

St. Paul's Episcopal Church Bedford, MA

A parish in the Diocese of Massachusetts

WELCOME



COMFORT



CHALLENGE



STRENGTH

Ever loving and nurturing God, who has called everyone into community: Grant that St. Paul's may continue to be a place of welcome, comfort, challenge, and strength. Give us courage and compassion as we grow, and keep us always in relationship with you and with one another. All this we ask through Your Son, Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

—*The Collect for St. Paul's*

WELCOME

St. Paul's is a friendly, joyful, and inclusive community that strives to make visitors and newcomers feel welcome and valued.

St. Paul's has been part of the Bedford community since its founding in 1955 as a mission church. We built our home on Pine Hill Road in 1958, outside of the town center on what was once farmland. We serve our neighbors through outreach, fellowship, and annual events such as our [Advent Fair](#) and [Thrift Sale](#). We hold regular collection drives for veterans living at Bedford's VA Hospital, support local food pantries through donations of food and money, and show our support for our LGBTQ+ siblings at Bedford Pride and throughout the year.

[Read more about our history](#)

PARISH STATISTICS

from 2024 parochial report

- ❖ Communicants in good standing: 381
- ❖ Average Sunday attendance: 117
- ❖ Children & youth group membership: 70
- ❖ [Active ministry groups](#) include Outreach, Green Team, Men's & Women's Groups, Property, Altar Guild, and more

Bedford is a town of 14,000 people located 15 miles northwest of Boston. Near Route 3 and I-95, it has a strong business presence, excellent schools, modern town facilities, and active community involvement. St. Paul's parishioners come from Bedford and a dozen surrounding communities, including Billerica, Acton, Lexington, and Chelmsford. St. Paul's has an active ministry at [Carleton-Willard Village](#), a continuing care retirement community located in Bedford.

[Learn more about Bedford](#)

Advent Fair



Thrift Sale



Bedford Day



Parish Golf Outing



Bedford Pride



COMFORT

This is God's table, and all are welcome.



ASP Mission Trip



Christmas Caroling



Haiti Barn Dance

LITURGY : St. Paul's follows the Rite II liturgy from the Book of Common Prayer, with supplemental prayers and blessings depending on the season. The Christian calendar of seasons, Holy Days, and festivals provides the framework of our understanding and celebrating the traditions of our faith.

We are a warm, friendly, and accepting parish, valuing relationships and intent over pageantry and "correctness." We embrace music and song with great enthusiasm, due to our superb music director and our adult and youth choirs. We enjoy strong lay participation in worship, as altar ministers, lay readers, ushers, and altar guild.

OUTREACH : St. Paul's has a heart for service, with active outreach ministries both locally and in the wider world. Our HS youth group has taken regular mission trips with Appalachia Service Project (ASP) since 2013. We have strong partnerships with several health care organizations in Haiti. We show our support for Creation Care through annual fundraisers for Greenroots Chelsea and our commitment to renewable energy in our own building. We aim to make our inreach programs—the support we offer to parishioners in need—more visible, consistent, and robust.

We support our Diocesan mission and core values of welcome, courage, justice, joy, and love.

OUR WORSHIP

- ❖ Sunday morning Eucharist at 10:00am, in person and live-streamed
- ❖ Lay-led Morning Prayer and Compline three days a week via Zoom
- ❖ Monthly weekday Eucharist at Carleton-Willard Village
- ❖ Holy Week services: weeknight Taize prayer, Maundy Thursday & Good Friday services, Stations of the Cross, labyrinth walk, Easter Vigil, and two Festal Easter Eucharist services, with coffee hour and Easter egg hunt in between
- ❖ Special services: Christmas Pageant, Lessons & Carols, Season of Creation, and Thanksgiving Day

CHALLENGE

O God, you have bound us together in a common life.
Help us to work together with mutual forbearance and respect.

St. Paul's has weathered change and challenge over its 70-year history, and we recognize that every age brings new problems and opportunities to face together.

In our current moment, we have a hunger to deepen our spiritual practices, whether through adult and youth formation and Bible study opportunities; personal and community prayer support; resonant worship and music practices; or other ways to bring ourselves and each other closer to God in Christ.

We look for ways to ensure newcomers feel part of our close-knit family, and understand that longtime ministries need continual refreshment and opportunities for new leadership.

We seek the courage to be more vulnerable with one another, sharing and recognizing when we need help from our friends and fellow parishioners.

Priorities for the Future

❖ Manage growth

- Keep our “family feel” as more people join
- Nurture gifts for ministry in laity, to develop new leaders and avoid volunteer burnout

❖ Spiritual development and leadership

- Foster and support deeper spiritual practices and Episcopal literacy among our members, especially adults
- Encourage continued attendance at worship

❖ Strengthen our children's ministry programs

- Increase parish participation of young families

❖ Formal and informal inreach

- Find ways to listen to each other more
- Make sure people feel comfortable sharing their concerns and personal needs

❖ Maintain our focus on social justice in the wider world

- Continue our visible support for vulnerable and marginalized people, especially the LGBTQ+ and immigrant communities

STRENGTH

St. Paul's is a financially stable, multigenerational parish with active lay leadership and a joyful spirit.

Our Financial Resources

Our operating budget in recent years is around \$425,000. We are blessed with solid parish response to our annual fall pledge drive, typically meeting or exceeding our goals with >95% of pledges fulfilled. Annual fundraisers (Advent Fair and Thrift Sale) also bring in revenue, along with rental income from St. Paul's Weekday Nursery School.

Periodic Capital Campaigns support large-scale maintenance and new projects for our building and grounds. We manage our property expenses carefully, thanks to parish participation in fall and spring cleanups, and steward our natural resources by using compostable tableware and commercial composting services.

Solar Panels



Parish Cleanup



Composting



Our Parish Family

St. Paul's is truly a family parish, attracting a diverse group of young families, elders, couples, and single people. We incorporate children and teenagers fully into our worship, and look for ways to share intergenerational fellowship and expand our circles of parish friendship. We understand our faith is wide enough for different spiritual practices and beliefs, striving to live into the Episcopal tenet that "all are welcome."

St. Paul's members are motivated by service to others, whether close at hand or in the wider world. We love having fun together, making music together, and tackling challenges together, from the mundane to the profound.



OUR NEXT RECTOR

St. Paul's is seeking a full-time rector to shepherd and support us in our common life as God's people in Bedford and in the world.

- ❖ We value **excellent preaching** and consider clergy sermons to be a centerpiece of our worship experience.
- ❖ We look for a **collaborative partner who values lay ministry and leadership** and is skilled at identifying gifts for ministry in others.
- ❖ We seek a **compassionate leader with gifts for pastoral care**, both on an individual level and for the whole community.
- ❖ We want a **competent administrator** with excellent communication and organizational skills who can lead and delegate appropriately.
- ❖ We appreciate **connection to our Diocesan leadership** and the broader Episcopal community.

HOW TO APPLY

- ❖ Visit our job listing:
 - [Transition Ministry Conference](#) website (this link includes compensation information);
 - [Clergy Transition Ministry](#) page of the Diomass website; or
 - [Episcopal News Service job board](#)
- ❖ Submit your resume and cover letter to Rev. Canon Marissa Rohrbach (search@diomass.org)

Applications are due by February 15, 2026.

We hope to call our new rector in Spring 2026.

We encourage you to visit [our website](#) and [watch our recent Sunday services](#) to learn more about St. Paul's.
Thank you for your interest!



More About St. Paul's

- ❖ St. Paul's current staff is comprised of an assistant rector, parish administrator, music minister, and sexton, all of whom work part-time and report to the rector.
- ❖ Our music program includes adult and youth choirs, and regularly features special music from parishioners and guest performers.
- ❖ We offer Family Sundays once a month, with occasional children's sermons during those services.
- ❖ St. Paul's Weekday Nursery School is a secular preschool that operates in the church building during the school year. The rector serves as an *ex officio* member of its board of directors and has been the primary day-to-day liaison with the school.
- ❖ In 1983 St. Paul's called the first woman rector in the Diocese of Massachusetts, Rev. Elsa Walberg. In 2004 rector Rev. Frank Fornaro and his longtime partner, Chuck Frates, were married at St. Paul's by parishioner Paul Ciaccia.
- ❖ Search Committee members: Ron Presti and Emily Mitchell, co-chairs; Arthur Fergusson, Jodie Giordano, Steve Lowen, Sanjeev Pillai, Helen Pulizzi, Bethany Shannon, Bob Stephan, Mino Sullivan, Meredith Trant, and Candy Walker



