

A wellspring of spiritual nourishment...

The mission of Saint Paul's Episcopal Church is to be a sanctuary for worship and a wellspring of spiritual nourishment, enabling us to grow in our relationship with Christ and each other...

*...A river of service in Jesus' Name.
... so that we may
joyfully live Christ's teaching in our lives
use our God given gifts in service in the
world be a welcoming community of faith,
reach out to share the love of God known
to us in Christ Jesus.*

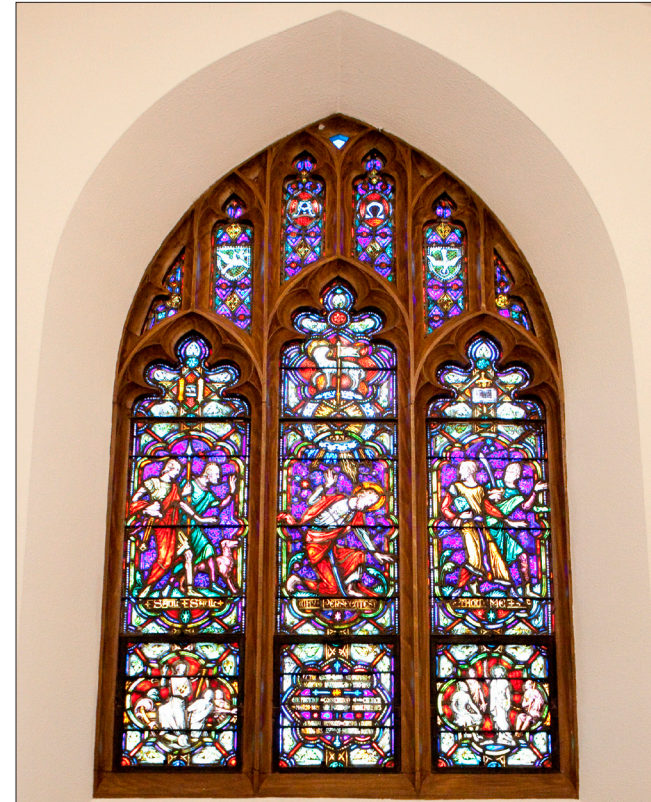


*"The Shield of Faith and the Sword of the Spirit"
Ephesians 6:16-17*

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St. Paul's Episcopal Church Exton

*Ministry Handbook
Spring 2010 Edition*



Jesus said, "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house."

Matthew 5:15-16

Lectors

St. Paul's is fortunate to have a committed group of people to read the lessons each Sunday at both services and special services throughout the Church Year. Two people are assigned to read at the 10:00 AM worship service and one person is assigned to read at the 8:00 AM worship service. A schedule is prepared and distributed monthly, listing both the readings and the people assigned to them.

Prayer Chain

An intercessory Prayer Chain is a group of people who have been called to the ministry of praying for others on an ongoing basis. The true purpose of praying for others is to offer ourselves as channels of God's grace. St. Paul's prayer chain is comprised of a dozen members, who are faithful to this ministry and anyone can initiate a prayer request. New requests, as well as updates, are communicated to the group by a leader. When we act as intercessor we are offering our hearts as channels through which the healing love of God may be directed to those for whom we are praying.

Sacraments

We celebrate the Holy Eucharist at both the 8:00 and 10:00 AM services every Sunday. The sacraments of baptism, marriage and burial can be scheduled by calling the office.

Women of St. Paul's

St. Paul's is blessed to have a group of dedicated women who plan special events throughout the year. Many of these events are fund raisers for the Parish. Included are a Holiday Bazaar in the Fall and a Spring Fair in May.

Ushers

The Ushers serve at the 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM Sunday worship services, as well as special worship services throughout the Church Year. In addition to greeting and seating worshippers, ushers take up the collection, perform the presentation of gifts, and assist the congregation to the altar rail for communion.

This booklet describes the various ways you can be involved in the life of St. Paul's Church. If a ministry interests you, please contact the leader indicated on the enclosed bookmark, or contact the Parish office at 610-363-2363.

If you have an idea for a ministry not listed here, we'd love to hear from you as well!

Acolytes

All children and young adults, grades four (4) through twelve (12) are encouraged to participate in this program, which provides spiritual growth and a sense of belonging to the Church community. Adult members of our Parish family are welcome to join this ministry, as well. Training sessions are held in the early fall, and are supported by on-the-job training throughout the Church year. Our adult acolytes serve at the 8:00 a.m. Sunday Worship Service. Our junior acolytes serve at the 10:00 a.m. Worship Service.

Altar Guild

St. Paul's continues to be very fortunate to have a group of dedicated women serving on Altar Guild. The time commitment is generally only an hour on Saturday and fifteen to twenty minutes on Sunday. Working in pairs on Saturday mornings, they prepare the Church and arrange the altar flowers for Sunday worship services. They also prepare the Church for weddings, funerals, baptisms and other special services and celebrations. New members are needed and are always welcome.

Bread Bakers

When we receive the bread and the wine during the Eucharist, we are touching and being touched by God. Something we all know – and sometimes need to remind ourselves – is how very sacred and powerful is the action of sharing the Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior. It is also sacred and powerful when a Bread Baker prepares bread that is then blessed, broken and distributed to be for us the spiritual food of Christ. You do not have to already be a "Bread Baker," as we will share recipes and techniques when we get together.

Breakfast Teams

French toast made from an old southern recipe; a casserole made of sausage, eggs, cheese, and mild chili peppers served with salsa; creamed chip beef served over muffins; bagels with cream cheese and fresh fruit – all possibilities that might await you if you join us for breakfast at St. Paul's. In addition to the obvious benefits of having breakfast served to you without your having to prepare, clean up or wash dishes, you might have time to sit down over a cup of coffee and catch up with someone you haven't seen in a while. You do not have to be a chef to serve on a team (on-going training is part of the plan) and the time commitment is for a short time, just once every six weeks.

Choir

Music is such a fundamental part of our Christian heritage. It is often said that by singing to God, you pray twice. The St. Paul's Choir helps lead our congregation in joyful music to God and serves at our Sunday morning 10:00 service and most of our special services throughout the year. Our organist and Choir Director is Kedron Miller. Choir rehearsals are held at 7:30 PM Thursday night, and 9:30 AM on Sundays.

Communications

This group keeps the parish informed about what our church has to offer and how everyone can contribute to its life and ministries. We spread the news with the Messenger, (Saint Paul's newsletter), Sunday Bulletins, Church web site, advertisements for upcoming events, and, of course The Church Mouse!

Education

Sunday School is held Sunday mornings during the worship service. The children attend Church with their parents and will be dismissed to their classrooms with their teachers after the opening prayer. They return to receive communion.

Nursery - Infants are cared for by trained nursery attendants in our newly renovated nursery.

Grades 1-5 For nearly two decades, Witness has been one of the most

quality for Sunday schools throughout the country. With its fresh, easy-to-use format, Witness shows both leaders and learners how to "Learn from the Bible to Live the Good News."

Youth Groups

The St. Paul's Youth Group assists youth in growing in their faith by engaging them in questions of faith and life through a series of media and group discussions; youth-developed worship; outreach; and fellowship. The Youth Groups will meet on Sundays from 4 PM to 6 PM. The **Junior Youth Group** (grades 6, 7 and 8) will meet on the first and third Sundays of each month. The **Senior Youth Group** (grades 9, 10, 11 and 12) will meet on the second and fourth Sundays.

Adult Education

The men of St. Paul's and their friends meet twice a month for Bible Study preceded by a great breakfast. The group meets on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month. The 2nd Saturday meeting is held at St. Paul's Church in the Lockwood Reilly building (next to the Parish Hall). The 4th Saturday meeting is at The Stadium Grill in Eagle. Breakfast is served at 7:30 and the Bible Study starts at 8:00 AM ending promptly at 9:00 AM. All are welcome.

Education For Ministry (EFM)

EFM, is a program of theological education-at-a-distance of the School of Theology of the University of the South. Students sign up one year at a time for this four-year program. It covers the basics of a theological education in the Old and New Testaments, church history, liturgy, and theology. Students meet Tuesday night at 7:30 PM in the Lockwood Reilly building (next to the Parish Hall), under the guidance of trained mentors.

Eucharist Ministers

It is a honor and privilege to serve at the altar. Eucharist Ministers are licensed by the Diocese of Pennsylvania to assist the clergy in administering the Communion and leading the Psalm and Prayers of the People. There is one Eucharist Minister at the 8 AM service, and two at the 10:00 AM service.