St. Paul’s Episcopal Church
Medina, Ohio
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Closing
Welcome to St. Paul’s

We welcome you to explore St. Paul’s Episcopal Church and the opportunities for ministry available in Medina, Ohio.
Our Goals

St. Paul’s aspires to goals for our congregation that include:

• Growing in size and strength while focusing on spiritual development
• Integrating and involving new people in the church and its offerings
• Being more visible in the community and appealing to people of all ages
• Increasing fellowship with programs relevant to its members
Our History

A Brief History of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Medina, OH
1817-2020

Founded in 1817, St. Paul’s Medina was one of the seven parishes started by Reverend Roger Searle, a Connecticut Episcopal missionary. St. Paul’s is the oldest organized congregation in Medina County. A log cabin near Weymouth served as a church, school and meeting place for St. Paul’s and other denominations. In 1820 they worshipped in the county courthouse on Medina’s public square, and in 1836 constructed a white frame Greek Revival building on the present church property. By the late 1880’s, this church was inadequate so the congregation built the present Gothic Revival church in 1884, described as “incomparably the finest Episcopal church in any country town at the time.”
Other building projects included the 1903 parish hall, excavation of the basement for classrooms, and the Canterbury House addition in 1963. The Sacristy and Nave were updated and expanded in 1991, and a Memorial Garden and Columbarium, created in 1999, continue to provide a peaceful place of rest. Finally, in 2012, an extension to the Parish hall with its inviting glass gallery complemented the historic church and brought it into the 21st century. The National Trust recognized the historic and architectural significance of St. Paul’s and added it to the National Register. The church also received state recognition with the installation of an Ohio Historic Marker in 2017, on the occasion of its Bicentennial. The people of St. Paul’s have always appreciated the historical character of its church and property and have supported all efforts to preserve and protect it, while providing for its expanded needs.
Throughout its history, St. Paul’s has been dedicated to services to the community with groups such as AA, preschool and scouts meeting here. St. Nicholas School for special needs children formed here in 1953. We took part in Adopt-a-Family, a short-term safety net for families in crisis. Father Jess Petty founded Los Amigos Episcopales and led a number of missions to El Salvador. One of our young parishioners, Jackie Papesh, served as a missionary to children orphaned by HIV and AIDS in Tanzania. The Red Mass, an ecumenical service honored Blue Coats, safety officers and first responders who disregard their own safety to protect us. After the fall of Laos during the Viet Nam War, we adopted the ten-member Mua family, and helped support them for two years while they became self-sufficient community residents. In the spring of 1988, Free Farmers Market was organized in response to a need for supplemental food distribution to families in our area, which continues today. Members of St. Paul’s historically have extended their faith in and beyond Medina by serving those in need.
Music has been an integral part of St. Paul’s services since their first choir in 1819. Frank O. Hobart was organist from 1919 to 1962. John Buchanan Sr. was a member of the choir for over fifty years. In 1979, St. Paul’s Parish Choir affiliated with the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM). In the fall of 1993, a group of members of St. Paul’s congregation wrote a hymn to mark the 175th anniversary of the church. *Rainbow Christ, Our Hope and Love,* is still sung at St. Paul’s. A restored carillon, dedicated to members who died in World War II, sends music throughout Medina. We offer concerts featuring local musicians and a carols concert at the holidays for the entire community. St. Paul’s promotes worship through the arts in its historic, acoustically fine sanctuary.
The Bicentennial of St. Paul’s in 2017 was acknowledged with a year-long program of commemorative services, programs, projects and activities. Our annual Celtic Festival and Oktoberfest were fun and fruitful. Today, St. Paul’s remains an active part of the Summit Mission Area of the Diocese of Ohio and looks to a future of worship, fellowship, and service to the community.
We have been blessed with a number of extremely gifted Rectors. The most recent Rectors included Rev. James Miner II, who came to us in April 1975, after the Interim service of Rev. Bill Ellis, who was placed after the tragic death of Fr. Thomas Ashton and his wife in an automobile accident. Rev. Miner and his wife Elizabeth “Betsy” and two sons, were involved with bringing a Laotian family to be sponsored by the Parish, the Mua’s and their four children, arrived in 1976. Fr. Miner and family were at St. Paul’s until September 1980, when Fr. Miner left to be the Executive Assistant to Bishop John H. Burt. In April of 1981, Fr. Jess Petty, longtime favorite and “standard” by which many following Rectors were compared, became our next Rector accompanied by his wife Gillian and their four children. His service was highlighted by several improvement projects as well as involvement with Los Amigos Episcopales, supporting Episcopal schools and preschools in the Dioceses of El Salvador, where he had been a priest, and also Panama, where he had been Dean of the cathedral in Panama City. Upon his departure in 1994, The Rev. Vickie Houck served as Interim, preparing the Parish for the arrival of Rev. J. Stephen Bergmann and his wife Nancy in 1995. Fr. Bergmann oversaw several major repairs and Nancy was actively involved, especially in the choir.
Also, through a special Bishops program funded through the Diocese, the Rev. Susan Russell was employed and assisted Fr. Bergmann, preparing for her movement to All Saints Parma, OH, in 2000. Stephen left in 2002 and after the Interim service of Rev. T. Conrad Selnick, St. Paul’s welcomed Rev. Dr. C. Eric Funston and wife Evie, in June 2003. Rev. Funston oversaw several renovations and improvements to the property and building as well as accenting religious education for children and adults and his interest in Ireland and Celtic culture. During his tenure we invited Jennifer Leider to our ministerial staff on invitation to host her by a grant from Bishop Mark Hollingsworth’s office and the parish. She was ordained to the priesthood at St. Paul’s in 2010. Also, longtime Honorary Associate Rector Roger Tiffany served at St. Paul’s after his retirement in 1990, with his wife Persis, and attends today.
In 2018, Eric and Evie left St. Paul’s upon his retirement. Since Fr. Eric’s retirement in 2018, St. Paul’s welcomed Rev. Beth Frank as Interim. She has served the parish well and has succeeded with the challenge of the Covid-19 pandemic, and all the changes that have accompanied this very unusual and unprecedented time. She is laying the groundwork to prepare the Parish for our next Full-Time Rector.
The present Vestry commissioned twelve persons for the Search Committee, December 17, 2018. Consisting of six men and six women, it provides a good cross-section of both young and old, relatively new and long-term members, and participation by members in a number of organizations and functions at St. Paul’s. Assisted by our Consultant, the Rev’d Dr. Daniel Grossoehme, we look forward to a thoughtful and determined process, and adding to the distinguished roles of St. Paul’s past Rectors.
St. Paul’s Medina is a committed group of members who hold faith and tradition close to their hearts. The commitment our congregation has to community involvement can be seen in our depth of participation in our outreach to others, as described elsewhere in this document, as well as to our church. For example, although the number of pledges this past year declined by 15, the average amount per pledge increased by 3.6%, truly demonstrating a show of strong faith.
Membership
(From the Annual Parochial Report)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baptisms</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirmations</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marriages</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burials</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avg Sunday Attendance</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communicants in Good Standing</td>
<td>460</td>
<td>498</td>
<td>496</td>
<td>501</td>
<td>183*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*As part of the transition and rector search process a deep-dive and review of parish records indicated that there were numerous former members still on the books that no longer were considered communicants in good standing for various reasons. The number stated in the 2019 Parochial Report reflects a more accurate value for this marker.
All the services at St. Paul’s, Medina are fairly “middle of the road” with regard to "high church / low church." The services are Rite II with the integration of alternative Prayers of the People such as Book of Common Prayer, New Zealand Book of Common Prayer, Adaptations from "Feasting on the Word Worship“, and Susan Bock’s "Liturgy for the Whole Church: Multigenerational Resources for Worship". We have a very traditional 8 o’clock eucharist service without music. Our 10 o’clock eucharist includes music from the organ, choir, and congregation, with occasional local guest musicians. Our weekly Sunday services include gathering for breakfast following the 8 o’clock service and coffee hour in our parish hall following the 10am service with volunteers providing refreshments.

In addition, a lay-led Tuesday prayer group is held, as well as an informal 6 o’clock Tuesday evening eucharist. Since the beginning of the pandemic, a Zoom Compline service is offered Monday through Saturday evenings attended by 10-20 participants. Currently, there is a Zoom Morning Prayer Service at 10 am Sundays, attended by 40-60 parishioners with both adult and youth prayer leaders.
Worship continued…

The search for a new Rector has identified many needs for future consideration and planning. The congregational meetings have helped to identify some of the things we want to do. We have an interest to introduce more modern elements into some of our 10 o’clock Sunday services such as applying technology in the service to help keep people engaged, more energetic and upbeat music, more youth-inclusive sermons, and including youth as direct participants in the service. This participation could include ushering, greeting, reading, and delivering an appropriate reflection. This complements our youth group being active within our parish, community, diocese and national church.
Our Finances

St. Paul's runs a low-key annual Stewardship drive. The people of the parish are asked by letter to pledge financial support. They are asked as well to offer their talent to a church service or activity of interest to them. Personal follow-up calls are made by the Vestry to congregants who have previously pledged but have not returned a pledge for the current year asking for their financial support.

Over the past five years the number of communicants has been relatively constant at 185± and the number of pledging units has seen a slight drop, fluctuating between a high of 98 and a low of 82. In the same period of time operating income decreased by 7% while operating expense decreased by 13%. About 5% of revenue has been dedicated to Outreach and about 13% of operating revenue has been provided for Diocesan support. Parishioners have supported an extensive addition to the church within the last 10 years.
A Snapshot of the Church Income (Actual)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
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<tr>
<td>General Fund</td>
<td>266,786</td>
<td>269,191</td>
<td>274,958</td>
<td>267,637</td>
<td>246,287</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Contributions</td>
<td>12,852</td>
<td>10,522</td>
<td>8,666</td>
<td>7,230</td>
<td>6,968</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>14,628</td>
<td>9,371</td>
<td>22,189</td>
<td>23,098</td>
<td>20,312</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants Received</td>
<td>3,033</td>
<td>3,500</td>
<td>3,500</td>
<td>5,420</td>
<td>4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME</strong></td>
<td><strong>297,299</strong></td>
<td><strong>292,584</strong></td>
<td><strong>309,313</strong></td>
<td><strong>303,385</strong></td>
<td><strong>277,766</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Payroll Expense</td>
<td>156,256</td>
<td>161,808</td>
<td>164,730</td>
<td>160,757</td>
<td>119,064</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programs/Outreach</td>
<td>70,938</td>
<td>69,093</td>
<td>74,702</td>
<td>65,686</td>
<td>67,025</td>
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<tr>
<td>Church Operations/ Office Expenses</td>
<td>12,412</td>
<td>11,214</td>
<td>13,239</td>
<td>14,656</td>
<td>10,705</td>
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<tr>
<td>Church Operations/ Plant Operations</td>
<td>40,283</td>
<td>45,843</td>
<td>41,419</td>
<td>46,092</td>
<td>48,586</td>
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<tr>
<td>Debt Service</td>
<td>25,992</td>
<td>24,481</td>
<td>23,504</td>
<td>22,283</td>
<td>21,937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property Management</td>
<td>336</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>398</td>
<td>473</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td>306,218</td>
<td>312,542</td>
<td>317,672</td>
<td>309,872</td>
<td>267,828</td>
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</table>
Actual 2019 income was lower than projected because several large contributors moved away and our priest retired at the end of 2018. Actual expense was also lower due to some cost reductions and, of course, we lost our rector. Looking ahead, we have less projected in pledges but expect to see more of the difference made up later. The 2020 budget is a conservative one — particularly with regard to income — and we believe we will have a substantially smaller deficit due in part to receiving almost $20K from the SBA PPP Loan program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Transfers</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
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<tr>
<td>Actual Transfers</td>
<td>2,993</td>
<td>16,233</td>
<td>9,336</td>
<td>9,022</td>
<td>(801)</td>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Excess Inc/Exp</td>
<td>(5,927)</td>
<td>(3,724)</td>
<td>978</td>
<td>2,536</td>
<td>9,138</td>
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</table>
St. Paul's has an endowment fund of $127,500 comprised of several memorial funds which are invested with the Diocesan trust. By vestry action, these funds were pooled, and the interest generated was committed to the Operating Reserve Account.

St. Paul's has a mortgage of $356,000 which is for five years with a ten-year amortization. It was renewed in March of 2019. We anticipate a new capital campaign to cover this balance plus several major capital expenditures for the building in the near future (boilers, roof, sewers, etc.).
Many years ago, after careful consideration, the vestry decided that the sensible course would be to maintain the relatively small endowment and pay current debt from current funds. In general, the church is financially healthy due to the prudence and foresight of the parish leadership, past and present, and the generosity of the parishioners.
Outreach at St. Paul's Episcopal Church is an important part of our ministry in Medina, Ohio and the surrounding area. Among our outreach activities is providing funds and supplies to various community organizations, such as the Battered Women's Shelter. We welcome groups, such as Women's AA and the Medina Diversity Project to use our facilities for their meetings. We have offered a monthly Free Farmers Market for those in need for more than 25 years.

Our musical outreach activities include monthly Brown Bag concerts where artists and musicians throughout NE Ohio present an hourly free will donation concert to church and community members. In November during Medina's Candlelight Walk, the choir offers a program of carols by candlelight to the public.
Another outreach activity has been a December St. Nicholas Tea, enjoyed by many in the public for more than 30 years. Other community-wide programs have included St. Patrick's Last Gasp event which focuses on Irish music, dancing by the Cannon Irish Dancers, and corned beef dinners. Another large event offered to the wider community is Oktoberfest. This is an 8-hour festival held outdoors on the church grounds and features German food and music for all ages, held in conjunction with Cleveland's Hofbrauhaus.

These outreach activities and others demonstrate the dedication of St. Paul's parishioners and their time, talents and treasure to the greater Medina communities.
Our Ministries: Education

Our education program focuses on the young people. Their program is healthy and vigorous due to a well-loved and dedicated Youth Education director.

The Sunday School program, "Godly Play" is Pre-K through grade five during the school year. VBS has been available for summer. On Christmas Eve the children perform a pageant. Quarterly, there is a Youth Sunday with children reading and ushering.
The teenagers' Youth Group meets weekly for lessons during the school year. Several "Lock-Ins" are hosted yearly; one in particular at Lent where the teens learn the Stations of the Cross and bake bread to be used as the Host for the Sunday service. A "Lock-out" promoting homeless awareness is popular with the teens. Area youth groups are invited and participate in this as well as other events.

The Youth Group is involved in EYE and every three years in the Happening Spiritual Retreat. Each summer the Youth Group participates in a Mission Trip which includes other youth groups. This activity is partially funded by a Youth led car wash, a pancake breakfast and a Cinco de Mayo dinner.

Our adult program is in need of development. A dedicated group of women have met one morning every week for communion and a book discussion. The weekly homily would be considered a significant part of adult education. Additionally, an adult book study is currently offered via Zoom.
Our Ministries: Hospitality/Fellowship

A group of ladies, affectionately known as the “Dirge Sisters”, provide a meal following funeral services. Our men meet weekly at a local restaurant for breakfast fellowship. The Honorable Scotch and Poker group meets monthly, as well as a women’s dinner night which provide important social activities for all involved. We have previously held activities like Foyer Dinner Groups, monthly gatherings or outings, 2nd Sunday Breakfasts, Young Couples’ Group, and Spiritual Study. In the past, we held ten annual Gentlemen’s Cake Auctions that successfully raised over $20,000 for a variety of programs and local charities.
In November of 2015, ten members of St. Paul’s formed a committee to recommend to the Vestry a schedule of celebrations in 2017 for St. Paul’s Bicentennial. It was decided that a monthly schedule of “Bicentennial Events” would acknowledge not only the first organized service, and the building in a single day of a small log cabin near Medina Center, but also a community outreach opportunity, opening our building in a series of celebratory events.

Highlights included a Choral Evensong and Candlelight Reception; Church Tours during Medina’s Annual Ice Festival; the fifth Annual St. Patrick’s Last Gasp Irish Festival; placement of a State Historical Marker attended by community leaders and dignitaries followed the next day by a Bicentennial Anniversary worship service; the update of the Parish History adding to the previous history from 1967 onwards; a very successful Legacy Dinner which included past Rectors and families celebrating with us; origination of our now annual Oktoberfest; a service of Lessons and Carols and finally a Bicentennial Edition of our Annual St. Nicholas Tea. All of these events accented our Bicentennial, but also assisted in the building of community in the Parish and in the greater Medina area.
We seek a rector who will guide us. We look for someone who will lead us in taking spiritual and pastoral care of our members. We look for someone to guide us spiritually and help us expand our membership to embrace both our community and attract young families.

Key words describing gifts and skills for the leadership of our new rector are: good interpersonal skills, enthusiasm, ability to delegate, creativity, and inspirational preaching.
Medina, Ohio is an incredibly special place to live, work and visit. This is a place with a mix of modern amenities with an old-fashioned, small town atmosphere. Our many annual events and activities, the unique entertainment venues, and the variety of dining opportunities draw tourists from near and far. Many center around the town’s unique central park and gazebo within two blocks of St. Paul’s.
We have excellent schools, year-round parks, recreational activities, and world-recognized health facilities. The Medina Community Recreation Center offers a safe and fun environment that every family can enjoy. There are 14 city parks throughout the town, and multiple sports facilities.

Medina continues to experience growth in manufacturing, retail, and service sectors with equally strong employment opportunities. The greater Medina area has multiple business districts centered around the downtown historical district. Each has its own personality and offers great shopping and dining experiences.
Schools: https://www.medinabees.org
Rec. Center: http://www.medinaoh.org/medina-rec
Parks: http://www.medinaoh.org/city-hall/parks
Chamber of Commerce: https://medinachamber.com
Medina’s Candle History: http://rootcandles.com/company-history
Thank you for taking the time to explore St. Paul’s home. This is an exciting time for our church. We love our Church family and welcome you to consider becoming a part of it. If after reading our profile, you would like to apply for the rector position at St. Paul’s, please contact the Rev. Canon Percy Grant at pgrant@dohio.org.