

Welcome to Saint Paul's Episcopal Church

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

415 South 18th Street
Mount Vernon, WA 98274-4658
360.424.1822

Email: stpaulmv@comcast.net
Website: www.stpaulsmv.org

*Land Acknowledgement: We acknowledge that we are on the traditional lands of
the Coast Salish people who have reserve treaty rights to this land, especially the
Skagit Tribe who has stewarded this land throughout the generations. We thank
these caretakers of this land, who have lived, and continue to live, here since time
immemorial.*

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All are welcome in our church community. Whoever you are and wherever you find yourself on your journey in faith, you are welcome here. You are welcome here if you have ever felt excluded or judged because of your gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, race, religion, status, ability, doubts or questions. We are a community committed to racial equity, and we believe in Jesus' commandments to love God and love your neighbor. Matthew 22:37-39

We hope that your worship with us will be both inspirational and spiritually nurturing. Please feel free to participate in the worship service as much or as little as you wish. The worship service bulletin gives directions as to when we stand, sit, or occasionally kneel; these are guidelines. What is more important is that you bring your complete self to worship God.

Sunday Worship Schedule:

8:00 am	Morning Prayer in English (Eucharist on 1 st & 3 rd Sunday of each month)
9:30 am	Holy Eucharist in English with music. (This service is in person, streamed on Zoom and recorded for viewing.)
11:30 am	Santa Eucaristía en Español
11:30 am	5th Sunday of each month – Bilingual service with La Iglesia Episcopal de la Resurrección

What to expect?

- **Parking:** Street parking is available in front of the church on S. 18th Street. There is also a parking lot behind the church, accessible from Kincaid Street. Here you will find designated handicapped parking and easy access to the church. You may also park in the parking spaces on the north side of the church.
- **Dress:** There is no dress code. Dress so that you feel comfortable in the presence of God's community.
- **Name Tags:** Name tags are available for members and visitors to help us all learn each other's names. Greeters will help you make a name tag if you are new and there is a handy storage space in the hall so you will always know where your name tag is.
- **Special Needs:** Our building is handicapped accessible with wide doors and halls. Designated handicapped accessible restrooms are available in the classroom wing. There is also a baby changing station in the women's restroom between the St. Paul's office and the office for La Iglesia Episcopal de Resurrección. The Greeters will be more than happy to help you navigate the building.
- **Coat Closet:** There is a closet near the Greeter table where you may hang your coat or jacket.

- **Children:** Children are welcome at the service. Ask the Greeters for a Children's Activity sheet as you pick up your worship service bulletin at the Greeter table. Crayons and toys are located at the rear of the church near the fireplace where parents and young children may play quietly and still participate in the service.
- **Service:** Episcopal services are liturgical in format and follow the Book of Common Prayer. Worship services take place in the church, online and the 9:30 am service is recorded for later viewing. When the service is ready to begin, the Angels Aloft will sound an opening bell to signal that the service is now being recorded. The entire service is written in the Sunday worship service bulletin. Members of the congregation participate in the readings and prayers from the liturgy and you are invited to stand, sit or kneel as you are able. For additional information on the Episcopal service, click on the "Worship With Us" tab on the Saint Paul's website and watch the "Instructional Eucharist" video. (www.stpaulsmv.org)
- **Audio:** Our audio system is hearing aid enabled and equipped with an oval audio induction loop assistive listening system. Please switch your hearing aid to "T"
- **The Peace:** This is an opportunity to greet others and share the peace of Christ as you are comfortable - with a handshake, a wave, a warm smile or hug.
- **Communion or Holy Eucharist:** All are welcome to receive the bread and wine of Communion at the Lord's Table. You will be served by the priest and a chalice bearer. Gluten free communion wafers are available; just make your preference known at the communion rail. We use real wine in the cup. The chalice will be presented before you but you need not partake. If you do not want to drink from the chalice, simply cross your arms over your chest. Please rest assured that the full spiritual benefit of the sacrament is received when one only partakes of one element.
- **Music:** The choir and the members of the congregation join in singing hymns as indicated in the worship service bulletin. The page number for each hymn is noted in the bulletin and the music and words may be found on the corresponding page of the hymnals available in the pews.
- **Coffee Hour:** Everyone is invited to gather in the Parish Hall after the 9:30 am service for coffee, refreshments and fellowship. Refreshments are provided by members of the congregation and a sign-up sheet is available on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall.
- **Saint Paul's Office Hours:** The office is open 4:30-6:00pm Wednesday and Thursday, and by appointment outside those hours. You may leave a message at 360.424.1822 and the Office Administrator will return your call. If you would like to speak to Father Paul, call 254.368.6475.
- **Communication and Notifications:** If you would like to receive the St. Paul's Weekly Reflection and News, please send a message to stpaulmv@comcast.net and ask to be added to the distribution list. Information includes: The Weekly Reflection, Zoom link for the 9:30 am service, PDF of the Sunday Service Bulletin, PDF of the Children's Ministry Bulletin, PDF of the weekly Prayer List, instructions on how to view the video of the live stream recording of the 9:30 am service, information on giving, and notification of any upcoming special events.
- **Safety Protocol:** Saint Paul's is compliant with Safe Church Training. There is an AED (automated external defibrillator) located in the hall just past the Parish Hall door; orange emergency "To Go Bags" are hanging at each entrance/exit to the church, including the exit near the piano in the sanctuary; fire

extinguishers and instructions for use are strategically located. The Saint Paul's emergency and disaster plan is reviewed periodically.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE, CONNECT AND LEARN

We are doing the work of God in this place. The teams, committees and Guilds of Saint Paul's quietly enrich each of their members, our church congregation and the community.

Following are descriptions of the many ways for you to make friends, grow in faith, serve, and follow this most basic of Christ's teachings:

"Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." Galatians 5:13

Worship Leaders

- **Acolytes:** Acolytes carry the cross, torches and banners in procession, light the altar candles and assist the ordained ministers at the altar. Training is offered as needed. Ages of volunteers range from upper elementary through adult. Contact The Reverend Dennis Taylor for additional information: 360.661.1551.
- **Eucharistic Ministers:** Chalice bearers offer the wine in the chalice during communion at regular services and at special services as needed. Training and licensing are required. Contact Father Paul Moore for additional information: 254.368.6475.
- **Eucharistic Visitors & Pastoral Care:** Eucharistic Visitors take the consecrated elements to members of the congregation who are unable to attend the services in person. Safe Church Training and licensing are required. Contact Mary Ann Taylor for additional information: 360.708.2886.
- **Lectors:** Lectors read the Old and New Testament lessons during regular worship services, and special readings as needed. A strong, articulate voice is the only requirement. Contact Bonnie Schuh for additional information and to sign up: 949.735.9895.
- **Choir:** Choir members "make a joyful noise" unto the Lord, thereby supporting the worship life of the congregation at the 9:30 am service on Sundays and at special services throughout the year. Rehearsals are held at 7:30 pm Thursday evenings, September through May. If you enjoy singing please consider joining us. For additional information, please contact Organist & Music Director David Sloat: 713.834.4335.
- **Worship Committee:** The committee, a collection of worship leaders, serves as a resource for worship and is appointed by the priest. The committee meets monthly, usually on a Sunday, often by Zoom. For additional information contact Father Paul Moore: 254.368.6475.

Lay Assistants for Worship

- **Altar Guild:** The Altar Guild is a volunteer group whose ministry is to care for the altar, vestments, vessels, and altar linens of the parish. Members prepare the Eucharistic meal by setting the altar table with linens, bread, wine, vessels, and caring for the vessels and linens following the service. The volunteers serve in teams, and each team is scheduled for one week each month. Members also prepare for special services such as weddings and funerals. It is a quiet, behind-the-scenes ministry and training is provided. If you would like to join the Altar Guild, please contact Bonnie Schuh: 949.735.9895.
- **Audio Visual Team (Angels Aloft):** These volunteers are responsible for the audio experience of the congregation at the 9:30 am service and for the recording of the audio and visual for members who are unable to attend the service in person. For additional information contact Jen McCabe, "Geek in Charge": 209.251.3220.
- **Greeters:** These outgoing and dedicated individuals are St. Paul's front line in our ministry of welcoming and hospitality. Two Greeters welcome visitors, newcomers, and congregation members as they arrive for each service; provide worship service bulletins for adults and activity sheets for children; pass the offering plates during the service; and straighten up after the service. Volunteers serve on a rotational basis at the 9:30 am Sunday services, and are available for special events. Contact Paul Thompson for additional information: 360.424.1927.
- **Counters:** Two volunteers count the offerings and prepare the bank deposit after the 9:30 am Sunday service. All donations and pledges are confidential. Counters are scheduled to serve once a month and training is provided. For additional information contact Sharon Johnson: 360.848.8606.
- **Flower Volunteers:** If you wish to provide flowers for the worship service, sign up on the sheet on the Parish Hall bulletin board. Flowers are often donated in celebration of special events such as birthdays, anniversaries and blessings. For additional information you may contact Jen McCabe: 209.251.3220.
- **Coffee Hour Volunteers:** St. Paul's has a wonderful tradition of fellowship and hospitality. Coffee Hour provides an important time of fellowship in the life of the congregation, and an opportunity for newcomers to begin to know about St. Paul's and to be known. Coffee Hour volunteers prepare coffee and provide refreshments for worshippers following the 9:30 am service and clean up the kitchen afterwards. A sign-up sheet and "Host Duties" guide are posted on the bulletin board in the Parrish Hall. For additional information, please contact Melissa Dean: 360.622.1008.

Congregational Lay Leaders

- **Vestry:** The Vestry is the 6 member lay governing body of our Church voted in by the congregation, each for a staggered 3 year term. The Senior Warden serves as the chairperson and is appointed by the priest. The Vestry's responsibilities include creating and maintaining policies of the church and its ministry; preparing a yearly budget and the monthly treasurer's reports; and maintaining the church property in good order. The Vestry meets monthly at 4:30 pm, usually on the second Tuesday of each month. Father Paul presides and the meetings are open to all. To have your ideas and concerns added to the agenda for a Vestry meeting, contact Senior Warden Darcy Wells: 360.661.4788.

- **Carolyn's Guild:** Members of Carolyn's Guild care for the organization and orderliness of the kitchen and Parish Hall. In addition to keeping things tidy and stocked, members tend to the laundering of kitchen towels and keep the refrigerator clean and free of outdated items. There are teams of 3 or 4 members serving on a rotating basis. A special emphasis of the Guild is providing hospitality at receptions for weddings, funerals, concerts or any special parish event. A directory of Carolyn's Guild members will be posted in the kitchen. Contact Arlene Zimmerman to join us for a wonderful cause: 360.220.0394.
- **Prayer Team:** Prayer Team members pray daily for parishioners, family and friends who have requested prayers for various concerns. Forms for submitting prayer requests are available in the church office. For additional information on joining this ministry or submitting a prayer request, contact Penny Worrell: 360.202.6619 or penny.worrell@gmail.com.
- **Children's Education:** A worship bulletin for our Children's Ministry participants is available each Sunday. It may be picked up at the Greeter's table or printed from the link in the Weekly Reflection. Crayons are available on the table in the fireside area. For additional information contact Cathey Frederick: 425.358.0544.

Opportunities to Connect and Learn

- **Men's Breakfast:** The men and friends of St. Paul's meet on Zoom at 8:00 am Wednesdays for scripture, conversation and fellowship. For additional information you may contact Tom Worrell: 360.941.1653.
- **EFM (Education for Ministry):** Education for Ministry is a 4 year program designed for laity to provide theological study and reflection rooted in the Old and New Testament Scriptures and traditions of the Church. Through study, prayer, and reflection, EFM groups move toward a new understanding of the fullness of God's kingdom. Contact Tom Worrell for additional information: 360.941.1653.
- **Inquirer's Class:** Inquirer's Class is a basic introduction to the Episcopal way of being Christian. It is taught by Fr. Paul and is scheduled as needed. Speak with him if you are interested: 254.368.6475.
- **Memorial Garden:** Near the west entrance to Saint Paul's is a small memorial garden with a soothing fountain and green hedge creating a sanctuary of sorts. It is also a place where the remains of past members are interred. Although individual markers are not used, each name will be inscribed in the church's permanent records. A memorial plaque is maintained at the church as well as a schematic plan for referral. For additional information contact Don Zimmerman: 360.420.4715.
- **Faith Community Nursing:** Barbara Cheyney, RN and The Rev. Dennis Taylor, RN serve the St. Paul's community as Faith Community Nurses, in the capacity formerly known as Parish Nurse. The focus of the practice is education, referrals, advocacy, and support with the goal of reestablishing a monthly blood pressure clinic at St. Paul's one Sunday each month after the COVID epidemic shut down personal contact necessitating that most work occur through telephone/social media. For additional information contact Barbara Cheyney, RN: 360.404.5151 C =360.853.5383.
- **Book & Bible Study Groups:** Clergy and congregation members periodically host book and/or Bible study groups, usually on Zoom. Study group opportunities are announced in the Weekly Reflection and News and in the worship service bulletins with contact information provided. These gatherings offer an

opportunity for friendship and a deeper understanding of our faith. If you have an inspiration for a Bible study topic or book for review, please contact Father Paul: 254.368.6476

- **Son-Shine Stitchers:** This group is composed of wo/men that enjoy hand work, particularly quilting, needlepoint, crochet, and knitting. Everyone is welcome to participate. Meetings are held in the Fireside Room on the first and third Wednesday afternoon of the month starting at 1 pm. For additional information, contact Margie Lauer (425.248.9336) or Sue Shepherd (425.328.9141).
- **Art in the Narthex:** Have you enjoyed the artwork displayed in the narthex? If you have artwork you would like to share with the parish, please contact Sally Rode (360.708.8996) or Margie Lauer (425.248.9336) to schedule your display.
- **Small Groups:** Small groups of 6-8 people gather monthly to share their spiritual stories, study spiritual books and enjoy one another's fellowship. The purpose of the small groups is to share our spiritual stories. When we tell our own story, we come to know ourselves, and when we hear one another's stories, we come to know the story teller. Stories build community. Spiritual stories build spiritual community. Spiritual community is at the heart of our faith. Small Groups are a great way to find a place to belong without knowing everyone in the congregation. If you are interested in joining a small group to share your spiritual journey and help support others along theirs, please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall.
- **Stewardship Committee:** Stewardship is all we do with all we are and all we have after we say, "I believe." How we manage our lives and our resources in light of our faith is the practice of stewardship. The Stewardship Committee organizes events in the parish that help people live into the fullness of their own stewardship of time, talent and treasure. Contact Father Paul for additional information: 254.368.6475.
- **Seasonal events:** Additional details on these and other events and study opportunities will be announced in the Weekly Reflection and News as well as in the worship service bulletin: Advent Devotional Book; Maundy Thursday Pancake Supper; Lenten Soup and Scripture; Mass on the Grass.

Partners in Education & Ministry

- **La Iglesia de la Resurrección:** About 20 years ago, a local priest began working with local farm workers. Out of her efforts a Spanish-language congregation was born. That congregation was invited to meet in the facilities of St. Paul's. Over the years, a special relationship has developed between the two congregations, where each has a chance to learn from and be enriched by the other. We are like two stars orbiting one another, interdependently sharing heat and light. We meet together in bilingual services about every 5th Sunday and on high feast days like Christmas and during Holy Week. For additional information, visit their website: <http://www.resurreccionepiscopal.org>.
- **Skagit Art Preschool (SAP):** SAP uses the classroom wing and the kitchen at St. Paul's. Their stated mission is to provide art-focused, child-centered learning opportunities that promote social, emotional, cognitive, and physical growth in a developmentally appropriate and nurturing environment. For additional information or to schedule a tour of SAP contact: 360.419.5419 or visit the SAP website: <https://skagitartpreschool.org>.

Outreach Opportunities

Volunteers involved in the ministries described below identify and respond to needs in the local, regional and global community. They keep the congregation informed, organize volunteers for one-time and ongoing activities in response to identified needs, and make recommendations to allocate resources to appropriate organizations.

- **Family Promise of Skagit Valley (FPSV):** Family Promise is a national program for families with children that are experiencing homelessness. The goal is to stabilize families by helping them find employment, repair credit, develop savings, and obtain affordable housing. These goals are accomplished within a local network of Host churches that provide space in their buildings for one week, four times per year, and Support churches that provide volunteers, fellowship, and meals to share the work with congregations who have space to host but not enough volunteers. St. Paul's is a Family Promise Support church for Salem Lutheran Church and is committed to providing volunteers and meals to Host congregations and supporting FPSV fundraising. For further information or to volunteer, contact Sharon Johnson: 360.848.8606.
- **Participants in Healing:** In 2021 Saint Paul's set a goal of tithing its income to outreach. The Participants in Healing Committee was established to facilitate the disbursement of these funds by researching organizations that reflect the values of Matthew 25: 35-36, Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, and The Episcopal Church. The committee, after researching and discussing the organizations, makes a recommendation to the Vestry for the disbursement of designated funds. The committee meets once or twice each quarter via Zoom to discuss and discern which nonprofit organizations to support. For additional information contact The Rev. Dennis Taylor, Deacon: 360.661.1551 or deacon2rn@comcast.net.
- **Underground Ministries: One Parish One Prisoner (OPOP):** Underground Ministries is a prison ministry program which opens new relationships of embrace and trust between incarcerated individuals and the communities to which they return, for mutual transformation and resurrection. By praying, writing letters, making phone calls and prison visits, participants on the OPOP team build relationship and support an incarcerated person in friendship over the course of 1-2 years as they prepare for, and transition out of prison. Monthly OPOP meetings and Learning Modules provide information on the "stones" that will need to be "rolled away" for re-entry into the community. A seven member St. Paul's OPOP team was launched in February 2021 and members continue in relationship with our released friend. For additional information contact Father Paul Moore: 254.368.6475 and visit the website: <https://undergroundministries.org/opop>.
- **Friendship House:** Reflecting the heart of God by feeding, sheltering, clothing and healing those in need, Friendship House provides two clean and sober emergency shelters, one transitional house, one permanent low income shared living house, a daily hot meal service, an innovative employment training program and many other services to members of our community experiencing homelessness. Friendship House also provides management and operation services to the Skagit First Step Center in Burlington. Friendship House staff and volunteers believe that by treating all people with respect and kindness, they can help them transform their lives into ones of self-sufficiency and abundance. Additional information may be found at: www.skagitfriendshiphouse.org.
- **La Iglesia de la Resurrección Summer Camp:** Every Summer our sister congregation hosts a 2-week long Summer Camp for children of field workers in partnership with St. Paul's and four other

congregations in the Diocese. About 100 kids usually attend this event, and it is well known in the community. Additional information on ways to volunteer and be involved will be announced in the Weekly Reflection and the Sunday Worship Bulletin.

- **Facility Rental:** St. Paul's offers opportunities for groups to rent the Sanctuary and Parish Hall for recitals, local orchestral groups and other organizations and activities in the area. Rental request forms may be found in the church office. Contact St. Paul's office for additional information: 360.424.1822.

STAFF INTRODUCTIONS

Meet Father Paul Moore: I have been in ordained ministry for over 30 years, serving churches in bilingual-bicultural contexts. I enjoy the combined ministry of the two congregations here in Mount Vernon. I am assisted by Deacons Dennis Taylor (360.708.2886, deacon2rn@comcast.net) and Vicki Johnson (vicki_johnson66@yahoo.com), and retired priests Vicki Wesen (360.661.1553, vicki.wesen@gmail.com) and Keith Axberg (406.600.1128, kfaxberg@gmail.com). I am assisted at Resurrección by the Rev. Baudelina Paz. My fuller biography is available on the About Us tab on the Saint Paul website: www.stpaulsmv.org.

Meet The Reverend Dennis Taylor (Deacon/Faith Community Nurse): I am what they call a cradle Episcopalian, baptized at eight months of age and confirmed at the age of 10. As I moved into adulthood I enlisted in the US Navy to avoid the draft and became a Corpsman. After my service in the Navy I attended Skagit Valley College and completed nurses training. I worked at Skagit Valley Hospital/Affiliated Health Services/Skagit Regional Health as a paramedic, RN in the Emergency Department and Hospice over the course of 35 years. In the late 1980's I became involved at Saint Paul's and The Rev. Don Smith mentioned the word deacon to me. With much support from the people of Saint Paul's, I went through diaconal formation and was ordained Deacon in July of 2001. I have, so far, served the Skagit Valley cluster of churches, Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church in Oak Harbor and returned to Saint Paul's Episcopal Church/La Iglesia Episcopal de la Resurrección in Mount Vernon as Deacon and Faith Community Nurse. You may contact me at: 360.661.1551, deacon2rn@comcast.net.

Meet The Reverend Vicki Wesen: My favorite T-shirt is a purple one that says, "Never underestimate an old woman who loves gardening!" Third generation St. Paul's, I have lived in Wisconsin and North Carolina. I was ordained in North Carolina and served churches and on Diocesan staff. I returned in 2000 and served on the clergy staff of the Komo Kulshan Cluster of churches of which St. Paul's was a sister church for about 15 years. Retiring in 2012, I have had the privilege to travel to Thailand, Saudi Arabia, and China where my daughter, Marca, her husband, Ashley and their boys have worked with International Schools. My Mom and I built a house together at Big Lake. I steward almost an acre of land, wrestling blackberries and buttercup. I love sharing the lake with others. At St. Paul's I participate in EFM which I highly commend to you. I occasionally lead worship and preach. I also volunteer with NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness). I love hearing your stories and hope you feel welcome among us. (360.661.1553, vicki.wesen@gmail.com).

Meet The Reverend Keith Axberg: I am a retired priest with 33+ years of service. My wife Barb and I retired from Montana, and now live in Mount Vernon. We primarily attend the 8 o'clock service. I rotate preaching and leading worship with other parish clergy when Father Paul is away. I have written a book ([Who the Blazes is Jesus?](#)), and continue to write a bi-weekly column for a Montana weekly which is also posted on my blog: <https://fatherkeithponders.blogspot.com>. (406.600.1128, kfaxberg@gmail.com).

Meet The Reverend Vicki Johnson (Deacon Vicki): I am a cradle Episcopalian who was born in Kansas but spent most of my childhood in Michigan. I graduated with a BS degree in Education from Central Michigan

University. With a major in Special Education I taught for a number of years with the Head Start program and with the junior high Special Education program, before joining the US Navy. I served for six years in the Navy where I received training as an Electronics Technician, working on air navigation equipment for the Navy and Marine Corps. I was ordained a Vocational Deacon in October of 2014. I served as the Deacon in Richland, Washington for seven years as their Pastoral Care Coordinator, overseeing 10 different Pastoral Care programs. While in the Diocese of Spokane I served on the Diocesan Council, Commission on Ministry, Safeguarding Committee, the Bishop's Search Committee and as a delegate to General Convention. My husband and I moved to Anacortes, Washington in the fall of 2021. I am presently serving as a Vocational Deacon between Christ Episcopal Church in Anacortes and Saint Paul's in Mount Vernon. (vicki_johnson66@yahoo.com).

Meet Music Director Professor David Sloat: A photo taken of three-year-old me trying to reach the piano keyboard accurately predicted my future: I began piano lessons *and* playing for church services at the ripe old age of six. Following bachelor's and master's degrees in music performance, I answered the call to music and its instruction through choirs, piano and voice lessons, and academic music courses for more than 30 years at the community college level. Innumerable concerts and eleven years of singing with Houston Grand Opera also kept me busy during that time. I have served several varied denominations in music ministry over nearly 55 years now. Privileged to have lived in four distinctly different regions of this country—my native Indiana, the Missouri Ozarks, Coastal Texas, and now the Pacific Northwest—a treasury of friends truly blesses me from, literally, all over! My husband David Malone and I left his native Houston for the Evergreen State in 2018 following his retirement from 40 years of service to the Houston Symphony as a chaired player in the double bass section. I also love gardening and am an avid deltiologist (postcard collector). If you have a musical gift—large or small, trained or not—and would like to share it, please contact me! (713.834.4335, dsloat617@msn.com).