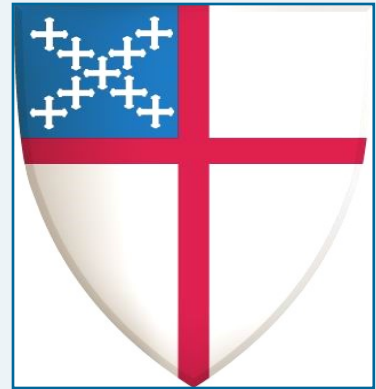


St. Paul's Church in Nantucket



PARISH PROFILE 2020

Our Church

Our Mission:

The mission of St. Paul's Church in Nantucket is to make the love of God more widely known.

Our Church:

Our church is located in the historic town of Nantucket on an island 30 miles off the coast of Massachusetts. Our heritage of whaling, of natural beauty, and our offshore location have attracted those whose souls have an affinity for the sea, for nature, and for self-reliance. We come from diverse economic, cultural and religious backgrounds and include year-round islanders, summer residents, and visitors from around the world. Many of these return year after year and consider St. Paul's their spiritual home.

Our Internal Activities:

Our congregation participates in many ministries to fulfill our mission. We have an active Altar Guild, Christian education teachers who work with the Sunday School, youth group, and Bible study groups. We have a Pastoral Care team who reach out to those in need, knitters for prayer shawls donated to those who are healing, lay readers, and Eucharistic visitors to the homebound. We are proud of our Music program with adult, youth, and hand bell choirs, and our Summer Fair and Christmas Market, both of which have hundreds of volunteers and provide resources to further our ministries. Our Fellowship Committee organizes community events year round.

Our Outreach:

Outreach involvement includes, for example, volunteering at and contributing to the food pantry and fuel and rental assistance; and the provision of backpacks and other supplies for the public schools; Laundry Love, at the Laundromat with free laundry and fellowship; and trips to Cuba to provide assistance to a rural village seeking to rebuild a church and construct water purification systems. Prayer groups, a weekly Healing service, programs at the local retirement home -- the opportunities to serve are numerous and well subscribed. We may be far out at sea, but we strive to be a beacon in the darkness and a protection against storms of all kinds.

How we Function:

St. Paul's has the benefit of strong lay leadership and the invaluable contributions of several resident non-stipend clergy. We value highly lay preaching and teaching. Our practice of welcoming everyone to Christ's table for Eucharist is a symbol of our outreach and our loving commitment to Jesus' teachings. We have confidence in our future, with an updated, beautiful campus, our debt-free finances, and our committed parishioners.

St. Paul's parishioners worship in a stone Richardsonian Romanesque church built in 1901 with a warm, wooden interior, filled with light from the stained glass windows crafted by three famous studios; Tiffany, Willet, and Connick. Downstairs, Gardner Hall is a community meeting place, newly renovated after a successful capital campaign. This campaign also funded rebuilding the organ, a new heating system, a commercial kitchen, and a handicapped-accessible lift and entrance which was built to match and blend with the stone of the original church building.

Between the church and a spacious and renovated rectory, there is a Memorial Garden for contemplation, parish gatherings, and the interment of ashes. Behind the rectory is a small cottage which typically has been rented to a staff member. On the other side of the church is a parking lot, a Parish House with offices, classrooms, a playground, and a meeting room.



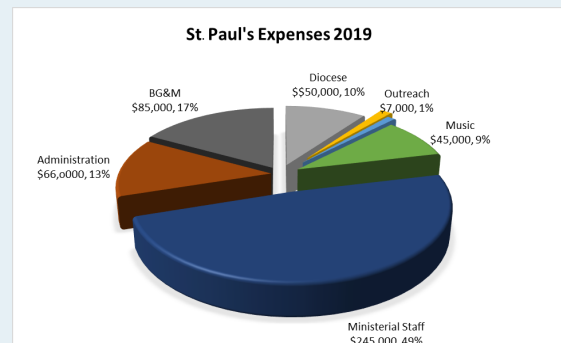
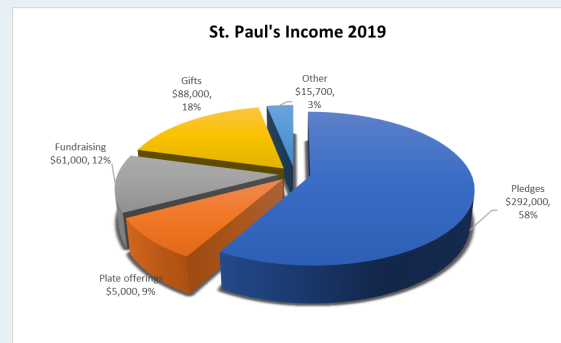
Nantucket Island

Nantucket's year-round population in recent years has fluctuated between 15,000 and 20,000. There are vibrant public and private schools, a newly built hospital affiliated with Massachusetts General Hospital, a wonderful public library, museums, and a flourishing arts and cultural scene. Here, the traditional town meeting is alive and well.

Seasonal shifts in the population and economy result in two distinct "rhythms" of living. Summer is a crowded, bustling paradise when the population swells to above 50,000. In winter we can be an outpost, separated from the mainland by storms. Many beautiful summer compounds overlook the water, and more than half the island is preserved as open space, yet there is a constant need for more affordable housing, and some depend on the Food Pantry to make it through a lean winter.

In times of need, the Nantucket tradition is to step up and help with a generosity of spirit that defines us and binds us together.

St. Paul's Financial Summary (2019)





✝ *Our Vision for the Future* ✝

As we enter a new decade, we want to continue to build on the growth and positive change we have experienced in recent years. We have retired our mortgage and completed a successful capital campaign that has provided the funds to renovate and upgrade our facilities for the next generations. We have encouraged a more unified and informed parish community by improving communications, and we have strengthened fellowship by combining services in the winter, and hosting a variety of off-season events. The summer features galas, dinners, and our Fair, all of which are open to the larger community.

St. Paul's is committed to being open and inviting to all people: members and visitors, rich and poor, old and young, gay and straight. We have talented and dedicated wardens, vestry, staff, and lay leaders. Our experience in taking on big challenges has strengthened our resolve and taught us to trust in God's grace.

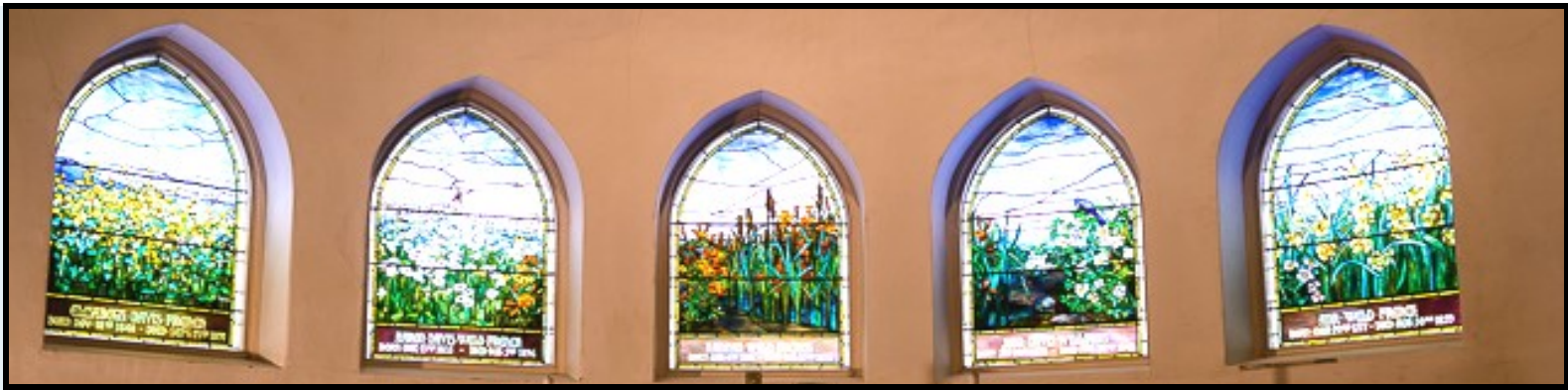
So how do we accomplish this?

By a congregation that is ready to Love, Serve and Build Sustainability.

In some of the following manners:

1. By being magnetic, enthusiastic and welcoming, through our use of our liturgy, our music, our altar as an open table and by being fully inclusive.
2. By being unique in our way of embracing families no matter how constituted, and by providing broad spiritual, pastoral and educational support and Hope.
3. By growing our numbers, managing our finances, sustaining our campus and devoting creative efforts to stewardship.





To help define our approach to achieving our goals, we intend to continue:

Spiritual and Educational Enrichment - strengthening our Christ - centered lives as individuals and as a congregation through worship, preaching, teaching, learning, music and service.

Servanthood through Service and Outreach - expanding our commitment to the many social, spiritual, and educational needs of the Nantucket community by developing innovative programs that use the physical and intellectual assets of St. Paul's to meet unmet community needs.

Music Ministry - supporting our expanded musical and choral offerings that enrich our worship and enhance the lives of our congregation, the larger community, and visitors from around the world.

Children and Youth Initiatives—finding new ways to better serve and to inspire the participation of younger people, individuals and families within our parish life and from the broader community.

