

Here at St. Paul's Cathedral, we believe in empowering the family to play a vital role in the nurturing and maturing of young people's faith. We are committed to equipping families with tools to faithfully participating in young people's faith development.

To illustrate this, we have identified *ANCHORS* in a young person's life. These are significant events (for example, Baptism and Confirmation) that one can remember and use to stay grounded when storms come.

Throughout the year, we will provide *SAILS* or growth opportunities in faith through continued formation (for example, St. Crispin's summer camp or a youth pilgrimage).

A journey can't exist without a *COMPASS* from which to guide you. These core components of formation remain constant in navigating faith from birth to high school graduation.

The overview you'll find inside is meant to guide your faith journey. We desire to collaborate and participate with you!

Acknowledging that each family is different, our desire is to help our children and youth know God as get about their day. We offer tools to strengthen their relationship with God, their family and their communities.

Without a doubt, there will be trials and challenges, but we are not alone. Let's grow together and learn to love God with all our heart, soul and strength throughout all our days.



**YOUR FAMILY IS  
IMPORTANT HERE.  
WE BELIEVE ALL PEOPLE ARE  
MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE,  
INCLUDING OUR CHILDREN  
AND YOUTH.**

Our mission is to create an environment of collaboration and participation among families and the church for the purpose of nurturing a vibrant and maturing faith for all.

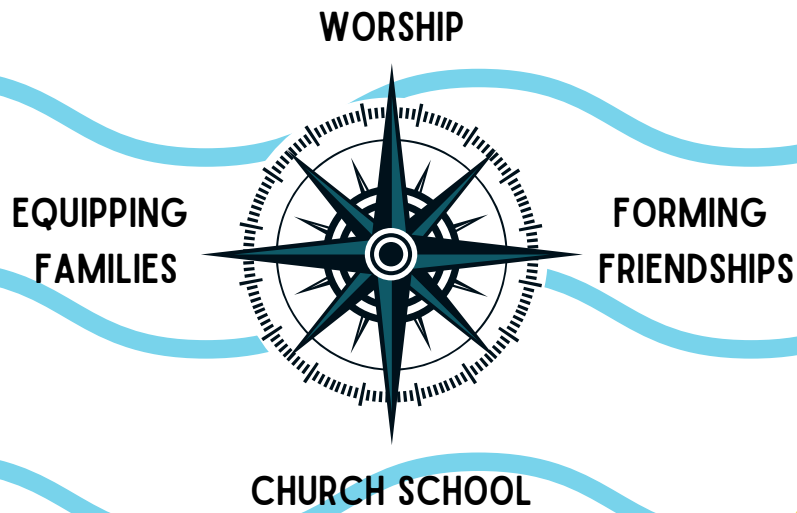


SAINT PAUL'S  
EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL  
stpaulsokc.org  
127 NW 7th St  
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(405) 235-3436

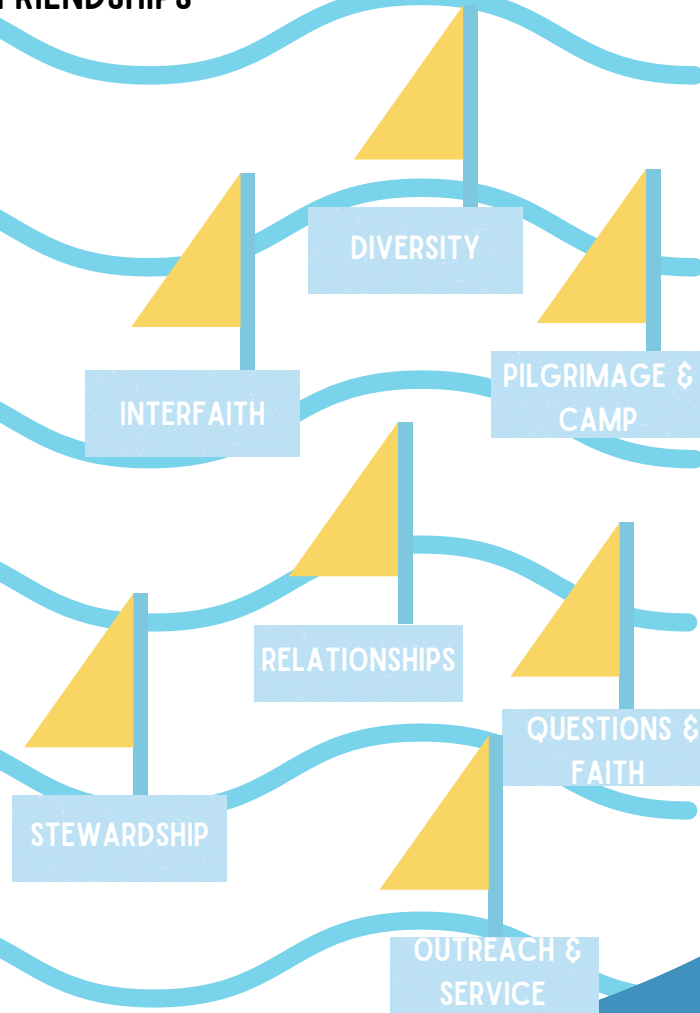


**ST. PAUL'S  
CATHEDRAL  
YOUTH AND  
CHILDREN  
MINISTRIES**





- BAPTISM
- WORSHIP
- CONFIRMATION
- FORMATION



*Baptism* ~ Children of all ages are welcomed into the community of faith through baptism, a sign of God's covenant and promise of grace.

*Worship* ~ We are passionate about engaging children in worship and encouraging them to participate in whatever way they are able.

*Confirmation* ~ Offered for any young person (7th grade of higher). Confirmation classes prepare young people to make a public affirmation of their Baptismal vows.

*Formation* ~ We hope to equip families to support their children's spiritual development. Each church-school group has age-appropriate curriculum to help lead them on their spiritual journeys.

*Diversity* ~ We highlight the diversity of our immediate St. Paul's community, uplifting and appreciating the diversity of God's creation.

*Pilgrimage/St. Crispins* ~ Yearly the diocese of Oklahoma organizes a pilgrimage and summer camp to help deepen understanding of communities unlike our own. These opportunities encourage the children and youth to build relationships with each other and God's greater world.

*Interfaith* ~ In our growing pluralistic world, we hope to expose our young people to principles that will help them: 1) establish their convictions 2) articulate them with charity and 3) respect the dignity of all people.

*Questions & Faith* ~ We aim to be a safe place for young people to ask questions about their faith - and find some answers along the way!

*Relationships* ~ Relationships are the spice of life. Through the year, we tackle tough issues about all areas of relationships.

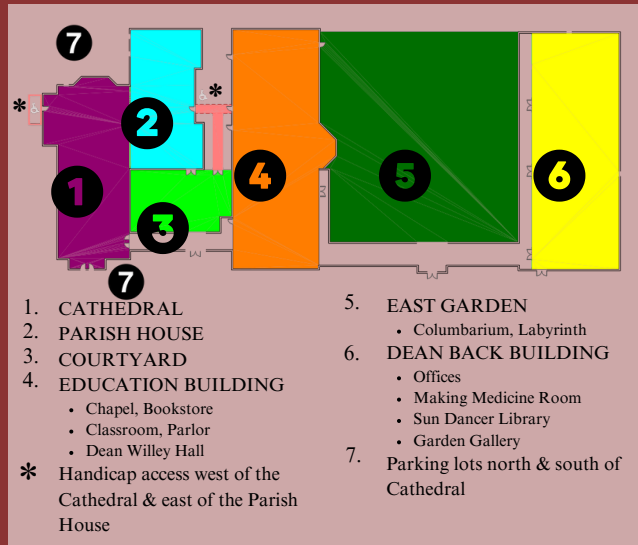
*Stewardship* ~ Stewardship encompasses every aspect of our lives. When we change our focus from "mine" to "God's," we change our outlook on things entrusted to us.

●●●

## WE'RE GLAD YOU FOUND US!

St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral is a vibrant Episcopal church in the heart of downtown Oklahoma City. Deeply rooted in the ministry and teachings of Jesus Christ and the traditions of the Episcopal Church, St. Paul's is the spiritual center of the Diocese of Oklahoma. We are committed to being a place for all who seek and share God's unconditional and abundant love, which calls us to comfort and stand with the vulnerable and each other. St. Paul's Cathedral...

*All are invited. All are welcome!*



# BELONGING



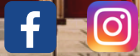
All are welcome, all are invited!

## NEWCOMER GATHERINGS

Several times during the year, we offer informal gatherings, such as Newcomer's Coffee, where you can meet clergy and staff, learn more about our church, and ask any questions you may have. Consider yourself invited to ANY future Newcomers Gatherings. Check the announcements, website, or email [spcopffice@stpaulsokc.org](mailto:spcopffice@stpaulsokc.org) for the latest dates.



St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral  
 127 NW 7th St, Oklahoma City, OK 73102  
 405.235.3436 [stpaulsokc.org](http://stpaulsokc.org)  
[info@stpaulsokc.org](mailto:info@stpaulsokc.org)



## HOW CAN I BELONG?

We offer more than one path toward belonging at St. Paul's Cathedral.

- Share your contact information by completing a guest card located in the church pews and reception area or online.
- Complete a guest card at [www.stpaulsokc.org/welcome](http://www.stpaulsokc.org/welcome) or use this QR code.
- Connect with Clergy or Staff, send an email or make an appointment to meet.



- Participate in the life of the congregation. Attend worship, share in formation and fellowship opportunities, and make offerings of your time, talent, and treasure — entirely at your own pace.
- Seek baptism, confirmation, or reception. Sacramental membership by indicating to a priest your interest in the sacraments.
- Become a member! Meet with Dean Churchwell to talk about a formal commitment to life at St. Paul's.

## HOW DO I CONNECT?

### WORSHIP WITH US

In worship, we gather as a community to hear stories of our faith, to offer prayer, to sing and share the sacraments, and to celebrate God's continuing presence among us.

Saturdays  
• 4:00 p.m. (spoken Rite II) \*~

Sundays  
• 8:00 a.m. (spoken Rite I) \*~  
• 9:00 a.m. (Rite II)\*~  
• 11:15 a.m. (Rite I)\*~  
• Special Services (See Web Calendar or News letter)

Wednesdays  
• 12:10 p.m. (Spoken Rite II)  
• 12:10 p.m. (Fourth Wednesday Rite I)  
• 12:10 p.m. Feast Days

\*Livestreamed on Facebook & YouTube  
~Child Care Provided



### JOIN US FOR FORMATION & OUTREACH

At St. Paul's Cathedral, there are many opportunities to find ministries that utilize your unique gifts! You are invited to take part in as much or as little as you wish.

- Subscribe to the weekly newsletter
- Join a Cathedral Circle (Small Group)
- Join a Guild
- Serve during worship
- Volunteer to serve the community
- Participate in spirituality programs
- Attend Sunday morning formation classes for children, youth, and adults.

**Interested? Talk to one of our staff or look online for more information.**

## CLERGY AND STAFF

We hope you more fully experience the presence of God in your life as you worship with us and continue your spiritual journey at St. Paul's. Our clergy and staff are available to visit and answer questions.



The Very Reverend Katie Churchwell  
Dean  
[deanchurchwell@stpaulsokc.org](mailto:deanchurchwell@stpaulsokc.org)



The Reverend Canon Tim Sean Youmans  
Clergy Canon  
[canontimsean@stpaulsokc.org](mailto:canontimsean@stpaulsokc.org)



The Reverend Marilyn Robertson  
Deacon and Cathedral Nurse  
[deaconrobertson@stpaulsokc.org](mailto:deaconrobertson@stpaulsokc.org)



The Reverend Gerald Butcher  
Deacon  
[deaconbutcher@stpaulsokc.org](mailto:deaconbutcher@stpaulsokc.org)



The Reverend Tracy Anderson  
Deacon  
[deacontracy@stpaulsokc.org](mailto:deacontracy@stpaulsokc.org)



Joseph Ripka  
Canon Precentor - Director of Cathedral Music  
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Ashley Ozan  
Children, Family, & Cathedral Life Minister  
[aosan@stpaulsokc.org](mailto:aosan@stpaulsokc.org)



Page Jackson  
Youth Minister  
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Sarah-Emily Steinhardt  
Communications Minister  
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Debbie Butcher  
Pastoral Care Coordinator  
[Pastoralcare@stpaulsokc.org](mailto:Pastoralcare@stpaulsokc.org)  
405-443-1614

## Criteria by which God evaluates our lives...

Jesus says nothing indicating that being gay or trans is a sin.

**John 8:7** "Let he who is without sin cast the first stone."

Throughout the Bible, God warns against casting judgments upon others.

**Mark 12:30-31** "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

**Matthew 25:34-36** "Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'"

At St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral in OKC, come as you are!

Our community of faith is all about embracing everyone with wide-open hearts. We're a vibrant bunch who loves to welcome folks from all walks of life, including the LGBTQ+ community. We believe without question that you're the beloved of God, and celebrate the unique diversity that makes you who you are.

Get ready to paint the town rainbow with us when we participate in the annual OKC Pride Parade and other community PRIDE events. Whether you need pre-marital counseling, marriage counseling, or want to tie the knot with your same-gender partner, the Cathedral is here to support you. We also offer lay-led groups called Cathedral Circles where you can connect with others who share a common interest, hobby, passion or demographic.

How about a Rainbow Connection Cathedral Circle?

Throughout the year, we host a variety of engaging speakers and special events featuring LGBTQ+ topics or guests of note. We're also always open to ideas for programs or activities that would strengthen and support the LGBTQ+ community - feel free to share a great idea or suggest a topic.

If you ever need someone to talk to, our loving Clergy and Pastoral Care Team are always ready to provide care. So, come on in, and let's worship together!



SAINT PAUL'S  
EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral is a fully affirming and welcoming community to all people.

Should you wish to speak with a clergy member for more support or request pastoral care, call

405-443-1614.

For more information on LGBTQ+ affirming scripture, please scan this QR code or visit:  
[stpaulsokc.org/care](http://stpaulsokc.org/care)



Scan for LGBTQ+ Resources



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127 NW 7th St, Oklahoma City, OK  
73102

405.235.3436 [stpaulsokc.org](http://stpaulsokc.org)  
[info@stpaulsokc.org](mailto:info@stpaulsokc.org)



SAINT PAUL'S  
EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

Celebrating the diversity of God's creation

A short resource for LGBTQ+ Christians

Discover how the Bible actually supports and affirms LGBTQ+ people. You are loved for who you are, not in spite of it.

The Episcopal Church welcomes you!

## Question: What does the Bible Say about being LGBTQ+?

### Answer: That God LOVES LGBTQ+ people!

*The overarching themes of the Christian Bible are that God loves everyone and has reconciled everyone through Jesus Christ; this includes LGBTQ+ individuals.* “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16) “The world” means everyone, including LGBTQ+ people.

*Nothing can separate us from the love of God* (Rom. 8:38) This message is for all people, including LGBTQ+ individuals.

*God did not make a mistake in creating you.* “For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.” (Psalm 139:13-14) Sexual identity and gender identity are components of a person’s personality, and as such are part of who God made each of us to be.

### On Inclusion...

*God welcomes people of all genders and sexual identities.* “There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 3:28) Also “... God has shown me that I should not call anyone impure or unclean.” (Acts 10:28) Jesus gladly socialized with people that the religious establishment disapproved of. (Matt 9:11)

*The Church needs its LGBTQ members.* “The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit.” (1 Corinthians 12:12-13)

*The early church welcomed non-gender-conforming people.* One of the first recorded baptisms by the apostles was of an Ethiopian eunuch. (Acts 8:27)

### On Relationships...

*Love is a gift from God:* “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.” (Galatians 5:22-23)

*God made us to be in relationship with Him and with each other:* “it is bad for man to be alone” (Genesis 2:18) It would be inconsistent with God’s loving nature to create people who were gay and then condemn them to a life of loneliness. Heterosexual marriage is presented as an example (rather than a definition) of how God puts people in relationships; in Genesis 2:24: “That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.” The clause “that is why” points back to 2:18.

*God creates community and families, uniting people together:* “So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.” (Matthew 19:5). God can and does create unions with all types of people, including LGBTQ individuals.

*Celibacy is good if one is called to it, but it is not for everyone* (Mt. 19:11-12); marriage is good, too (“better to be married than to burn with passion,” 1 Cor. 7:9)

### On Gender...

*All people, including LGBTQ individuals, were created in God’s image:* “So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” (Genesis 1:27, NSRV) This also tells us that God is at least two genders. “Male” and “female” are examples of genders, not an all-inclusive list, just as birds are mentioned as an example of animals that fly.

*There are several characters in the Bible who were non-gender-conforming:*

**Jacob** preferred to stay with the women and cook. (Genesis 25)

**Joseph’s** “ornate robe” is described by the same Hebrew word used elsewhere in the Bible to mean a garment worn by princesses. (2 Sam. 13:18)

**Deborah** (Judges 4-5) was a judge of Israel at a time when women were valued only for child bearing.

**Hegai**, the eunuch in charge of the palace women in the story of Esther, helped Esther to become queen.

### Bible verses that have been used to condemn LGBTQ+ people, examined in light of their original context:

*Genesis 19:1-13* The Sodom & Gomorrah story is preceded by examples of Abraham and Lot being very welcoming to strangers. The lack of hospitality and their desire to do violence to the visitors were considered grave transgressions, regardless the gender of the visitors. The reference in **Jude 1:7** to “strange flesh” likely refers to the fact that the angels they wanted to assault were not human. “Now this was the sin of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy.” (Ezek 16:49)

*Leviticus 18:22* The literal translation of the original Hebrew, however, is less clear: “And with male you shall not lie lyings woman.” The word translated as “lyings” is found elsewhere only in *Genesis 49:4*, where it refers to incest. In Leviticus 18, this verse comes in a list of prohibitions against having sex with family members, so it is reasonable to conclude that it is a prohibition against incest.

*Romans 1:26-27* Here, Paul is condemning the sinful and harmful acts he perceives in Roman culture at the time. Since same-gender and non-heterosexual attractions occur naturally, this condemnation is not directed at LGBTQ people. In Rom. 2:1, Paul condemns those who misuse God’s teachings to judge others.

*1 Corinthians 6:9 and 1 Timothy 1:9-11* The original Greek translation indicates that this deals with male prostitution and pedophilia. The word “homosexual” is not found in the Bible in translations written prior to 1946, implying that it was likely added as a result of the translators’ own prejudices.

*Deuteronomy 22:5* The word translated as “clothing” here, *keli*, is translated elsewhere as “armor”, and the word translated as “man”, *geber*, actually means “warrior”. This implies a prohibition against intent to deceive by pretending to disguise oneself.

*Matthew 19:4* In the same chapter, in verse 12, Jesus says, “For there are eunuchs who were born that way, and there are eunuchs who have been made eunuchs by others—and there are those who choose to live like eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven.” It is evident that Jesus was aware that gender variance existed, and he does not condemn it.

- Interested in adult prayer or study groups
  - Adult Church School
  - Centering Prayer
  - Lectio

Want to enroll children in church school  
 Name(s) and Age(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Need a call or visit from the Pastoral Care Team for: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Prayer Request: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Would like to connect with a member of the Clergy?  
 Your Contact Info: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Would like to make a pledge?

Please place in giving plate or hand to staff member

**CHILDREN ARE WELCOME HERE!**

We feel honored to have families and their little ones with us in this sacred space. We know that kids will be kids - they might fidget, ask endless questions, or even shed a tear. But don't worry, we are here to share God's love and extend Christ's hospitality to everyone, no matter their age.

**LEARNING TO WORSHIP**

Let's help our curious children learn about worshiping as a community. Find a seat where your child can see what's happening, and quietly explain the different parts of the service. Remember, kids look up to you as an example, so participate fully! If your little one needs something to keep them busy or a change of scenery, we've got you covered. Grab an activity bag from the Narthex or head to the Chapter Room, where they can find books, toys, and comfy seating.

**CHILDREN'S CHAPEL**

During the hymn before the Gospel Reading at the 9am service, our young friends ages 3 through 8th grade are invited to follow the cross to Children's Chapel. There, they'll have a special service designed just for them and return in time for passing the peace.

**NURSERY**

The nursery is staffed with caretakers and available from 7:30am through the close of the 11:15 service. The Nursery is located in the Education Building.

We believe that worshipping together as a family is a wonderful way to grow in faith, and we are thrilled to have you and your little ones with us. For more information, contact Ashley Ozan, Minister to Children and Families at [aozan@stpaulsokc.org](mailto:aozan@stpaulsokc.org)

**WELCOME**

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*Thank you for worshipping with us today.*



Welcome



St. Paul's Website



Newcomers



Facebook



Instagram

At various points in the service, postures of standing, kneeling or sitting at different parts of the service are suggested but not required.

Two books used in our services are found in the pew racks: the red "Book of Common Prayer" (BCP) and the blue Hymnal.

**For communion:**

- You may choose to receive bread only or both bread and wine. Our tradition tells us that to receive communion in one kind is to receive communion fully.
- You may sip from the chalice or extend your bread to the chalice-bearer who will intinct, or dip, it into the wine and return it to you.
- Gluten-free bread is available upon request.

**You may receive communion:**

- At the altar rail, either kneeling or standing.
- At the standing station by the baptismal font for those who choose not to go to the altar rail.
- In your pew; please notify an usher if that is your preference.

If you wish to refrain from communion, still come forward and receive a blessing. Cross your arms over your chest to indicate you would like a blessing.

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

We want to know more about you. Please provide information about you and your family; check all that apply.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Home Church \_\_\_\_\_

- New to Oklahoma City Area
- Just Visiting
- Would like information about St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral
- Please add my name to the mailing list
- Want to join St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral





*At St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral, our approach to year-round stewardship means every member of our faith community has the opportunity to make a meaningful impact by sharing their time, talent, and treasure with generosity!*

Dear Friends of St. Pauls,

Our annual giving campaign is a crucial part of gathering pledges—financial commitments that enable the Vestry to plan and devise the budget for the coming year. Your pledge is essential, allowing us to effectively plan and implement our ministries, outreach programs, and community services.

This year, we have set an ambitious objective: to achieve a 10% increase in pledged contributions, ensuring sustainable growth that supports our mission while maintaining a balanced budget and building a reserve fund equivalent to three months of operating expenses by the end of the fiscal year.

As you consider your contribution, we invite you to reflect on the vision we hold for St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral. Please continue to hope, dream, and pray for the life of the Cathedral. Think of how we can all share—and have shared—our time, talents, treasure, and spaces. Be open in your conversation with God about the gifts you've been entrusted with and how you might give generously. Together, let us work toward these goals and strengthen our congregation and community.

CAROL GOODWIN  
Stewardship Chair  
St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral

## MAKE A PLEDGE TODAY!

Contact the Cathedral Office to arrange a pledge. Pledge online at [stpaulsokc.org/pledge](http://stpaulsokc.org/pledge) or scan the QR Code below.



### QUESTIONS?

Carol Goodwin, Stewardship Chair  
[carolnoelking@yahoo.com](mailto:carolnoelking@yahoo.com)

The Very Reverend Katie Churchwell, Dean  
[deanchurchwell@stpaulsokc.org](mailto:deanchurchwell@stpaulsokc.org)

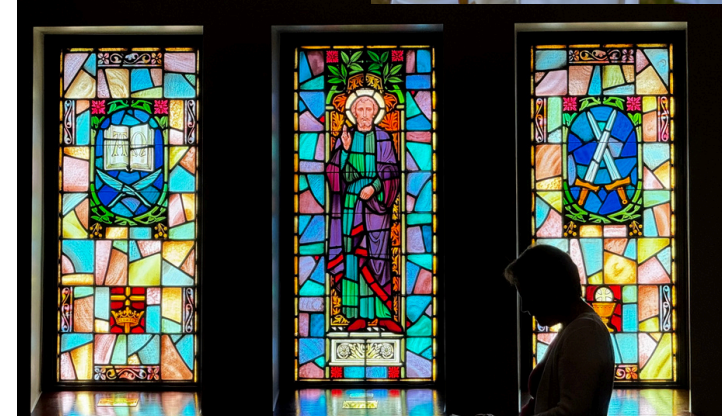
Lauren Bass, Director of Operations  
[lbass@stpaulsokc.org](mailto:lbass@stpaulsokc.org)



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**SP** SAINT PAUL'S  
EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL  
ROOTED IN FAITH,  
REACHING NEW  
HORIZONS!



How could St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral grow and enhance its ministry in the coming year?

Grow & Reinvigorate

- \$60,000 - Make St. Paul's Youth Ministry position full time and fund additional youth programs.
- \$20,000 - Grow St. Paul's commitment to indigenous communities by expanding archives and display of artifacts.
- \$50,000 - Raise awareness of the Cathedral to our closest neighbors through signage and other efforts.

Serve Others

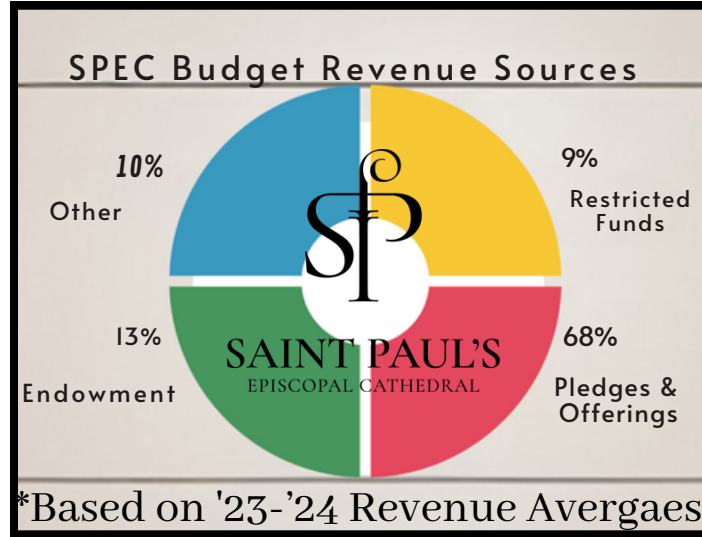
- \$18,000 - Double our commitments to partner outreach organizations that serve our community.
- \$60,000 - Provide open access to campus spaces and enhance safety with on-site security personnel.

Provide for our Future

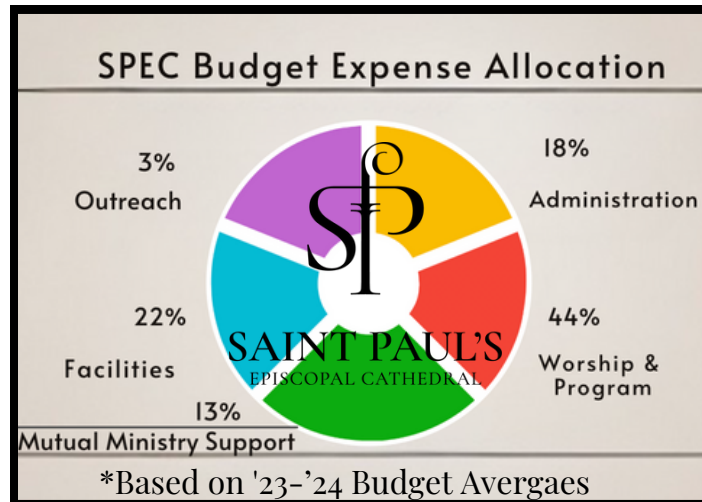
- \$30,000 - Improve our hospitality and welcome within and beyond our walls
- \$100,000- Ensure consistent funding for ordained and lay staff.

*Where is the Spirit leading your dreams for St. Paul's?*

**Revenue and Expenses**



**St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral relies heavily on pledges and offerings, which account for 68% of its revenue, to fund its ministries and community programs. By maintaining a balanced budget and strategic use of endowment funds, the Cathedral ensures financial stability while continuing to grow its mission and outreach**



**WHAT IS A PLEDGE?**

A pledge is a promise to support St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral financially in the coming year. In gratitude for God's blessings, most members at St. Paul's commit to donating a designated amount to the parish budget. Members choose to pay towards that promised amount weekly monthly or on another timeline that feels comfortable to them.

*For more FAQ's about stewardship, visit [stpaulsokc.org/stewardship](http://stpaulsokc.org/stewardship)*

**OUR GOALS**

We are striving to reach 140 new or increased pledged. Any pledge received of any amount will assist in supporting the mission and ministry of St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral.

**HOW TO PLEDGE**

Contact the Cathedral Office to arrange a pledge. Pledge online at [stpaulsokc.org/pledge](http://stpaulsokc.org/pledge) or scan the QR code below.

