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# St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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MAY 3, 2026

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

## WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S!

We are so glad you're here! Whether you are returning to church after a time away, exploring the Christian faith, or simply seeking a moment of calm, we welcome you. If your heart is stirring for something deeper, we hope you'll return and let us journey with you. Life is better together. To help us get to know you, we'd love for you to fill out a Welcome Card using the QR code to the right.



## ABOUT OUR WORSHIP

As physical creatures made in God's image, we worship with our whole selves: our bodies, our voices, and our silence. Some of us prefer to stand for prayers; others prefer to kneel. God is not picky about this, and neither are we. Read the "About Our Worship" card in the pew rack to learn more about worship in the Episcopal tradition.

## THE SEASON OF EASTERTIDE

We are in the season of Eastertide, which lasts 50 days. After the resurrection, Jesus spent 40 days on earth before he ascended to the realm of glory; 10 days later—on the day of Pentecost—Jesus blessed his friends with the power of his spirit so that they could be his hands and feet in the world (*see Acts 1-2*). We receive that same power upon our baptism into Jesus' story of life, death, and resurrection.

The Paschal Candle, which sits near the altar during this season, symbolizes the pillar of fire by which God led the ancient Hebrew people out of slavery into freedom and the light of Christ that death cannot vanquish. It is an ongoing invitation to reflect on what it means to be resurrection people today. The color of liturgical vestments and hangings are white and gold, which symbolize resurrection, new life, and the purity of Christ.

## CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

Children—including their squiggles and sounds—are an integral part of our worship, and we fully embrace them. Families are encouraged to sit near the front so that children can see what is going on. Worship bulletins are on the table in the rear lobby. Activity bags and a small library of books can be found right outside of the left door next to the piano. There is also a play area upstairs with audio streaming should children need more space. Children's Chapel will resume in September.

## RESTROOMS

Restrooms are located at the end of the hallway to the left of the church. Exit through the front doors near the piano, walk down the hallway, and turn left at the stairs.

As we prepare for worship, please silence your phone and conversations. Let these moments be ones of grounding and rest.  
 +=Please stand or assume another accessible posture of devotion.

## THE GATHERING

### WELCOME

### PRELUDE

*Prelude in C*

A. Metzler

Please silence all conversation as we prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

### +OPENING HYMN

*All creatures of our God and king*

Hymnal 1982 #400  
 verses 1-4, 7

### OPENING GREETING & PRAYER FOR PURITY

*Celebrant* Alleluia! Christ is risen.

*People* **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*Celebrant* Almighty God,

*People* to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.


### HYMN OF PRAISE

*This is the feast of victory*

*Antiphon*



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose  
 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and



1 blood set us free to be peo - ple of God. [Ant.]  
 2 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. [Ant.]

*Final Antiphon*



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Generous God, whose way is love, whose truth is searching, whose life is freely given in Jesus Christ our Lord: as you have opened for us your house of many rooms, so may we make a place for the rejected and unloved, and share the work of peace; through Jesus Christ, the image of God. **Amen.**

### FIRST READING

*Acts 7:55-60*

*Throughout the season of Easter, our first reading comes from the Acts of the Apostles, an account of the early church. Today's reading tells the story of Stephen, one of seven men appointed by the apostles to serve the community in practical ways, freeing the apostles for preaching and teaching. But Stephen proves to be far more than his original appointment suggests. Because he cannot stop speaking about the power and love of Christ, he becomes the church's first martyr.*

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM

*Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16*

*The psalmist cries out from a place of danger, entrusting his life to God's keeping. These words echo through today's readings, both on Stephen's lips as he dies, and on Jesus's lips from the cross.*

The image shows musical notation for the psalm text. It consists of two staves: an Alto staff (treble clef) and a Tenor staff (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Fa - ther, I put my life in your hands." The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and a steady rhythm.

In you, O Lord, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame.

Into your hands I commend my spirit; you will redeem me, faithful God. **R**

For all my foes reproach me, neighbors laugh and friends stand off.

I am forgotten like dead unremembered; I am like a dish cast down. **R**

But my trust is in you, O Lord; I say, "You are my God."

Into your hands I place my future; from the clutch of foes you rescue me. **R**

Let your face shine on your servant; O save me in your love..

Be stout hearted, and come, take courage, all you who now hope in the Lord. **R**

## SECOND READING

1 Peter 2:2-10

*Peter writes to scattered communities finding their footing in faith. Using the image of living stones, he reminds them that they are God's chosen people being formed into living stones.*

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Lector            The Word of the Lord.

People            **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL HYMN

*I Love to Tell the Story*

Glory to God #462

verses 1-2 before the Gospel; verse 3 after the Gospel

## THE GOSPEL

*John 14:1-14*

*Five weeks into Easter, the lectionary takes us back to the upper room and the last hours before Jesus' arrest. Jesus speaks to his disciples as someone who knows what is coming, and what he offers them is not an explanation but a promise: I am going ahead of you. I will make a way.*

Celebrant        The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

People            **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.

I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

*Celebrant*        The Gospel of the Lord  
*People*            **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## SERMON

The Rev. A. Jordan Rippy, Ph.D

### +THE NICENE CREED

*This ancient affirmation from the fourth century outlines the core elements of our faith story: God is the source of all life and love; Jesus is God-in-flesh who redeems all creation; the Holy Spirit is God’s ongoing presence and power; and, death is not the final word. When we recite these words, we’re not engaging in an intellectual exercise but a dedication of our hearts. “Apostolic” signifies continuity with the original disciples; “catholic” means universal across all places and times.*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Sundays & Seasons

*Celebrant*

Trusting in the power of Christ’s resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

*Intercessor*

God of glory, you have built your church on Christ the cornerstone. Inspire lay leaders, deacons, priests, and bishops to proclaim forgiveness and your steadfast love to all whom they encounter. We give thanks for Jordan’s presence and gifts; bless her family with your joy, beauty, and awe.

God of new life, **renew our spirits.**

God of majesty, you bring forth plants and animals, skies and seas, mountains and valleys. Protect all you have made from the ravages of pollution and climate disaster.

God of new life, **renew our spirits.**

God of mercy, you intend governments and social service agencies to be instruments of peace and justice.

Guide political leaders and organizations to be agents of compassion, and raise up advocates for those who seek refuge and assistance.

God of new life, **renew our spirits.**

God of well-being, you soothe those in distress, console all who grieve, provide for any in need, and comfort those who are sick. Instill caregivers with a sense of purpose to be your healing hands in this world.

*Please add your intercessions, silently or aloud.*

God of new life, **renew our spirits.**

God of community, you call us together as your people for mutual support and to witness to your love in the world. Make your presence known among those unable to attend worship today.

God of new life, **renew our spirits.**

God of eternal life, you have prepared dwelling places for your people, so that we are never separated from you. We give you thanks for the faithful departed who witnessed to your mighty acts in word and deed.

God of new life, **renew our spirits.**

*The Celebrant will add a concluding prayer.*

## THE PEACE

*Celebrant*      The Peace of the Risen Christ be always with you.

*People*          **And also with you.**

*As a sign of our reconciliation with God and each other, you're invited to greet your neighbor in a spirit of peace.*

## FAREWELL BLESSING

Debbie Brown & Children's Ministry

*We send off Katie Williams, our Children's Chapel Leader, with our blessing.*

## LITURGY OF THE TABLE

### THE OFFERTORY

*We offer back to God the first fruits of what God has given us, symbolically in the bread and wine, and in the money given. Your offering goes entirely to support our ministry and daily operations. You may place your offering in the offering tray or scan the QR code to give securely online. Thank you for your generosity.*



### MUSIC AT THE OFFERTORY

*Strophe*

Alexander Guilmant

### +PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERINGS

*The Doxology*

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise Christ, all people here below;  
praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Eucharist (from the Greek word eucharisteo, meaning “thanksgiving”) begins as we lift our hearts with thanksgiving and continues as we remember the story of creation, redemption, and renewal. In the act of remembering and in the Spirit’s blessing upon the bread and wine and the gathered assembly, Christ is made present to us now, giving us strength for the journey.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

We praise you, God of freedom, for you breathed life into the void and showed yourself as the one who loves in freedom. From the abyss of enslavement you called a people into being and led them to springs of life; the presence of your glory went with shattered exiles into strange and distant lands and gathered from the valley of despair the flesh and blood of living hope.

In Jesus, you confronted the powers that killed and oppressed and you spoke to those considered dead and helped them stand again; he taught us to die that we might live. He gave himself for us tortured and forsaken, but he could not be confined by death; in the garden he speaks our name, in the breaking of the bread he shows himself among us; by the lakeside, in the new day, he calls us to take up his work.

Therefore, with all who lost faith, all who walked away in sadness, with the women at the tomb, and the men who hid in fear we confess ourselves surprised by the suddenness of dawn and join the undying song of heaven:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and  
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Blessed is the one who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace. But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people. Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with Paul, Lydia, Phoebe, Mathias, and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Celebrant* Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, as our Savior taught us, so we pray:

*People* **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*As an act of adoration, a moment of reverent silence is kept as the bread is broken, which symbolizes the breaking of Jesus' body.*

*Celebrant* Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*People* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

## INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

*After the Celebrant's invitation and upon the presentation of the consecrated elements,*

*Celebrant* Behold who you are.

*People* **May we become what we receive.**

## THE COMMUNION

*All who seek a deeper relationship with God in Christ are welcome at Christ's table. Having consecrated one loaf of bread and one cup of wine as a sign of the oneness this meal creates and calls us to live, it is our practice to drink the wine directly from the chalice. The chalice is then wiped and turned for the next person. If circumstances prevent you from drinking from the chalice, you may pick up a small cup at the bottom of the chancel stairs. Place your used cup in the container at the bottom of the stairs. Gluten-free wafers are available. Simply let the priest know when you come to the altar. If you would like to receive a blessing rather than communion, cross your arms over your chest as you approach. Welcome to the feast.*

## COMMUNION HYMNS

*If thou but trust in God to guide thee  
Leaning on the everlasting arms*

Glory to God #816

Glory to God #837

## +POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Sundays & Seasons

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*All* **Gracious God, Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of the crucified and risen Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & MILESTONE BLESSINGS

### Birthday Prayer

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Anniversary Prayer

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## THE BLESSING

### RECESSIONAL HYMN

*Love divine, all loves excelling*

Hymnal 1982 #657

## THE DISMISSAL

*Celebrant* Go in peace. Serve the Risen One. Alleluia! Alleluia!

*People* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*Following the dismissal, you may depart quietly or remain in your seat for the postlude.*

## THE POSTLUDE

*Was Gott Tut*

Setting by Paul Mainz

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WELCOME JORDAN!

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We're delighted to kick off our sabbatical season with The Rev. Jordan Rippey, Ph.D. Jordan is Associate Rector at St. David's DC and Associate Dean of Faculty and Associate Professor of Accounting at Johns Hopkins University. She and her husband Ryan are the proud parents of a precious baby girl, Rowan.

### TODAY'S FLOWERS

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Today's flowers are given by Sallie Lyons in memory of Lynn Lyons.

### PREP FOR PRIDE FESTIVAL—MAY 30

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St. Paul's will be hosting a booth at the 4th Annual Charles County Prep 4 Pride Festival. If you are interested in working the booth or assisting with planning, please contact Cheryl Williams.

### SUMMER PICNIC—MAY 31

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Join us as we kick off summer with a picnic and games on the lawn. We'll provide the fried chicken. Please bring a side dish.

### YARD SALE—JUNE 5 & 6

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We are now receiving gently used items (including clothing) for our annual Yard Sale. Large furniture may be brought after May 26. No large electronics. Proceeds benefit our Community Ministries.

### OUR PLACE SOUP KITCHEN MAY COLLECTIONS

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Sunscreen & lip balm

### ALTAR FLOWERS

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If you would like to sponsor the altar flowers in honor or memory of someone, please email the office. The cost is \$40. Upcoming dates: June 14 and August 9.

## PRAYER LIST

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**In Our Parish Family & Community:** Mark Kristofik, Tracy Monroe, Roxanne Voglezon, Susi Ware, Anita Wilson, Lorraine Berry\*, Diane Coon\*, Bob & Barbara Ferguson\*, Joyce Ferguson\*, Tony Hackley\*, Maudie Holt\*, Audrey Laurine\*, Marcella Mason\*, Vera Otto\*, Betty Wilson\*, Susan C., Donese E., Bettye M., Mary R., Cher, Josh K., Bob L., Ricky C., Mike B., Charlene M., Pat M. (\*=Homebound)

**In the Anglican Communion:** Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury; Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Mariann and Eugene, our bishops; Maria, our rector; The Church of North India; St. George's Church, Glenn Dale; St. George's Church, Valley Lee; St. George's, DC; National Day of Prayer (May 7); Diocesan Confirmation Service (May 9)

**In Our Nation & World:** the unemployed and those facing unemployment; nations in the midst of war; victims of gun violence; refugees and asylum seekers

**Armed Forces & First Responders:** Cameron Chase, Jace Gass, Zach Kettner, Malachi Lakey, Michael Montes, Nate Ochsner, Garrett Roberson, Jr.; Jimmy Cox, Butch and Janice Keirse, James Laurine, Kenny Levy, Alvaro Paz Hicho, Connor Runser, Luke Smith

## THIS WEEK

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Sunday, May 3	9:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Wednesday, May 6	8:00 p.m.	AA (Basement)
Thursday, May 7	12:00 p.m.	Daytime Diners
Saturday, May 9	8:00 p.m.	AA (Basement)
Sunday, May 10	9:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist, Rite II

## SERVING TODAY

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Vestry Person of the Day	Debbie Brown
Acolyte	Samira Norman
Chalice Bearer	Greg Ferguson
Lector	Emily Dorosz
Prayers of the People	Donna Gryn
Ushers	Kathy Fornadley & Troy Pettersen
Livestream	Buddy Weaver
Coffee Hour	Frank Pilato, Jerry Corbett, Glenn Butler & Bob Kruger
Altar Guild	Darlene Guy & Joanne Moodie
Backpacks	Cecelia Chase & Sallie Lyons
Children's Chapel	Yesica Lopez
Counters	Greg Ferguson, Jane Fruh & Colleen Meadows
Recycling	Joe Guy

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## CLERGY & STAFF

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The Rev. Maria A. Kane, Ph.D.	Rector ( <i>on sabbatical</i> )	
Diane Hess	Parish Administrator	office@stpaulswaldorf.org
Eileen Peerless	Music Director	epeerless@verizon.net
Michael Peerless	Choir Director	mpeerless@verizon.net
Katie Williams	Children's Chapel Leader	office@stpaulswaldorf.org

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## ST. PAUL'S VESTRY & OFFICERS

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Debbie Brown, <i>Senior Warden</i>	Buddy Weaver, <i>Junior Warden</i>	Mary Fenton
Greg Ferguson, <i>Treasurer</i>	Donna Gryn, <i>Registrar</i>	Michael Montes
Paula Truitte	Cheryl Williams	Michelle Wilson



*The mission of St. Paul's is to be a worshipping community of open arms, listening hearts, diverse voices, and serving hands, because we believe that Christ's love is a commitment, not a sentiment.*

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