who have participated in parish life at St. Paul's for decades.

The Sages – St. Paul's active seniors gather to hear guest speakers, share a potluck meal, and as an example, visit the Cleveland Museum of Art. The annual Senior Saints Luncheon, coordinated by the Vestry and staff, celebrates the senior members of our parish.

Contemplative Prayer Group – meets weekly in the Chapel of the Cross to practice Centering Prayer and Lectio Divina.

Newcomer Ministry – In the fall and spring, *St. Paul's 101* invites newcomers to a series of interactive lunches and dinners where they can learn more about our ministries and how to get connected.



Ministries AND EDUCATION

At St. Paul's Episcopal Church, our mission is to provide a spiritual home for all, where we seek, serve, and love God together.

We believe that the journey of spiritual formation is lifelong and communal, unfolding through a variety of formal and informal activities designed to nurture faith and fellowship.

Although a significant group of preschool to third-grade children participate in church school, fewer children in older grades are currently involved. Since the end of the pandemic, we have missed the participation of a strong cohort of middle school and high school-aged children. Rejuvenating this important ministry is a priority for the parish and an opportunity for our next Rector.

[Christian Education for Children and Youth](#)

Preschool to Third Grade – Children participate in Godly Play, a group-centered curriculum that introduces familiar New and Old Testament stories.

Fourth to Sixth Grade – Older children explore biblical stories and theological concepts using hands-on learning. They engage in projects, such as painting their own icons and presenting a St. Francis skit at the Annual Blessing of the Animals service.

Seventh Grade and Eighth Grade – This class uses a youth curriculum from Virginia Theological Seminary that explores the Episcopal Church and Eucharist. The students will complete the Rite-13 curriculum this spring.

Sunday High School Youth Forum – While our Sunday morning programming is currently dormant due to low numbers of high schoolers, we remain committed to re-engaging and rebuilding this vital ministry.

Youth Group – Our youth group gathers weekly on Sunday nights to build meaningful connections through activities like crafting challenges, outreach, games, and open conversations. Together, they explore their beliefs, develop moral foundations, and prepare for future leadership in the church, fostering a deep sense of community and belonging. Guided by our youth minister and young adult volunteers, our youth are inspired and supported as they grow in faith and confidence, discovering their potential without limits.

continued



Ministries and Education *continued*

Total chaos in the name of the Lord Amen (Total Chaos for short) – The fellowship-focused youth group for 4th-6th graders. Total Chaos meets periodically for fun activities that take us outside of church and provide opportunities to make new friends and develop a deeper sense of community.

C.A.S.T.: Christian Action Student Theater – An opportunity for youth (3rd grade and up) to build relationships and grow in faith as they produce, direct, act, and serve as tech and stage crew for annual fall plays and spring musicals. The productions often draw in participants from the community in addition to St. Paul's youth.

Other Youth Opportunities – Youth have opportunities to serve as acolytes and lectors in the 9 a.m. worship service, and also participate in periodic retreats and pilgrimages.

Christian Education for [Adults](#)

Adult Forum (Sundays at 10 a.m.) – Adult formation features thematic seminars that reflect the Anglican tradition's "three-legged stool": Scripture, Tradition, and Reason. These well-attended sessions include speakers from universities, cultural institutions, and other houses of worship, as well as our parishioners.

Weekday Opportunities – Additional adult education offerings include Bible studies, book discussions, Knitting Circle (prayer shawls), and Education for Ministry (EfM).





Outreach TO THE COMMUNITY

As we seek to live out the Gospel, we are called to be God’s hands and feet, God’s heart and voice in a broken world. Outreach is vitally important to us.

The people of St. Paul’s have generously committed their time, talent, and treasure to address both immediate needs and systemic issues upstream, at their source. We are involved in hands-on work, social advocacy, and financial support to answer our Gospel calling.

The recent capital campaign committed \$500,000 to support outreach programs and the Vestry appointed a task force to help advise how the parish might discern its mission for outreach to support our mission of serving our community. Since early 2024, the Visioning Task Force has been reviewing St. Paul’s historical commitment to Outreach and how our faith community might steward the parish’s outreach resources to be responsive to the needs of the community. In December 2024, the task force presented a status report to the parish and gathered feedback during an adult forum session, which has helped inform the ongoing discernment of the parish’s future outreach efforts.

Some current initiatives listed below have been part of St. Paul’s outreach for decades; others have taken root only recently. We are looking for a priest who can inspire us and show the congregation how to hear and follow a call to ministry. We are continually open to the direction of the Holy Spirit to find new ways or to deepen how and who we serve in the name of Christ.

Our [outreach](#) seeks to address challenges, including poverty, homelessness, education, hunger, and gun violence. We also seek to respond to global needs when called to do so. Some efforts include:

[EDWINS](#) – EDWINS Leadership & Restaurant Institute offers formerly incarcerated adults skills training and job opportunities in the culinary and hospitality industries. St. Paul’s parishioners participate in EDWINS’ career coaching program, promote their semi-annual fundraisers, and have served on the Board of Directors since 2022.

[Greater Cleveland Congregations](#) – Greater Cleveland Congregations (GCC) is a consortium of over 35 communities of faith working together to build power for social justice in Cleveland. St. Paul’s has been a leader in GCC since its founding in 2011. St. Paul’s clergy and many parishioners regularly attend GCC assemblies and actions. GCC’s efforts have historically focused on voter engagement, criminal justice, health equity, gun safety, and economic democracy.

Outreach to the Community *continued*

Loaves & Fishes – Partnering with Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries and St. Christopher’s by the River Episcopal Church, parishioners serve a hot meal each month to around 50 residents at a men’s homeless shelter on the east side of Cleveland.

St. Luke’s Episcopal Church – An Episcopal parish on Cleveland’s west side, St. Luke’s runs a mobile pantry, hosts a weekly community meal, and operates a used clothing store. St. Paul’s parishioners and staff are regularly involved in these impactful ministries and also serve as trustees at St. Luke’s to help provide oversight and strategic direction.

Reading Camp and Tutoring Ministry – St. Paul’s parishioners lead and take part in an annual week-long literacy program held at Bellwether Farm, the Diocese of Ohio’s camp and retreat center, to provide intensive support for 3rd and 4th-grade at-risk readers. Separately, the year-round tutoring ministry partners with a local school, where parishioners help students with reading, writing, comprehension, and math.

Open Doors Academy – Open Doors provides after-school care, tutoring, enrichment, and relationship-building for middle and high school youth. Open Doors was originally developed at St. Paul’s and has since successfully expanded to 26 schools throughout Ohio.

Refugee Ministry – In recent years, a small dedicated group of parishioners have engaged with refugee resettlement agencies in Cleveland to assist a newly-arrived family adjust to their new life in America and find stability and hope.

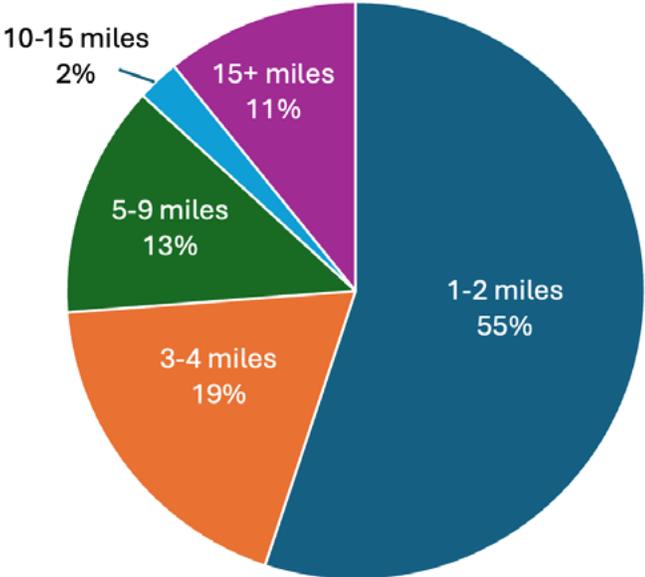
Habitat for Humanity – St. Paul’s has participated for several years in Habitat’s “Faith Build” program, which allows a number of local church groups to pool talent and treasure to build or rebuild homes. Through this program and with its partners, Habitat is committed to building/rehabilitating over 100 homes in the nearby Buckeye-Woodhill neighborhood.

Act II Resale Shop – The resale shop sells donations of clean, quality merchandise, including men’s and women’s clothing and small housewares. Proceeds fund outreach ministries of St. Paul’s as well as facility renovations and improvements, music programs, and more.

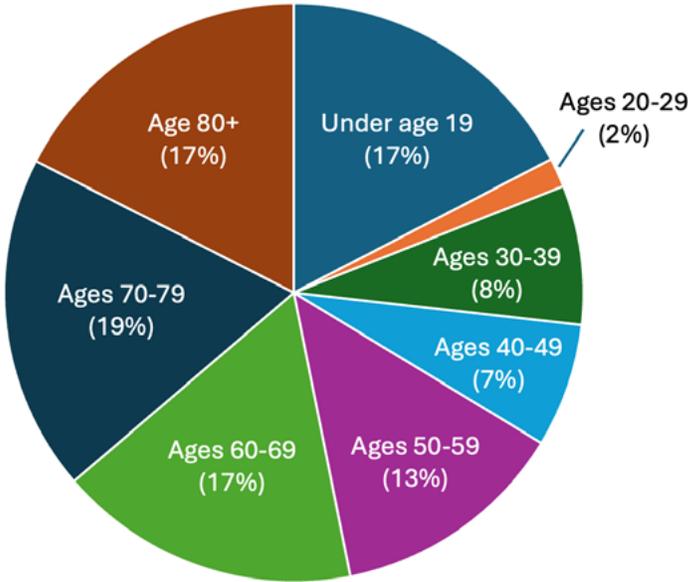


ST. PAUL'S Membership

St. Paul's Membership: Distance from Parish



Membership by Age



Pledge & Membership data	2021	2022	2023	2024
Number of members	1241	1153	1128	1080
ASA (in person)	175	245	273	295
# pledging households	352	350	345	311
Avg pledge	\$4,335	\$4,573	\$4,447	\$4,307



ST. PAUL'S Finances

OPERATING REVENUES & EXPENSES FOR THE PAST 4 YEARS

	2021	2022	2023	Prelim. 2024	Budget 2025
Operating Revenues					
Pledge receipts	\$1,614,251	\$1,638,311	\$1,544,107	\$1,339,462	\$1,300,000
Offering	31,124	45,645	43,202	36,386	38,000
Gifts & Contributions	25,190	35,629	15,305	15,167	15,000
Trust Income	110,386	155,467	147,929	139,703	143,000
Other income incl. space use	320,337	95,794	86,906	105,773	105,000
Endowment Spending Rule	358,870	368,955	385,301	393,093	474,456
Prior Year Restricted gifts	-	13,395	5,530	4,000	2,500
Total Operating Revenues	2,460,159	2,353,196	2,228,280	2,033,584	2,077,956
Operating Expenses					
Clergy	432,357	512,230	476,669	423,594	427,312
Christian Formation	92,940	104,794	114,978	119,677	129,291
Outreach	134,798	119,942	110,645	114,629	118,000
Music & Worship	169,535	205,586	251,354	274,428	273,146
Congregational Development	72,241	89,745	87,372	988,131	124,838
Finance & Administration	327,620	364,055	382,419	344,770	354,077
Facilities & Grounds	375,288	407,453	394,684	401,090	411,002
Diocesan Assessment	224,870	258,637	256,902	252,221	273,000
Vestry/EPN	5,232	3,605	5,749	3,250	4,000
Capital Campaign	200,000	50,000	-	-	-
Capital Reserve Fund	250,000	80,000	50,000	-	-
Total Operating Expenses	2,284,881	2,196,047	2,130,772	2,228,182	2,114,665
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	175,278	157,149	97,508	11,794	-36,709

Endowment Funds

Beginning Balance 1/1/24	\$13,232,937
Endowment Additions	1,205,080
Investment Income	1,696,260
Ending Balance 12/31/24	\$16,313,988



Facilities AND BUILDINGS

St. Paul's has been a landmark in Cleveland Heights since 1928 when the parish moved from Cleveland.

The parish hall and bell tower were designed in the English Gothic style by the renowned architectural firm of Walker and Weeks. Additions to the church campus include the current Nave (1951), a classroom and nursery wing (1956), The White Gallery and South Wing classrooms (1991), all built in response to growing demands for parish and community activities. As these facilities aged, a 2014 capital campaign raised \$6.3 million to renovate the parish hall, the dining room, kitchen, mechanical systems, accessible entrances, and refurbishment of the Nave. The parish also acquired Coventry House for administrative and meeting space.

Additional infrastructure needs led in 2022 to the parish raising \$2.4 million as part of an \$8 million capital campaign to address roof and window replacement, elevator, masonry, and façade repairs, and improved safety and security systems. The campaign added funds to the endowment to provide support in the future for the integral ministries that support our Church life: worship, music, and Christian education.





The Community

BEYOND OUR WALLS

[Our Parish History](#)

See highlights of St. Paul's nearly 180-year parish history.

[Cleveland Heights](#)

Our church is a proud and active institutional citizen of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, a city of about 45,000. "[The Heights](#)" and neighboring [Shaker Heights](#) are two of the first inner-ring suburbs that grew to prominence as Cleveland expanded in the early 1900s. It is known for its stately homes set among lovely treed neighborhoods. Housing in Cleveland Heights ranges from modest apartments to traditional middle-class houses and duplexes, to mansions built in the industrial heyday. While Cleveland Heights and Shaker Heights are largely composed of family units, these suburbs are close to universities, hospitals, and the arts with a large population of young professionals and students.

St. Paul's sits along Fairmount Boulevard along the District of National Register of Historic Places. The Heights has a number of engaging clusters of eclectic shops and restaurants including the nearby Cedar-Fairmount, Coventry, Cedar-Lee, Larchmere, and Shaker Square districts. The racial, socioeconomic, and demographic makeup of the Heights is heterogeneous. While the disparity in wealth and income in our area is significant, both Cleveland Heights and Shaker Heights have been recognized for their efforts towards racial integration in neighborhoods and public schools.

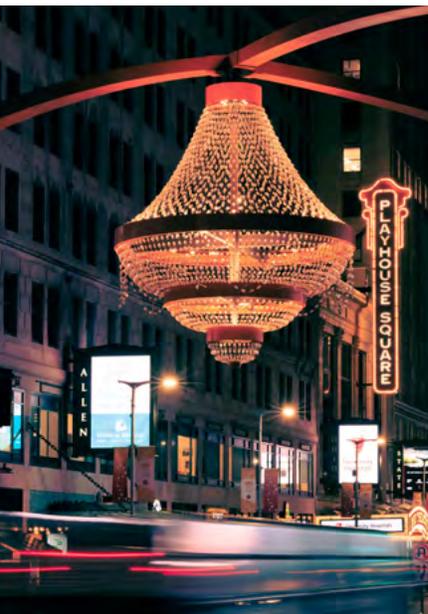
[University Circle](#)

Although a relatively small city, Cleveland continues to support big-city amenities of world-class cultural institutions. Located one mile from St. Paul's and four miles east of downtown, University Circle is home to most of Cleveland's arts, culture, and healthcare institutions: the Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland Orchestra, Museum of Natural History, Botanical Gardens, Cleveland Institute of Music, and Case Western Reserve University, as well as the main campuses of the Cleveland Clinic and University Hospitals.

[Cleveland](#)

The city of Cleveland sits on the southern shore of Lake Erie. Like other Midwestern locales, Cleveland has a history of both success and decline. In recent years, Cleveland has seen a resurgence in many facets of life, including the return of downtown residents. The largest employer is Cleveland Clinic, which continues to expand its facilities. Sherwin-Williams is completing a new world headquarters on Public Square in the heart of downtown. On the lakefront are two national tourist draws: the Great Lakes Science Center and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Downtown Cleveland is home to the nation's second-largest theater district (behind New York City). Traveling Broadway shows and local theater groups draw large numbers to Playhouse Square. Cleveland is home to three major professional sports teams: Guardians, Browns, and Cavaliers.





THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF OHIO

[The Episcopal Diocese of Ohio](#) was established in 1818 as the first diocese of The Episcopal Church established outside the original 13 colonies. It consists of 80 parishes across 48 counties of the northern half of Ohio with a membership of 15,000. The Diocesan offices are located in downtown Cleveland, approximately five miles from St. Paul's.

In 2018, the Diocese opened [Bellwether Farm, Camp, and Retreat Center](#) in Wakeman, Ohio, near the center of center of the Diocese. Situated on 137 acres along the Vermillion River, Bellwether Farm is an organic and sustainable farm that serves as gathering place for faith communities and other groups to gather for education and fellowship.



Consecrated as the 12th Bishop of Ohio in 2023, The Rt. Rev. Anne B. Jolly invites you to share in the vision of the Diocese: to be connected in Beloved Community, seeking to be faithful, healthy, effective, and sustainable sharers of the transformative love of Jesus Christ. The Bishop is connecting St. Paul's and other faith communities with the College for Congregational Development, seeking to train congregational leaders in ways to engage each other and their communities.



CHALLENGES AND Opportunities

<p>Inclusivity and Hospitality</p>	<p>We strive to be a welcoming parish that includes all people. However, our congregation does not reflect the racial diversity of the surrounding community.</p> <p>In the past few years, we began taking steps towards becoming a Beloved Community through Sacred Ground groups, book studies around issues of racial justice and reconciliation, and the formation of a Racial Justice Task Force which is currently inactive. We prioritize continuing this essential work.</p>
<p>Connections and Care for One Another</p>	<p>The congregation has a deep desire to form deeper connections and create more opportunities for members to develop meaningful relationships with the clergy (pastorally) and each other (e.g., small groups, nurtured friendships, shared meals). Our parish experience can feel “siloed” with multiple services and so many programs and groups.</p> <p>As we desire to find ways to connect with each other, we also feel called to participate in outreach ministries that provide direct services to those in our wider community.</p>
<p>Membership</p>	<p>Like most churches, St. Paul’s is facing a decline in our membership. As a parish, we have recognized those trends and focused on understanding and responding to them. We need to develop strategies to reach new members and incorporate them in the life of the church.</p> <p>Although our congregation has fewer members than in the past, many of our programs have continued, becoming more staff led and lay supported rather than the other way around. We hope to reshape our programming in a way that will both call forth our next generation of lay leaders and connect us more deeply to each other and the work we are called to do.</p>
<p>Clergy Staffing</p>	<p>We understand our role as a resource parish that has a rich history of training and equipping the next generation of clergy, who are called from St. Paul’s to serve the wider church.</p> <p>However, St. Paul’s recently experienced an unusual and unexpected number of clergy departures (four during 15 months) which, not surprisingly, created some anxiety in the congregation. Our experience has heightened our longing to be able to form deep connections with both our clergy and each other.</p>



WHOM WE SEEK

In a Leader

- A preacher who can inspire and challenge us to hear and follow a call to live out our baptismal covenant.
- A pastor with warmth, humility, and self-awareness who seeks relationships with everyone, whatever their background or wherever they are in their faith journey.
- A leader of lay leaders who can empower us to ministry.
- A person of deep faith in Jesus Christ and authentically alive with the Holy Spirit.
- A leader who can discern and articulate a clear vision for the future of St. Paul's and help us carry out that vision.



OUR CLERGY AND STAFF

Our team includes a dedicated group of [clergy and staff](#), a team that works well with each other and with lay leaders to ensure the success of our parish life.

INVITATION TO DISCERN

If you feel called to discern with us, please email the following documents to the Rev. Canon Jessie Gutsell Dodson, Canon to the Ordinary, at jdodson@dohio.org:

- Cover Letter stating why you feel called to discern with us
- Your current OTM Profile
- Resume

Applications due by March 28, 2025



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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