Saint Paul's Church

Gather by the River

The Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

November 15, 2026
Eight o'clock in the Morning

Welcome To Saint Paul's Church

We are glad you are here. No matter who you are, no matter where you come from, and no matter where you are on the journey of life — you are welcome in this church.

We hope you will find Saint Paul's to be a place of refreshment and renewal, where you experience the presence of the risen Christ. We have been serving Christ in this location for over two hundred seventy-five years. The monuments in our church and the graves in our churchyard reflect the conflicts and complexities of our nation's and our city's history. While our building is old and beautiful, our mission is contemporary and forward moving. Here you will find a people very much connected with the questions and struggles of modern life and faith and of following the way of Jesus.

To all our Visitors & Guests

About Worship

If the liturgy (worship) of the Episcopal Church is unfamiliar, then we hope you will find this information helpful.

You are welcome in the Episcopal Church, and so the first and best resource we offer are your neighbors in the pews. Just say, "I'm visiting," and they will gladly help.

The worship of the Episcopal Church is rooted in the practices of ancient Christianity. The structure of our services, the architecture of our building, the music, our physical postures, and participatory responses ALL hold rich meaning about our beliefs and are intentional expressions of our relationship with God.

- In this bulletin you will find:

  Responses spoken by the people are printed in bold italics.
  Directions for the people are printed in italics.

- We encourage families with children to sit at the front of the Nave so that children can easily see and hear the liturgy. We are delighted to offer activity bags for families to help keep little hands busy and engaged during worship services. Feel free to pick one up at the entrance!

- Episcopalians customarily pray either standing or kneeling, so please do what you find most comfortable.

- Notify an usher if you require an assisted listening device or any other assistance.

- Restrooms are located in the parish hall. An usher will direct you.

About Receiving The Holy Communion

ALL who come in faith are invited to receive Holy Communion at Saint Paul's.

- We share communion from three locations: we receive at the altar rail and on the floor below the pulpit (especially for those who need or would prefer to avoid stairs). Or, the ministers can bring bread and wine to you in your pew (please notify an usher).

- At the altar rail, a minister will share bread and another minister will follow with a cup of wine. Those who are drinking from the common cup of wine will eat the bread and then drink from the cup. Those receiving by intinction should hold the bread until the Lay Eucharistic Minister approaches with the wine. The LEM will dip the bread in the wine and then return it. After receiving communion or a blessing, the people exit through the door to the left (as you face the altar).

- To receive a blessing instead of either or both the bread and/or the wine, cross both arms over your chest, with palms on your collar. The church has always taught that Christ is fully present in each element of communion, and so receiving only the bread, for instance, has no effect on the amount of grace enjoyed in the sacrament.

- If your children are in the nursery, you are invited to bring them to receive Holy Communion or a blessing.

- Gluten free bread is available. Please ask the person sharing the bread.

Connect with Us

We invite you to share your contact information on a connect card, located in each pew. Hand it to one of our clergy after church. Please feel free to fill out as much or as little information as you'd like so we can connect with you.

Holy Eucharist: Rite One

The Word of God

Our Service Begins in the Book of Common Prayer *The people are invited to stand.*

The Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People ***And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.***

The Collect for Purity **Page 323**

Kyrie eleison and Gloria **Page 324**

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People ***And with thy spirit.***

Celebrant Let us pray.

Blessed Lord, who hast caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them; that, by patience and comfort of thy holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

The people are invited to sit for the readings.

Old Testament **Zephaniah 1:7,12-18**

Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is at hand; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, “The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm.” Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the Lord , their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their goldwill be able to save them on the day of the Lord 's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People ***Thanks be to God.***

Psalm 90:1-8, 12 *Prayed responsively by whole verse.*

1 Lord, you have been our refuge *
from one generation to another.

2 Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the land and the earth were born, *
from age to age you are God.

3 You turn us back to the dust and say, *
"Go back, O child of earth."

4 For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past *
and like a watch in the night.

5 You sweep us away like a dream; *
we fade away suddenly like the grass.

6 In the morning it is green and flourishes; *
in the evening it is dried up and withered.

7 For we consume away in your displeasure; *
we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.

8 Our iniquities you have set before you, *
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

12 So teach us to number our days *
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

The Epistle **1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People ***Thanks be to God.***

The People are invited to stand.

The Holy Gospel **Matthew 25:14-30**

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People ***Glory be to thee, O Lord.***

Jesus said, "It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People ***Praise be to thee, O Christ.***

The Sermon **The Reverend Eric Biddy**

The Nicene Creed **Page 326**

The Prayers of the People **Page 328**

The Confession and Absolution **page 331**

The People are invited to stand.

The Peace **Page 332**

The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Parish Greetings & Announcements

The Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence

Presentation of the Offering

Celebrant All things come of thee, O Lord.
People ***And of Thine own have we given Thee.***

The Great Thanksgiving Prayer II **Page 340**

The Lord's Prayer **Page 336**

The Breaking of the Bread **Page 337**

Agnus Dei **Page 337**

Prayer of Humble Access **Page 337**

The Communion *All who come in faith are welcome at the Lord's table.*

The Post-Communion Prayer **Page 339**

The Blessing **Page 339**

The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
People ***Thanks be to God.***

The Flowers on the Altar

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Lelia and Hale.

Prayers are Requested

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation; especially Anne Way, Eryn Eubanks, Beth Pate, Ann Pendarvis, Rain Coleman, Sandra Mashburn, Karen Davidson, Betsy Rollins, Kisha Seals, Yvona Myrna, Ann Kilpatrick, Lois Hand, Ricie Eubanks, Dorine Smith, Wayne Matthews, Suzanne Pursley-Crotteau, Samm Fusselle, Katie Delaigle, Susan Keithley, Margaret Lodi, Gary Crotteau, Louis Walker, Greg Maxie, Laura Luther Medved, Mitch Wyatt, Susan Wyatt, David Hawkins, Jim Williams, Pearce Truesdale, Zach Beckham, Shirley Courtney, Jane Silcox, Jeremy Carr, Mark Simon, Rob Verfurth, Jamie Medved, Sonia Bentley, Arion Strothers, Becky Harrod, Ann Parker, Nancy Kotti, Shane Prince, Nancy Kitchens, Herb Upton, Jean Verduce, Diana Davis, Dana Biddy, Chris Dahl, Susan Meloan, Reid James, the Sumerel family, Eric Presley, Simona Perry.

For those serving our country at home and abroad; especially, Kirk Ring, Sam and Lara Powell, Jim Ring, Bennett Ivey, Isaac Mikell, Zach Nevard, Jackson Smith, Brandon Walker, Julianna Lindsey.

For the departed; especially Sandra Allen, Chris Reynolds, Jennifer Sumerel.

2027 Annual Campaign Update

Our 2027 annual pledge campaign has officially ended. Thank you for your gifts and for your faithful conversations during this year's campaign. To date we have received 128 pledges with a total pledged income of $851,104. If you haven't yet submitted a pledge, please don't delay; the Finance Committee will begin work soon on drafting the 2027 budget. Our collective estimates of giving (pledges) allow well-informed budget and ministry decisions. Deliver or mail your pledge card to the parish office or use this QR code to pledge online.

Parish Announcements

9 AM— Please join us for a hot breakfast in Tyler Hall. Then at 9:30 AM for the Sunday Forum in the Berlin Room: Questions of Faith. This Sunday, we will remain with the Ten Commandments, and this week actually discuss the role rules play in Christian ethics, and what gifts we might discover with an alternative focus on virtues.

5:30 -7:30 PM —Primetime at the home of Naila Assad. <u>Please note the change of time.</u> Primetime for parishioners 55+ is an opportunity to gather with old and new friends. Bring an appetizer to share and $10 at the door per person.

It is time to begin preparations for the season of Advent season. The Children's pageant, Sunday, December 20, is sure to bring joy! If you'd like to help with this year's preparation, please contact Aubrey Hinkson (ahinkson@saintpauls.org). Parents, please respond to the survey indicating your child's interest in this year's pageant. A direct link is available in Friday's *Weekly Postings.*

Thanksgiving Eve— Bring your family and friends to the Community Thanksgiving Eve Eucharist, Wednesday, November 25 at 7 PM. The service includes joyous music, featuring the Saint Paul's Choir and lessons and prayers of thanks and praise. The Thanksgiving Eve offering will be given to the DCCM (Downtown Cooperative Church Ministries) Food Bank. Donations may also be made online at saintpauls.org/giving. Choose Special Offering and DCCM.

Join us for our next Senior Lunch, Wednesday, November 18, 12 Noon in Tyler Hall. While gearing to retirees, anyone is welcome. No agenda; just a relaxing social time. Lunch is provided but donations are welcome. Please sign up in the Narthex on Sunday mornings or on our website (A direct link is available in Friday's *Weekly Postings*.) Contact Gene Helmich for more information at ehelmich21@comcast.net.

The Daughters of the King invite you to a spiritual morning of quiet solitude, Saturday, November 21, 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM, beginning in the chapel. Bring "prayer tools" such as your bible, journal, or anything used for meditation. A pot-luck lunch follows in Tyler Hall. Contact Mtr. Kimberly (kdunn@saintpauls.org) for information.

Make a gift—"All that we are and all that we have comes from God. In gratitude, we honor him by giving of ourselves and our gifts to care for his world." Gifts can be made using the QR Code to the right, on-line at saintpauls.org/giving, or by mail to Saint Paul's Church, 605 Reynolds St., Augusta, GA 30901. Thank you for your generosity.

Serving Today

The Reverend Eric Biddy	Preacher, Celebrant
Stan Taylor	Eucharistic Minister
Catherine Stuckey	Altar Guild
Melissa Friedman	Vestry Person of the Day

Sunday Schedule

8:00 - 8:45 AM	**Holy Eucharist** Rite I
9:00 AM - 10:45 AM	**Light Breakfast - Tyler Hall**
9:25 - 10:00 AM	**Children/Youth Choir Rehearsals**
9:30 - 10:30 AM	**Christian Formation for Adults**
10:00 - 10:45 AM	**Christian Formation for Children & Youth**
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	**Holy Eucharist** Rite II
Following the 11:00 AM Service	**Lemonade on the Lawn**
5:00 - 7:00 PM	**EYC (Episcopal Youth Community)** (please see the EYC calendar for dates)
5:30 - 6:15 PM	**Celtic Evening Prayer & Communion with prayers for healing**

Nursery care offered in the Children's Ministry Center (CMC) 9:20 AM - 12:30 PM.
The 11 AM service is broadcast on Facebook and YouTube at Saint Paul's Church-Augusta
and by radio at WGAC 580 AM Radio and 95.1 FM Radio. Listen live on-line at http://wgac.com

Vestry

Linda Hardy, Sr. Warden — Charlie Tudor, Jr. Warden — Will Rice, Treasurer
Bryan Hawkins, Chancellor — Julie Badger, Clerk of the Vestry

Vestry Term Expires 2027	**Vestry Term Expires 2028**	**Vestry Term Expires 2029**
Kathleen Chandler	Jerry Ashmore, III	Will Badger
Patsy Davis	Katherine Ferrara	Summer Bell
Melissa Friedman	Tom Robertson	Martin Schwerzler

Committee Chairs

Altar Guild – Catherine Stuckey
Acolytes – Meg & Donald Horton
Buildings and Grounds – John Robertson
Daughters of the King – Kathleen Fickling
Endowment – Monty Osteen
Eucharistic Visitors – Ellen Nesbitt
Finance – Cameron Nixon
Facebook – Stacy Nuessle & Aubrey Hinkson
Flower Guild – Barbara Register & Laurie Montgomery
Hospitality and Parish Life – Eric Friedman
Interior Design – Julie Badger
Invite, Welcome, Connect – Jackie Pingel & Dianne L'Heureux
Lectors & LEM – Robin Merriman
Linen Guild – Tricia Nixon
Nursery Grandmother's Guild – Coleman Graham
Outreach – Marilyn Grau
Pastoral Care Ministry – Ellen Nesbitt
Stewardship –Linda Hardy and Charlie Tudor
Ushers – Rex Teeslink & Cindy Shafer
W.E.E.M. – The Rev. Kimberly Dunn & Summer Bell

Clergy and Staff

The Reverend Dr. Eric Biddy, Rector	ext. 205	ebiddy@saintpauls.org
The Reverend Kimberly E. Dunn, Assoc. Rector	ext. 204	kdunn@saintpauls.org
The Reverend Dr. William K. Dolen, Assisting Priest		
The Reverend Ted H. Clarkson, Assisting Priest		
The Reverend Dr. Cynthia Taylor, Assisting Priest		
Aubrey Hinkson, Director of Children & Youth Ministries		ahinkson@saintpauls.org
Keith Shafer, Director of Music	ext. 215	kshafer@saintpauls.org
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Elisabeth Price, Parish Administrator	ext. 225	mailbox@saintpauls.org
Norm Nieminen, Parish Accountant	ext. 206	nnieminen@saintpauls.org
Toni Clayton, Assistant for Administrative Projects		tclayton@saintpauls.org
Victoria Hammond and Nikki Wickware, St. Nicholas Choir		
Sarah Pritchard, Music Associate Emerita		
Hillary Bryant, Anthony Ellis, Sherry Wilson; Sextons		
Mark Albertin, Brandon Dawson, Marty Duff, Wright Montgomery; Audio Visual		