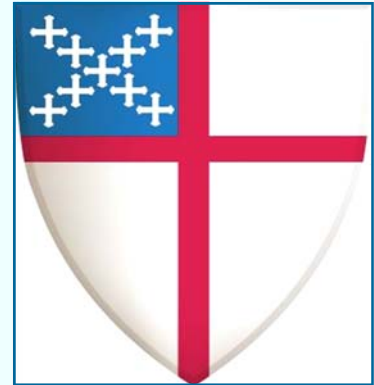


St. Paul's Church in Nantucket



**PARISH
PROFILE
2014-15**

Our Church

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

We have a constellation of stars in our congregation who participate in the many ministries to fulfill our mission. We have an active Altar Guild, Christian education teachers who work with the Sunday School, youth group, and Bible study groups. We have a Pastoral Care team, which includes the Be-frienders who reach out to those in need, knitters for prayer shawls donated to those who are healing, lay readers, and Eucharistic visitors to the homebound. We are proud of our Music program with adult, youth, and hand bell choirs, and our Summer Fair and Christmas Market, both of which have hundreds of volunteers and provide resources to further our ministries. Prayer groups, a weekly Healing service, a Fellowship committee, ushers, readers, programs at the local retirement home -- the opportunities to serve are numerous and well subscribed. We may be far out at sea, but we strive to be a beacon in the darkness and a protection against storms of all kinds.

St. Paul's has the benefit of strong lay leadership and the invaluable contributions of several resident non-stipendiary clergy. We highly value lay preaching and teaching.

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Our Church *(Continued)*

Our practice of welcoming everyone to Christ's table for Eucharist is a symbol of our outreach and our loving commitment to Jesus' teachings. We have confidence in our future, with an updated, beautiful campus, our debt-free finances, and our committed parishioners.

St. Paul's parishioners worship in a stone Richardsonian Romanesque church with a warm, wooden interior, filled with light from the stained glass windows crafted by three famous studios; Tiffany, Willet, and Connick. Downstairs, Gardner Hall is a community meeting place, newly renovated this year after a successful capital campaign. This \$2 million dollar campaign also funded rebuilding the organ, a new heating system, a commercial kitchen, and a handicapped-accessible elevator and entrance which was built to match and blend with the stone of the original church building.

Between the church and a spacious and recently-renovated rectory, there is a Memorial Garden for contemplation, parish gatherings, and the burial of ashes. Behind the rectory is a small cottage which currently houses the caretaker. On the other side of the church is a parking lot, a Parish House with offices, classrooms, a playground, and a meeting room. We lease space in the Parish House to a private school for middle school classrooms during the school year.



Nantucket Island

Today Nantucket has a year-round population of more than 12,000. There are vibrant public and private schools, a hospital affiliated with Massachusetts General Hospital, a wonderful public library, museums, and a flourishing arts and cultural scene. Here, the traditional New England town meeting is alive and well.

Nantucket is only 17 miles long and a few miles wide, but it is an island of contrasts. Seasonal shifts in the population and economy result in two distinct “rhythms” of living. Summer is a crowded, bustling paradise when the population swells to nearly 60,000. In winter we can be an outpost, separated from the mainland by storms. Many beautiful summer compounds overlook the water, and almost half the island is preserved as open space, yet there is a constant need for more affordable housing, and some depend on the Food Pantry to make it through a lean winter.

The island has been ethnically diverse since the days of the whalers. Today, a new international population is settling and raising families on the island. They live and work alongside multigenerational natives and growing numbers of retirees.

Living on Nantucket requires one to be resourceful, resilient, and independent; you can't always get to the mainland even when you must. At the same time, our isolation ensures a strong sense of community and responsibility for one another. In times of need, the Nantucket tradition is to step up and help with a generosity of spirit that defines us and binds us together.





✝ *Our Hope for the Future* ✝

The last six years have been a period of growth and positive change for us. We have retired our mortgage and completed a successful capital campaign that has provided the funds to renovate and upgrade our facilities for the next generations. We have encouraged a more unified and informed parish community by improving communications, and we have strengthened fellowship by combining services in the winter. The summer features a Stendahl lecture series, galas, dinners, and our Fair, all of which are open to the larger community.

We continue to be inspired by the example of Gene McDowell, our beloved former rector and friend. During his six-year ministry, Gene promoted the development of a strong lay leadership that supported our parish through his illness and death. This tradition continues to be a core value for those whose lives he touched so deeply.

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





We hope for:

- ❖ **Youth programs** – finding new ways to inspire the participation of younger people, individuals, and families in our parish life.
- ❖ **Spiritual enrichment** – encouraging more Christ-centered lives as individuals and as a congregation through worship, preaching, teaching, learning, and music.
- ❖ **Education** – teaching everyone that the church today is relevant and has value through shared spirituality and service.
- ❖ **Music** – expanding the musical and choral offerings to enrich our worship, the lives of those who participate, and the community.
- ❖ **Outreach** -- expanding our commitment to the many social, spiritual, and educational needs of the Nantucket community, especially on an inter-faith level.
- ❖ **Communication** – improving communications by using traditional and social media to reach the St. Paul's family and the wider community more effectively.
- ❖ **Collaboration** – building collaboration between clergy and laity to explore new paths in worship and in service to others and ourselves.
- ❖ **Service** – developing innovative programs that use the physical and intellectual assets of St. Paul's.



The Person We Seek

We believe that St. Paul's Church in Nantucket is a welcoming place: a parish anchored on an island but connected to the world. The successful candidate will be diligent in exploring and evaluating whether this is a congenial place for the individual, a family, and/or significant others. For the right candidate, this will be an exceptionally rewarding opportunity.

We seek an experienced parish priest who is creative, flexible, self-assured, and has a good sense of humor. A positive outlook and good communication skills are essential. We welcome someone with entrepreneurial skills and experience to challenge us to find new ways to support our mission.

We are looking for a centrist in theology and worship; a collaborative leader with the energy and enthusiasm to draw upon the many strengths of our congregation. We seek a pastor who will inspire our parish and partner with us on our spiritu-



YOU NEED NOT WALK ON WATER, BUT YOU MUST BE A GOOD SWIMMER.

We seek a pastor who is:

- **Committed** to inviting all to the communion feast.
- **An excellent preacher** to teach the Scriptures, to inspire us spiritually, and to challenge us intellectually.
- **A leader** to direct our efforts, recognize our talents, and empower us for greater things.
- **Experienced** in congregation building and working with youth.
- **A good manager** who can help us plan, organize, and follow-up on parish activities and initiatives.
- **A confident and generous spirit**, who will shepherd our parish with humility, compassion, and joy.
- **Open and curious**, who will consider new ideas and approaches to organizing the life and work of the parish.
- **Creative**, who can help us innovate, develop new programs and bolster existing ones.
- **Adaptable**, who will embrace the joys and challenges of island life.



Facts About St. Paul's		
	2009	2013
1. Total active baptized members	456	509
2. Average Sunday attendance	148	160
3. Easter attendance	290	321
4. Church School students	29	39
5. Signed pledge cards	170	194
6. Amount pledged	\$ 237,200	\$320,500
7. Total operating revenues	\$ 418,300	\$ 482,800
8. Operating expenses	\$ 461,300	\$ 482,800

**If you are qualified and interested in exploring this opportunity,
please send your resume to:**

**Pamela Goddard, Corresponding Secretary
St. Paul's Search Committee
20 Fair Street
Nantucket, MA 02554
Email: pjgoddard13@gmail.com**

Website: www.stpaulschurchnantucket.org

*All submissions are confidential.
Please let us know the best way to contact you.*

