

St. Paul's
Episcopal Church



Mount Vernon, WA

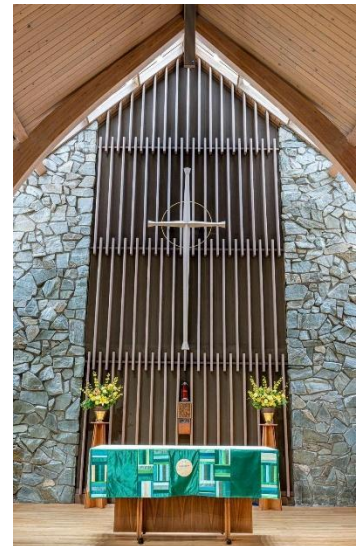
Everyone Is Welcome

We believe that God is healing and restoring the world, and that we are recipients of and participants in that healing and restoration.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
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(360) 424-1822
www.stpaulsmv.org
Diocese of Olympia: Bishop Phillip LaBelle

INVITATION

Saint Paul's Episcopal Church is in search of a new rector. After serving our parish very well for six years, Fr. Paul Moore retired to be able to spend more time with his family. In preparation for our search, input was solicited from the entire congregation and nearly all responded. Their comments serve as the foundation of who we are, what St. Paul's and our area have to offer, our hopes for the future and the type of rector we believe we need. We invite you to carefully consider St. Paul's.



THE RECTOR WE SEEK

St. Paul's is seeking a new rector who brings faith, warmth, humor, energy, and a genuine love for God's people. We are a congregation that values traditional Episcopal worship, thoughtful and Gospel-centered preaching, and sermons that help us carry our faith into the ordinary, complicated, and occasionally comic moments of daily life. We also seek a rector who will partner with us in pastoral care and support our ministries within St. Paul's and throughout the wider community. The position is currently three-quarter time, with the goal of moving to full time within three to five years. Compensation is based on the Diocese of Olympia Level "E" pay grade, taking into account the rector's years of experience.

Over the past several years, St. Paul's has experienced steady growth in both attendance and financial strength, and we are eager to continue that momentum with a rector who will grow with us. While we recognize that change and flexibility are essential and healthy, we value the fundamental traditions and practices that make St. Paul's the faith family we love as we strive to live out Jesus' commandment to love God and our neighbors as ourselves (Matthew 22:37-39).



We seek a pastor and spiritual leader who will care for this lively, loving parish and support us in the many ministries that already shape our life together. We are not looking for someone to do all the work for us—we have plenty of willing hands, strong opinions offered with affection, and people who know where the coffee is kept. We are looking for someone who will encourage our gifts, help us discern where God is leading, and keep us grounded in prayer, worship, Scripture, and the faithful work of becoming the church God is calling us to be.

WHO WE ARE

St. Paul's Episcopal Church is a place where people encounter the living God and the challenging, inspiring, and reconciling Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are an open and affirming community, and we welcome everyone regardless of their gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, race, religion, status, ability, doubts, or questions. There is one God, but God's encounter with each of us is as unique as we are! Our vision to be active, loving disciples of Christ is at the heart of the Gospel message and our beliefs as a church. It is why we are who we are and do what we do.



St. Paul's began as a mission in 1891 with the first service in Mount Vernon attended by 6 congregants. In June of 1960 we built and consecrated a new building and in 1977, 86 years after our first service, we achieved parish status. Over the years we have faced both internal and external challenges. As a congregation we have met

these challenges and have worked to find ways to continue developing as a safe and welcoming community of faith.

Today, St. Paul's is a spirited congregation of approximately 80 people who worship both in person and online. We are, to be honest, an older congregation—but we say that with gratitude rather than apology. We bring long memory, deep commitment, practical wisdom, and a surprising amount of energy. What we may lack in youthfulness on paper, we more than make up for in enthusiasm, faithfulness, humor, and willingness to show up. We are also a growing congregation, with worshipers joining us each Sunday through two in-person services and online streaming. Our members consistently support the church financially. St. Paul's remains financially sound, meeting or exceeding its annual budget needs and often ending the year with a surplus. The number of pledges has increased, and pledge income has consistently exceeded the amounts pledged. Our accessible facilities are in very good condition, with no mortgage and no major repairs currently expected.

In preparation for our search, we invited members of the congregation to reflect on who we are and what we value most. Again and again, parishioners named our sense of community and care for one another as one of St. Paul's greatest strengths. Words such as close-knit, affirming, inclusive, supportive, transparent, unified, and friendly appeared often. Many people also spoke of how deeply St. Paul's strives to live out the Gospel—not only in worship, but in action. Our life together is active and outward-looking. We are involved in a wide range of ministries and community partnerships, including One Parish One Prisoner, Family Promise, Friendship House, the Food Bank, and other efforts that respond to real needs in our wider community. We are not a congregation content to simply unlock the doors on Sunday morning and hope for the best. We pray, we serve, we gather, we feed people, we give rides, we make room at the table, and yes, we take coffee hour seriously.



We have a strong and active prayer group, as well as a companion ministry that puts compassion into motion through meals, rides to appointments, and other practical expressions of care. Parishioners are engaged in every part of church life, from audio/visual support to Eucharistic ministry and pastoral visiting, from lectoring and greeting to altar guild, vestry, cleaning, hospitality, music, and the sacred ministry of making sure there is enough coffee. Our worship life is rooted in the Episcopal tradition,

and many parishioners named our liturgy, music, and traditional worship as important strengths. One parishioner summed us up beautifully: “We embrace the Gospel message. We are faith-filled, prayerful and supportive.”

We also share our church home with our sister congregation, *La Iglesia Episcopal de la Resurrección*, which uses the building for worship and celebrations. While in the past we have joined together for bilingual services on fifth Sundays, St. Paul’s and Resurrección are separate congregations currently served by different priests and have no plans for this to change. However, we value the opportunity to share space, worship, and fellowship across our communities.

Today, St. Paul's is a healthy Episcopal church providing a safe and welcoming place for people to worship. We are currently led by a wonderful cadre of retired priests and a well-received interim priest. We are excited for our future as we continue to grow in numbers, in spirit and in joy.

OUR HOME

St. Paul's is located in Mount Vernon, Washington, the county seat of Skagit County. Our parish serves people from nearby communities such as Burlington, La Conner, and Sedro Woolley. The expanding population in Skagit Valley is ethnically diverse and we celebrate all heritages whether indigenous or immigrant. We live in a beautiful area with a temperate climate. Snow-capped peaks of the North Cascades include the magnificent, ten-thousand-foot Mount Baker, within easy driving distance. Dense forests blanket the foothills; rivers and streams meander from the mountains to Puget Sound. We enjoy ferry rides to the stunningly lovely San Juan Islands in the Sound. The Skagit Valley is a fertile and productive farmland that comes alive in a riot of color each spring when fields of daffodils and tulips bloom. The annual Tulip Festival attracts visitors from around the world. Agriculture, forestry and manufacturing are the economic mainstays of our county. The Skagit Valley is a vibrant community served by Skagit Valley College offering four- and two-year degrees and technical training. The Skagit Symphony along with community theater and choral groups headline a wealth of performing and other arts. McIntyre Hall, on the campus of Skagit Valley College, is a state-of-the-art performing arts facility that hosts numerous cultural and artistic events throughout the year. Outdoor recreation opportunities include



skiing, hiking/camping, hunting/fishing, cycling, boating and sight-seeing. Skagit County is a wonderful place to live.

For more information about Skagit County visit:

skagitcounty.net/departments/home/about

LOOKING FORWARD

We believe God has a vision for St. Paul's, and we are seeking a rector who will help us listen faithfully for that vision and respond with courage, humility, and joy. We know that change is part of healthy congregational life, and we welcome growth and renewal. At the same time, we want to remain rooted in the values and practices that have made St. Paul's the beloved faith family we know: prayer, worship, welcome, service, and care for one another.

Looking forward, we hope to attract and retain people of all ages who hunger for a safe, nonjudgmental place to hear the Gospel, be formed in faith, and find inspiration for living



that faith in daily life. We would love to welcome more families and expand our ministries to a hurting world, while continuing to care well for those already among us. We seek a rector who will walk with us in this next chapter—with patience and humor, wisdom and encouragement, pastoral care and spiritual grounding.

We invite you to prayerfully consider whether God may be calling you to join St. Paul's as together we seek God's vision for our church and our community.

