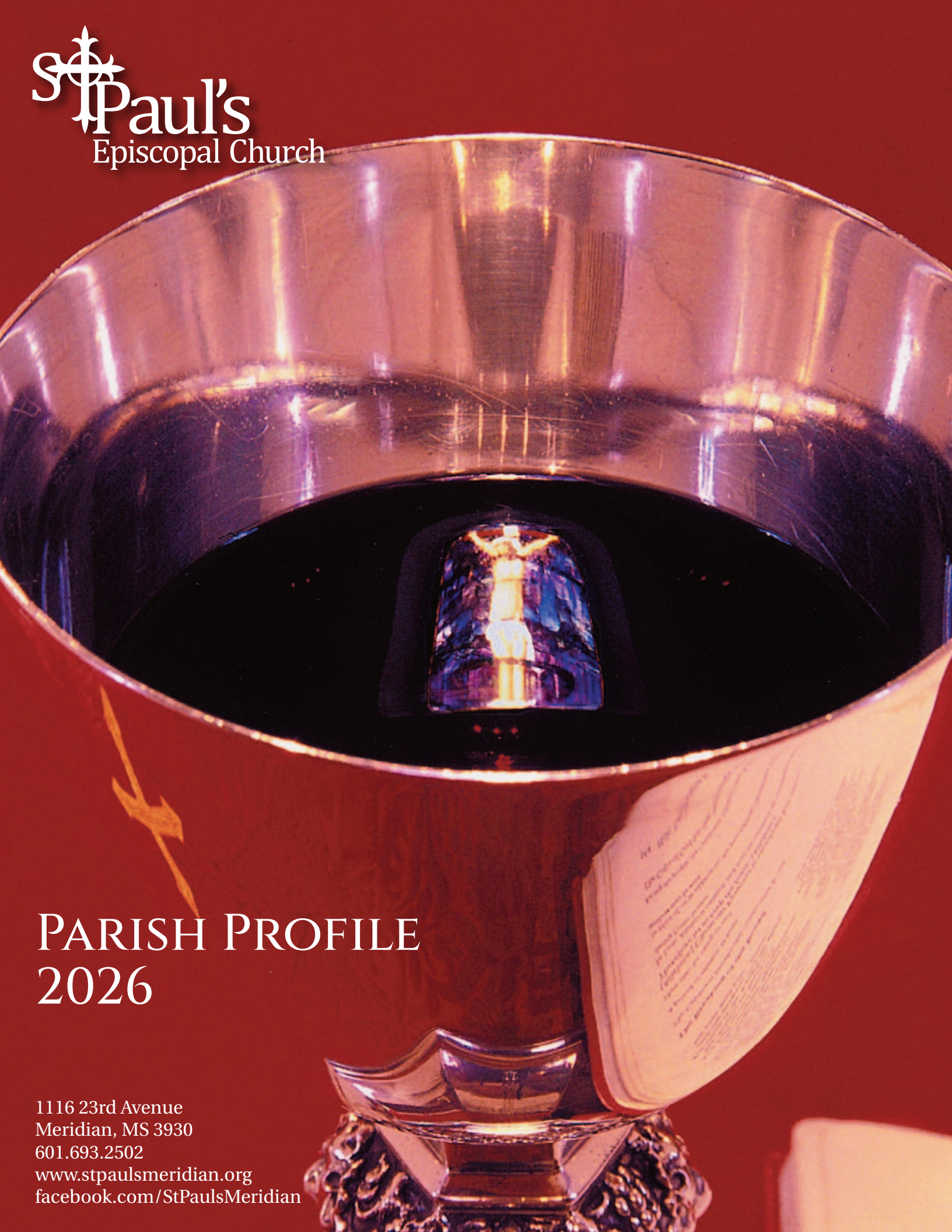




St Paul's
Episcopal Church

PARISH PROFILE 2026

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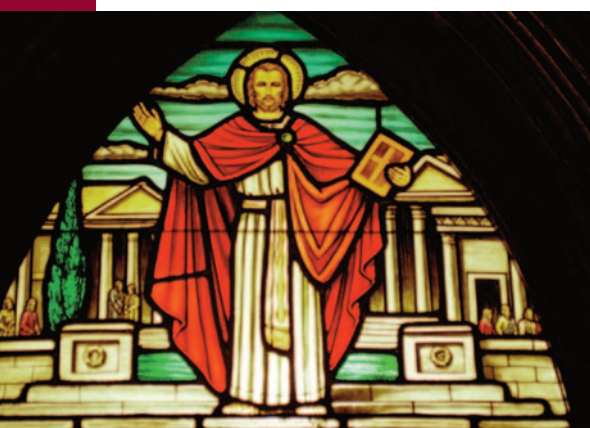
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OUR STORY

For 125 years, St. Paul's Episcopal Church has been a guiding light in the Diocese of Mississippi and in the Meridian community. Its members and clergy have long exemplified the church in witness and in service to the wider world while providing a warm and welcoming home for a close-knit family of the faithful.

Today our parish is in a phase of revitalization. With the enthusiasm and guidance of our beloved Interim Assisting Clergy, we are reinvigorating our lay leadership and each other around our mission beyond our church walls. We are looking for a new rector to lead, to help and to embrace us through this period of transition, help us best utilize our gifts, and embrace a new chapter of purposefully living out our baptismal vows together.

We hope that this Parish Profile gives a clear picture of our story thus far and a glimpse of where we hope to be in our next chapter.

OUR MISSION

St. Paul's mission is to support and encourage one another in living out our baptismal vows and to share God's unconditional love with the broader community.

OUR STATEMENT OF INCLUSION

"This is the Lord's house, home of all his people, school for the faithful, refuge for the sinner, rest for the pilgrim, haven for the weary; all find a welcome."

(Hymn 51; Verse 4)

OUR CORE VALUES

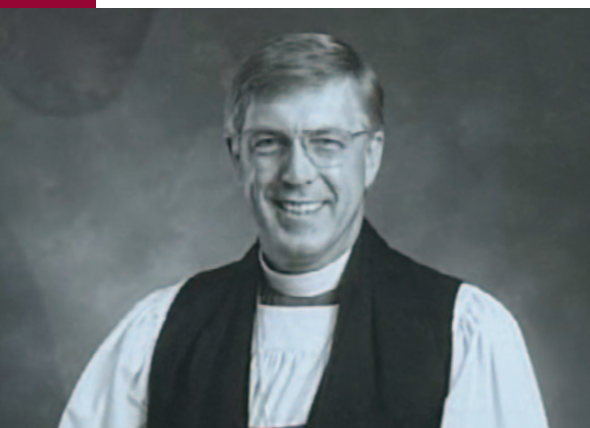
- Worship
- Serve Christ and neighbors
- Celebrate the blessings of life
- Grow in the knowledge and love of Christ



OUR HISTORY

EARLY BEGINNINGS

The history of St. Paul's Episcopal Church is steeped in generosity, close-knit community ties, and a deep love for the people of Meridian. St. Paul's has a unique family-like relationship with the other Episcopal Church in Meridian, The Church of the Mediator. In 1901, a group of 49 people, many from the Mediator, established the St. Paul's Episcopal Mission. Thanks to the generosity of many Jewish friends, the first services of St. Paul's Mission were held in Temple Beth Israel starting June 9, 1901, with the services conducted by two lay readers.



On All Saints Day on November 1, 1902, St. Paul's celebrated its first Eucharist in the newly built church in its current location in downtown Meridian. Throughout the 1900s, St. Paul's added on to the church, including Sunday School rooms, office facilities, the Parish Hall, as well as other meeting rooms. In 1952, an Aeolian-Skinner pipe organ with 19 stops and 24 ranks was installed in St. Paul's sanctuary. In 2018, St. Paul's refurbished the Aeolian-Skinner Pipe organ, increasing to 30 stops and 35 ranks. In the early 2020s, the Sanctuary carpeting was removed, and the wood floors beneath were restored to their former beauty. Today, the sanctuary is a beloved and sacred place where we gather to worship, pray, and celebrate the Eucharist together.

OUR RECTORS & LAY LEADERS

Nineteen permanent rectors, 6 associate rectors, 12 curates, and several interim rectors have served our parish since its founding. Our longest serving rector, the Rev. Duncan M. Hobart, served for 19 years (1943-62). Of those 19 former rectors, two have served as Bishop of Mississippi. Fifteen congregates of St. Paul's have pursued ministry as a higher calling.

OUR HISTORY

St. Paul's has remained firmly committed to the Diocese of Mississippi; rectors and members have served in all key positions on the Diocesan level, as well as deputies, alternates, and youth delegates to the General Convention. Our parishioners have been involved with the Diocesan Episcopal Church Women, served on the Gray Center Board of Directors, as well as the Division of Youth Council and Convocation Dean.

COMMITMENT AND CONNECTION TO OUR COMMUNITY

St. Paul's is incredibly proud of our rich history of generosity and compassion for the Meridian community. St. Paul's as a parish and its individual parishioners have been instrumental in sharing God's love in countless ways over the years, leaving many legacies that still benefit our community.

During the Civil Rights Movement, St. Paul's, under the leadership of Rev. Duncan Gray, formed the "Committee of Conscience," which strove to impress upon the community that St. Paul's doors would be open to all, regardless of color. This was especially meaningful when the families of the murdered Civil Rights activists in Philadelphia, Mississippi, were welcomed to worship and share in Eucharist at St. Paul's.

Members of St. Paul's continued this spirit of compassion through instrumental involvement in the founding of the children's group home, Hope Village, as well as founding L.O.V.E.'S Kitchen, a local meal service for the homeless. St. Paul's parishioners also helped establish CARE Lodge, a local domestic abuse shelter for women, and donated its original downtown building.



OUR HISTORY

In more recent years, St. Paul's assisted the Jubilee Mennonite Church by providing a place of worship when their facility succumbed to fire. Later, St. Paul's returned the total amount of rent received from Jubilee Mennonite Church, resulting in a long-lasting relationship together, and the establishment of the "Community of Hope," a non-profit organization committed to mentorship, community service, and tutoring in the Meridian community.



St. Paul's parishioners also connect with the local elementary schools through reading programs, especially at the third-grade level. Mississippi has a rigorous third grade state reading test and St. Paul's volunteers offered one-on-one support to local elementary students to help them prepare.

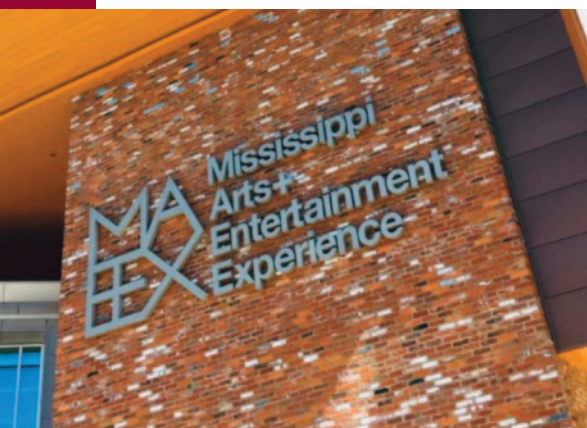


This year, St. Paul's established a new partnership with MUTEH (Mississippi United to End Homelessness). Well into our second century of existence, St. Paul's looks forward to continuing to be a vibrant center for worship, formation, and caring for the greater Meridian community.



OUR COMMUNITY

MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI: SMALL TOWN, BIG HEART FOR THE ARTS



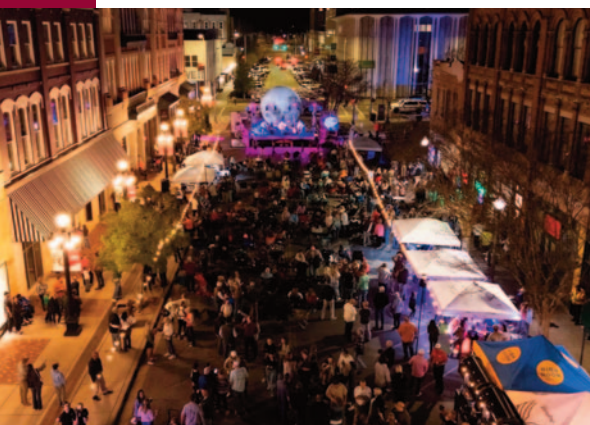
Meridian, Mississippi, is a city of 34,000 in a county of 70,500 in east central Mississippi. It's the regional retail, health care and transportation hub for a multi-county rural trade area of 300,000 people that stretches into west central Alabama. Two interstates and another four-lane highway converge in Meridian, making it one of the most traversed points in the lower South. While possessing small city charm, Meridian has larger city amenities including a thriving performing arts scene, shopping, and local restaurants. Meridian's central location provides an easy day drive to larger cities such as Jackson, New Orleans, Birmingham, and Memphis.

St. Paul's is located in the heart of Meridian's historic downtown, which is undergoing an arts, education and tourism-related renewal that includes a refurbishing of many of its architecturally unique old buildings. Among those is the 14-story Threefoot Building, a 1930 art deco structure that after decades of decline recently became a Marriot hotel with restaurant and rooftop bar. The Mississippi Arts and Entertainment Experience highlights our state's extraordinary literary, musical, and artistic heritage. The "MAX" is a relatively new downtown addition, (opened in 2018); it hosts school field trips, visitors, as well as special events, musicians, and the annual "Sip and Savor" event highlighting culinary artists from all over the state.

The downtown grassroots arts scene has grown exponentially as well in recent years in Meridian — with the ACES (Arts Community Events Society) hosting regular family friendly block parties with live music and food vendors called "Full Moon on Fifth," as well as the annual Mardi Gras Parade. A number of other area organizations also host family friendly and adult events throughout the year in the vibrant downtown. Weekends in Meridian have something for everyone.

OUR COMMUNITY

Whether it's live music, trivia, a road race, the annual Jimmie Rodgers Music Festival, or a relaxing ambiance for enjoying some delicious food — Meridian has it.



The Mississippi State University Riley Center houses a downtown performing arts venue in a refurbished 19th century opera house, which has hosted acts from B.B. King to Itzak Perlman and most recently Allison Krauss and The Jamestown Revival. The Riley Center anchors a full block of restored buildings that constitute one of two Mississippi State University branch campuses in the city. The Meridian Symphony Orchestra, one of the state's oldest and most acclaimed community theatres (the Meridian Little Theatre), the Meridian Museum of Art, and a second historic downtown theatre are other elements of the city's ingrained arts culture. Weidmann's, Mississippi's oldest restaurant, has been a continual downtown presence since 1870. It is at the forefront of a newly developing Meridian dining scene alongside newer dining experiences including Harvest Grill, Jean's, and Threefoot Brewing Company — all locally owned and operated.

EDUCATION

Education has long been at the center of Meridian's identity. It was the home of one of the first municipally supported community colleges in the nation, and today a state-supported Meridian Community College education is available tuition-free to any student from Lauderdale County.

City and County public schools and several private and parochial schools make up a diverse education fabric. Meridian is a site for the Mississippi Children's Museum and there are multiple after-school academic and cultural enrichment programs offered by the museum and surrounding venues. With the Mississippi State University presence, a student can receive an excellent education from pre-K through graduate school without leaving the community.

OUR COMMUNITY

NATURAL BEAUTY

Meridian is a wonderful place for enjoying the outdoors. The city gem in this regard is Bonita Lakes Park, with miles of beautifully wooded hiking, biking, and horse-riding trails. Many other lakes dot the landscape, from Lake Okatibbee to Clarkco State Park, with plenty of opportunities for fishing, boating, camping, and swimming. Meridian also has numerous recreational sports fields and facilities including public and private golf courses, tennis and pickleball courts, and playgrounds located around the city.



INDUSTRY

As the regional economic trade center, Meridian's two hospitals and the nearby Naval Air Station are the two largest employers of area residents. Meridian has a great aviation heritage, and it is home to the longest airport runway in the state, with jet service daily to Houston, Texas, from the Meridian Regional Airport. Meridian also houses an Air National Guard facility. The city's early economy was centered around the railroads. Meridian has had to work to overcome economic challenges present since their eclipse, but a number of far-flung, homegrown industries — Peavey Electronics, Southern Pipe and Supply, along with Structural Steel Services — have created a strong entrepreneurial culture. The city and region have recently seen encouraging signs of interest by major corporations, making Meridian a significant player in aerospace.



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE TOGETHER

Meridian faces many of the challenges of similar-sized cities across Mississippi and the South, as it strives to raise the educational and economic level of its citizens. Meridian is working hard to confront these challenges, and members of St. Paul's have always been in the vanguard of efforts to improve life in the city for everyone.

OUR OUTREACH

St. Paul's outreach is first and foremost through the living of our baptismal vows in our daily lives in the community. Parishioners come from all walks of life; there are teachers, nurse anesthetists, lawyers, doctors, retirees, stay-at-home moms, Naval aviators, receptionists, graphic designers, nutritionists, house cleaners, accountants, financial advisors, judges, architects, and so many other unique people that make up our parish. We gather on Sunday to worship and pray through the liturgy and hear the Gospel through Jesus' words and through the sermon preached. Then we "Go forth with God, go to the world in peace," refreshed and ready to share Christ's love with those in our midst during our respective weeks ahead.



OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Our newly invigorated Outreach Committee is committed to aiding the parish of St. Paul's to live out the "Love your Neighbor" portion of our baptismal vows. Currently the Outreach Committee is learning more about who our neighbors are in Meridian, seeking out partnerships with established organizations, and helping match community needs with parish gifts. St. Paul's has traditionally devoted its efforts to the support of Care Lodge and L.O.V.E.'S Kitchen. We recently partnered with MUTEH (Mississippi United to End Homelessness) and are helping to meet the ongoing needs of fresh water, socks, and protein snacks for the homeless community here in Meridian. We are committed to providing this support in a long-term capacity and are eager to assist our neighbors in additional ways.



OUR OUTREACH

MONETARY SUPPORT IN THE COMMUNITY



Our Outreach Committee will be working closely with the Vestry to identify needs, research, and distribute ~\$18,000 of funds identified for outreach in the 2026 fiscal year.

ANNUAL MISSION & MUSIC FESTIVAL

Since 2019, St. Paul's Mission & Music Festival annually blesses the community with delicious catfish plates, children's activities, and live music, and raises funds for two local charity organizations — L.O.V.E'S Kitchen, and CARE Lodge. Parishioners pool our collective gifts of catfish-frying, dessert-baking, face painting, ticket-selling, and more to make this event a success each year, raising more than \$8,000 in donations (from our 2026 event).



OUR PARISH LIFE

Sunday worship is the central activity at St. Paul's, held at 8 a.m. (Holy Eucharist, Rite II with no music) and 10:30 a.m. (Holy Eucharist, Rite II with music, led by David Benson, Organist and Choir Master, and the choir). Chalice bearers, acolytes, lay readers, and ushers all assist in the worship service.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

Throughout the school year, parishioners gather on Wednesday nights for a shared meal and life together. One of the most loved parish events is a series of elaborate Wednesday night dinners during the "Great Fifty Days of Easter;" this year meals included a Southern Style Crawfish Boil, Charcuterie Board Extravaganza, and an All American BBQ Dinner.

DOWNTOWN MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES

St. Paul's, along with the other downtown Meridian churches (United Methodist Church, St. Patrick's Catholic Church, First Baptist Church, First Christian Church, and First Presbyterian Church) and the greater community, gathers together at a different host church each Thursday in Lent for worship and luncheon. St. Paul's is honored to continue this Ecumenical worship tradition each Lenten Season.



OUR PARISH LIFE

ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC AT BONITA LAKES



Each October, we gather as a Parish to worship together in the fresh air at the beautiful Bonita Lakes Park. Camp chairs replace pews, voices are raised a capella or sometimes with a guitar, and Eucharist is shared beside the geese and ducks. Afterwards, we share favorite entrees like pulled pork, fried chicken, and brisket, mouthwatering homemade potato salad and so many coveted desserts, and all washed down with sweet tea and lemonade. Kids run around, stories get told, and laughter abounds.

BLESSING OF THE PETS



Each October, community members, along with parishioners from St. Paul's and The Church of the Mediator, gather with furry, scaly, and crawly loved ones to be blessed. We collect donations for local animal support organizations at this event to further the animal blessings in the community. It is a favorite event for all ages — and the pets enjoy the attention, too!

EASTER EGG HUNT



This spring, St. Paul's parishioners of all ages gathered for a joyous afternoon of egg hunting, a bounce house, face painting, and a BBQ, all hosted lovingly by a parishioner! The weather was perfection as were the memories. We hope to make this an annual event in the future.

OUR FORMATION

St. Paul's loves to learn about our faith in Christ and how to live that out in our respective lives. While we currently have formation for most age groups, we are interested in more robust programming with a more intentional approach and support from our Rector and lay leadership.

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

Our beloved children ages 3 through 5th grade take part in Children's Chapel during the worship service between the Gospel reading and the sharing of the peace. Lay leaders guide the children through loving, worshipful, and creative activities to engage with the Gospel in meaningful and new ways. The children always return to the service with a smile and bounce in their step!

6TH-12TH GRADE WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

After the Wednesday Night Suppers during the school year, our Youth engage their minds and hearts in a Bible study, led by lay leaders of the church. This past year, they went through the entire Bible utilizing the book, "The Path." This Bible Study blessed both the youth AND lay leaders alike. Occasionally parents of the youth joined in as well to engage in the study, too! To celebrate wrapping up the "whole Bible," they went bowling together.

EYC (EPISCOPAL YOUTH COMMUNITY)

Youth ages 6th grade through 12th grade from both St. Paul's Episcopal Church and Church of the Mediator gather monthly (alternating between the two churches) and engage in faith-building activities, food, and fun. Parent volunteers are the backbone of helping make EYC happen, and the youth are so thankful for it.



OUR FORMATION

MIDDLERS

This year, the adults “in the middle of life” (~30s and 40s) decided to shift from discussing the lectionary Gospel to watching the Jesus dramatization “The Chosen” and discussing one episode per week via a study guide. The Middlers have completed one season thus far, and it has been a big success and they have learned a lot about ancient Hebrew cultural traditions in addition to considering how Jesus and his disciples went about their day-to-day ministry and living.



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Each week, the Men's Bible Study gathers Tuesday mornings and dives into the upcoming Gospel lectionary, led by one of the members of the group. This intellectual and contemplative discussion group considers historical context, commentaries, and thoughtful discussion questions of how to live out Christ's calling. Members of both St. Paul's and The Church of the Mediator attend this Bible Study.



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Bible Study, called “Pew Sisters,” meets Tuesday afternoons. Most recently, they read and discussed the book, “Invite, Welcome Connect: Stories & Tools to Transform Your Church” by Mary Foster Parmer and passed on a glowing recommendation to the Vestry and others in at St. Paul's to read it as well.



Currently the Women's Bible Study is reading “Gifts of God for the People of God: Exploring Worship in the Episcopal Church” by Furman L. Buchanan. Through this book, they are obtaining a more in-depth understanding of the structure and purpose of each element of the Episcopal worship service and gaining a new appreciation for the traditions and history behind each element.

OUR MINISTRIES

Serving one another through our various ministries is a backbone of St. Paul's parish life. A servant-like attitude and generous spirit is a cornerstone of our parish and is a big reason why we gather together to worship and serve after 125 years.

ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild ensures St. Paul's sanctuary is thoroughly and beautifully prepared for the service, whatever that may entail. A team of dedicated parishioners works diligently to set up for Sunday Eucharist, weddings, funerals, and the numerous special feasts and occasions throughout the church calendar year.



WELCOMING NEWCOMERS

The ushers, designated Vestry members, and Senior and Junior Wardens are identified with nametags and welcome all newcomers to St. Paul's before and after services. Follow-up calls and messages ensure newcomers are embraced by the parish whether they are just visiting or considering joining a worship community.



PASTORAL CARE

The parish staff and Vestry ensure parishioners' needs are fulfilled whether through home or hospital visitations, phone calls to check in, or specific needs being met.



FLOWER MINISTRY

Following the 10:30 a.m. Sunday worship service, a dedicated team dismantles the Altar's flower arrangements and lovingly rearranges them into vases and personally delivers them to parishioners who need some encouragement and a smile that week.

OUR MINISTRIES

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

As God's people we are called upon to bear each other's burdens. The Bereavement Ministry provides love and support for our families at St. Paul's who are going through the loss of a loved one. Women of the parish prepare and serve a meal to the family following the funeral service.

It is a time when the family can come together for nourishment, conversation and sharing memories.

CHOIR & MUSIC

David Benson, St. Paul's Organist and Choirmaster for 25 years, leads the choir and parish through the music of the liturgy as well as classic hymns, chanted Psalms, Cathedral-style anthems, and reflective piano-accompanied songs. Parishioners are united in loving the music program at St. Paul's and we are so grateful for David Benson's talent and leadership in upholding the Episcopal traditions through music.



OUR DIOCESE

St. Paul's is one of 85 Episcopal congregations that make up the Diocese of Mississippi, which encompasses the entire state. The Diocese is headquartered in the capital city of Jackson, 90 miles west of Meridian, and is led by the Rt. Rev. Dorothy Wells, Bishop of Mississippi. Our parishes and missions embrace all styles of worship, from Anglo-Catholic to evangelical, and span the theological spectrum. The Diocese of Mississippi is a close-knit family of congregations and like the state, is influenced by both old- and new-South cultures and traditions.



CAMP BRATTON-GREEN

Children and youth from around the state and beyond LOVE Camp Bratton-Green. Youth of all ages as well as Special Needs youth and adults attend weeklong camp sessions at the Diocese of Mississippi Camp Bratton-Green in Canton, MS throughout the summer.



DIVISION OF YOUTH (DOY)

The Mississippi Diocese's DOY is very active throughout the year, holding many events and opportunities for youth to grow in their faith and serve. During the school year, there are weekend retreats held at Camp Bratton-Green for junior high and high schoolers, and organized by a DOY Council made up of youth from around the state. These events give youth a taste of camp and the freedom to let go in the loving embrace of God and others.



Two times a year, 10th-12th graders have the special opportunity to dig deeper in their faith alongside other youth at "Happening: A Christian Experience."

Once they attend as participants, many return as group leaders. St. Paul's youth are proud to be among the long list of participants and leaders who have made a lasting positive impact at both Camp Bratton-Green and at DOY.

OUR STAFF, FACILITIES & FINANCIALS



Harriet Simmons



Joane Mackey



David Benson

St. Paul's is embracing this time of transition as a time for intentionally moving forward. At the beginning of 2026, with the help of Holy Cow Consulting, we had 118 of 130 invited parishioners participate in a Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT Survey). Through the CAT Survey, The leadership team — composed of the Vestry, Search Committee, and Interim Assisting Clergy — learned in detail the strengths, struggles, and specific desires of the parish, as well as how best to move forward together with purpose.

OUR PARISH STAFF

The Reverend Harriet Simmons — Interim Assisting Clergy (since December 2025). Harriet, a member of St. Paul's and retired priest, graciously offered her pastoral services during this time of transition at St. Paul's. Her knowledge and passion for helping St. Paul's with vigor and leadership has been a great gift.

Joane Mackey — Office Administrator (since 2009). Joane faithfully serves St. Paul's with her knowledge and experience in the parish office. Her expertise and long-term service is a huge asset to the parish.

David Benson — Organist and Choirmaster (since 2001). David's dedication to quality music is a backbone to our worship experience. St. Paul's is extremely thankful for his experience as a musician on the organ and piano, and as a choirmaster and upholding the Episcopal traditions in music and liturgy.

John Grace and Judy Wiggins — Associate Sextons. John and Judy dedicate their time to caring for St. Paul's vast property. The parish is able to minister and serve so many because of their service.

OUR FACILITIES

St. Paul's facilities are steeped in history and care. Like many Episcopal churches, the buildings of St. Paul's are in the Neo-Gothic Ecclesiastical style of architecture.

OUR STAFF, FACILITIES & FINANCIALS

From the beautifully painted stained-glass windows depicting Christ's life, death and resurrection, the organ pipes that adorn the chancel and back of the church as well as the flying buttresses, St. Paul's buildings reflect the sense of strength and tradition of the Anglican/Episcopal faith.



St. Paul's is proud to host many parish and community gatherings within its walls — from St. Paul's Music Series and the Meridian Symphony Chorus' concerts in the Sanctuary, to gatherings in the Parish Hall for receptions, Wednesday Night Suppers, the Annual Parish meetings, and recently a visit from Buddhist Peace Walkers. Narcotics Anonymous (NA) also meets twice daily at St. Paul's.

OUR FINANCES

St. Paul's Episcopal Church is financially stable, well-resourced and debt free, with a sturdy foundation to support mission and clergy leadership. The parish has a long-standing culture of faithful stewardship, careful oversight, and a shared commitment to aligning financial resources with God's mission.



Annual operating revenue — rooted primarily in pledged giving — consistently supports expenses budgeted for clergy, staff, worship, pastoral care, and outreach. The annual budget of approximately \$500,000 is supplemented by other parish income and a disciplined draw from investments.



Like many historic congregations, St. Paul's has experienced a gradual decline in the number of pledging units — approximately thirty-four fewer households over the past decade. This reflects broader demographic trends and an aging membership rather than diminished commitment. Encouragingly, overall giving has remained relatively strong, demonstrating the deep generosity and faithfulness of the current congregation. The vestry recognizes this pattern and views it as an opportunity for intentional growth in

OUR STAFF, FACILITIES & FINANCIALS

stewardship, engagement, and welcoming new members into deeper participation.

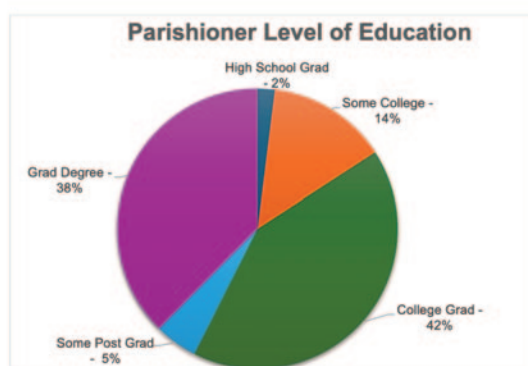
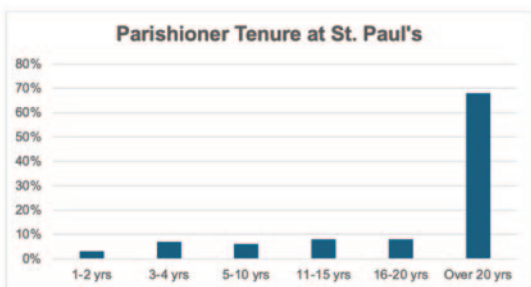
The parish manages its finances conservatively and maintains substantial reserves and investments. As of yearend, St. Paul's held more than \$700,000 in cash and savings and approximately \$1.8 million in investments, including endowment and other long-term funds. Prudent annual draws (approximately 5%) support operating needs and the Rector's discretionary account, while preserving the long-term health of these assets.

St. Paul's carries no debt, and restricted funds are carefully managed and used only for their intended purposes. Overall, St. Paul's financial picture reflects responsible stewardship, transparent oversight, and the capacity to sustain clergy leadership while continuing to invest in people and programs, care for its historic facilities, and respond creatively to new opportunities for community and formation.

Importantly, St. Paul's financial health allows a new rector to focus energy on spiritual leadership, growth, and vision, rather than crisis management. The people of St. Paul's look forward with confidence — financially grounded, mission driven, and eager to partner with its next rector in shaping a hopeful and faithful future.

OUR DEMOGRAPHICS

Each Sunday, St. Paul's has an average of 100 parishioners worship together. St. Paul's parishioners are composed of a fairly even distribution of ages. Individuals, families with children of all ages, empty nesters, and retirees are all represented in our parish family and serve alongside one another. Many families encompassing multiple generations are also represented at St. Paul's. But whether at St. Paul's for generations or for a few weeks, all are welcomed as family. At top left are some further demographics of our Parishioners obtained from the Holy Cow Consulting Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT Survey) conducted in January 2026.



OUR FUTURE

St. Paul's is embracing this time of transition to move forward with purpose. Below is an outline of what we are working on and the direction we would like to go together with our new Rector:

WHAT WE'RE CURRENTLY WORKING ON

- Strengthening leadership-parish communication and connection
- Deliberate outreach into the community through the chartered Outreach Committee and established partnerships, short term, midterm, and long-term goals
- Welcoming newcomers with a more intentional plan of action
- Re-invigorating Hospital/Home Visitation Team plan
- Reinvigorating coffee hour through regular announcements, gathering, and conversation.
- Lifting one another up with joy, prayer, encouragement, and worship together

WHERE WE WANT TO GO

- Empower Parishioners to become Sunday School Teachers, Bible Study Leaders, help with pastoral visits, etc. through specific training such as EFM or similar programs.
- Become a more welcoming church, particularly to young people and families.
- Become a more intentionally caring church to those struggling with life
- Become a more celebratory church when life is going well, too.
- Connect our gifts more with the needs of the community



OUR FUTURE

- Connect more with one another in meaningful and uplifting ways.
- Continue involvement in and support of the Diocese Curacy Program.

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR IN A RECTOR

- Experience in a Rector and/or leadership role, specifically in leading a parish/organization through a transition of change.
- Strong pastoral care qualities that embody our “love your neighbor” outreach mentality as well as empower others to serve together.
- Commitment to preaching the Gospel and helping the Parish better understand Christ’s teachings and the other books of the Bible.
- Strong strategic leadership qualities, including clear communication, ability to delegate and empower others to use their gifts and work toward our mission, and ability to lead with confidence.
- Commitment to being fully immersed in the lives of the parishioners and with the Meridian community at large.



OUR APPLICATION PROCESS

APPLICANTS

Persons interested in applying to be our next Rector here at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Meridian, Mississippi are invited to submit their materials via email to:

- Stephen Wilson, stephenwilson601@gmail.com, Search Committee Chair; OR
- Canon Gary Meade, gmeade@dioms.org, Canon to the Ordinary.

MATERIALS SHOULD INCLUDE:

- Letter of interest
- Current resume
- Either the most recent OTM Portfolio or Vocation Hub Profile, and
- List of references

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Search Committee is also receiving names of clergy recommended for consideration. Please share the names of any clergy you recommend to Stephen Wilson, stephenwilson601@gmail.com.

