

INTRODUCTION TO ST. PAUL'S, PORT TOWNSEND PARISH PROFILE  
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**ST. PAUL'S PARISH PROFILE**



## **Search for a New Rector St. Paul's Parish Profile December, 2012**



**Saints of St. Paul's on Pentecost Sunday**

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# Who We Are as a Parish



Outdoor services in the Courtyard of All Souls

## **The Saints of St. Paul's**

The Saints of St. Paul's are as varied as our lush Olympic Peninsula landscape. We are inclusive and open to change. Like any healthy ecosystem, we thrive on both stability *and* diversity; old growth *and* new variety. Our liturgies and services range from Rite One to experimental forms. Our Prayers of the People spring from the BCP and they are also written by us.

Our parishioners take leadership roles and offer their talents in all aspects of parish life, from planning and offering worship – licensed lay preachers, altar guild members, ecumenical ministers, and lectors—to maintaining and enhancing church property, visiting shut-ins with the Eucharist, and reaching out to the community. We value our “together journey” while, at the same time, treasure individuality and freedom.

Our congregation includes retirees, (including Episcopal priests and clergy of several denominations) as well as young families with children; homeless itinerants as well as prominent community leaders. Artists and musicians, business men and women; gays and lesbians, and those who come from other faith traditions. Keepers of the Episcopal tradition worship next to those who are new to the Eucharist itself. Our 8 o'clock service is more meditative and honors Rite One liturgy while the 10 o'clock service attracts those who are more outwardly expressive in their worship. A healing service with Eucharist is held each Wednesday morning, and a “Third Liturgy” service twice a month on Sunday evenings. We cherish all of these. We combine theological openness with liturgical and spiritual practice such as prayer groups, after-sermon reflections, inquiry sessions, and Scripture-based church school. We welcome everyone to our Communion Table. No exceptions.

Questions are welcome here. The teaching of Scripture is in keeping with church tradition, while ambiguous passages are examined with reason. The mystery of our faith may be expressed through music, poetry, and theater. We are united by common prayer rather than strict theology.

St. Paul's is also committed to justice and the stewardship of our planet. Recently a group from St. Paul's visited a Palestinian parish in Jerusalem and, in turn, welcomed the Palestinians for a visit to St. Paul's. We provide space for the Bet Shira Jewish gatherings, and we enjoy an excellent relationship with Port Townsend community. Our Greening Task Force works to educate the parish and maintain our commitment to a healthy environment. We play a critical role in the local Food Bank, and Port Townsend Emergency Shelter relies on our annual volunteer efforts. We donate to the county animal shelter. St. Paul's weekly "Just Soup" offers a white-table-cloth meal, including donations of clothing and supplies, to anyone in the larger community who wishes to join us in breaking (homemade) bread. Soup ingredients are often harvested from our own vegetable garden.



Cabbages in St. Paul's Community Garden

Finally, we love to laugh. We are fun-loving and affectionate. The huggers are at home with those who prefer a friendly nod during the Peace. There is a place for the meditative and the boisterous. Our animals have been known to worship with us. We love parties and celebrations, ritual and dance. From memorial services to baptisms; from the annual St. Francis Blessing of the Animals to Easter sacraments. We consider all such gatherings an embodiment of God's word through Christ. We are always looking for our Creator's face—here. And now.

## Roots and Blooms – The Parish Story

Founded in 1860, St. Paul's is the third oldest Episcopal congregation in the state of Washington, with the oldest Episcopal church building in western Washington. After an early start as a self-supporting parish, St. Paul's fell to mission status during the town's financial crash of the early 1890's. It wasn't until 1994 that St. Paul's regained parish status. Since then, the parish has carried forward the tradition of strong lay leadership that kept the community going through bad times and good.



### St. Paul's Episcopal Church

The church building was built in 1862 and moved to its current location in 1882.

On the left is the former vicarage, which now holds offices and meeting rooms.

The Parish Hall stands between the buildings, behind a garden courtyard with a labyrinth.

In the late 1990's St. Paul's embarked on a capital campaign and built a new Parish Hall with a full service kitchen. Fenn House, the former vicarage, was re-configured and joined to the new building as offices and meeting rooms. The parish continued in improvements to the campus, adding the Columbarium in 2000, and completing a paved garden courtyard with inlaid labyrinth in 2004.



St. Paul's "Courtyard of All Souls" was largely built by parish volunteers.

During the early 2000's, St. Paul's fell into internal political discord when serious disagreements arose between the vestry and the rector, culminating in the rector's resignation. After an interim period dedicated to reconciliation within the parish, the Reverend Elizabeth Bloch was called as new rector in 2006. She will be retiring in June of 2013.

As an affirmation of our music program, in 2008-9 St. Paul's paid for advanced organ lessons for our Music Director, Jenny Pipia. She studied with Thomas Joyce, assistant organist and children's choir director at St. Mark's Cathedral, Seattle.

In 2009, the parish made a commitment to our future by adding a part-time paid position of Director of Youth Ministries. Today we offer Montessori-style church school, VBS, and children's participation in Christmas Eve and Easter Vigil services. We typically have 3-7 children in Sunday school. Over the course of the church year, over 100 children will attend events at St. Paul's.

Also in 2009, long-time parishioner Karen Pierce was ordained as deacon of the Episcopal Church. Assigned to St. Paul's by Bishop Rickel, Reverend Pierce upholds the deacon's role at worship services and in parish ministry to the world outside our doors.



In 2011, the parish purchased property adjacent to the church that had been the residence of parishioners Dale and Florence Judy. After needed repairs and improvements, the Judy house now serves as home for a variety of parish needs and outreach ministries, including Sunday School and Vacation Bible School, "Sacred Saturday" programs in spiritual formation, A.A. meetings, and much-needed storage.

A new altar designed to harmonize with the church architecture and stand closer to the congregation was donated and dedicated in 2012.

The parish's historic altar, located behind the rail in the small sanctuary, serves at the 8:00 AM Sunday service.

The new altar, shown here in the chancel between the choir and the organ, serves at 10:00 AM.

In August 2012, St. Paul's held its first ordination service when the ordination of William Tarter in the Roman Catholic Church was received in the Episcopal Church in a celebration that began in the labyrinth, concluded in the church building, and was followed by a gala in the Parish Hall.

In recent years, our Parish Hall has proven integral to St. Paul's mission to reach out to our neighbors:

- ◆ On Wednesdays, everyone is welcome at **Just Soup**, a no-cost lunch of soup and bread prepared and served by parish volunteers in the Parish Hall. Currently in its third year of operation, Just Soup has served thousands of bowls of soup in a family atmosphere, offering nourishment for body and soul to anyone who walks through our doors.
- ◆ St. Paul's opens its **certified commercial kitchen** to volunteers and nonprofits who prepare meals that are served elsewhere, such as for the local winter Emergency Shelter, and for the weekly meal of soup and bread served at the Boiler Room, a youth-run coffee shop and gathering place in downtown Port Townsend.
- ◆ **Bet Shira**, an inclusive Jewish community, offers their worship services, weekly religious school for children, pot luck dinners, and other community events in St. Paul's Parish Hall.
- ◆ On the second Saturday of each month, St. Paul's hosts a **potluck dinner for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered (GLBT)** parishioners, friends, family, and others. Everyone is welcome at this community meal.
- ◆ Twice a month, St. Paul's offers a **Third Liturgy** service on Sunday evenings in the Parish Hall, an informal service that features periods of silent contemplation, as well as shared discussion during the sermon time.
- ◆ A trial run of a new Thursday Compline service began in November 2012.



Sign on St. Paul's Parish Hall

St. Paul's congregation is accustomed to hearing a variety of voices during worship, both from the pulpit and in prayer. During her tenure as rector, the Reverend Bloch instituted a course of study and training for lay persons who feel called to preach. As a result, our rector is supported in worship duties not only by the deacon, but also by licensed lay preachers within the parish as well as retired clergy who have made St. Paul's their worship community. In addition, the deacon maintains a rota of parish liturgists who write original Prayers of the People for use on High Holy days and occasional other Sundays.

## Attendance and Finance

Combined attendance for our two Sunday morning services averages 80-100 persons. The parish budget for 2012 came to about \$257,000, with 89 pledging units. In addition to the Rector, St. Paul's has three part-time paid staff positions: Office Manager, Music Director, and Director of Youth Services. The Deacon is an unpaid staff position.

Thanks to generous donations and pledges, the parish made a substantial down payment on the Judy Property at the time of purchase, securing the remainder through a loan from the diocese. The loan's current balance of about \$138,000 is being paid off in monthly installments. A balloon payment due in May, 2016 will retire the loan.

Historically, we have been a parish that just squeaks by in its finances. Though this characteristic remains true today, we manage to do a lot with meager amounts. Volunteer "Lay Weeders" tend our gardens, the buildings are maintained by a volunteer work crew, and we stretch our time and money to reach out into the community.

For example, about five years ago the vestry pledged to devote a percentage of the parish operating budget to Outreach, with the goal of increasing that pledge over time to a tithe. Unfortunately, financial realities meant that for 2012, the parish operating budget contributed no money (0%) to Outreach. And yet, thanks to fund-raising efforts by ECW (Episcopal Church Women) and other individuals, the parish was able to maintain its annual contributions to a variety of local causes, as well as scholarships to Camp Houston for parish children.

## The Diocese of Olympia

St. Paul's is part of the [Diocese of Olympia](#) in which nearly 400 clergy reside. Known as the Episcopal Church in Western Washington, the Diocese of Olympia consists of over 31,000 people in more than 100 churches. In 2007, [Bishop Greg Rickel](#) was elected the eighth bishop of the Diocese of Olympia and installed at St. Mark's Cathedral in Seattle.

In the Diocese of Olympia, we are [building strong communities of faith](#). We are striving to be good [stewards of all our resources](#): our time, our talents, our treasures and our Earth. We are deepening our [relationships with people under 35](#), and with others: in the Holy Land, Latin America and all around the world.



## Hopes and Dreams

An all-parish meeting was held on November 28, 2012, with about 45 parishioners in attendance. In a survey distributed at that meeting, people listed key words that they hoped would describe St. Paul's five years from now. From those surveys and the discussion at the meeting, these primary hopes emerged to describe St. Paul's in five years' time:

- ◆ **A united parish.** We yearn for a parish in which all the worshipers of our various services and styles are united in community and each feels valued as a community member.
- ◆ **A solvent parish.** A priority at St. Paul's is to be in a place of financial stability, without having to continually douse fiscal fires.
- ◆ **A younger parish.** We dream of a parish home for more babies, children, teenagers, and young families who are actively engaged in St. Paul's worship and community life.

## Looking Ahead – Parish Goals\*

In 2012, St. Paul's Vestry established the following five-year goals.

- ◆ We will continue all existing liturgies and explore new ones.
- ◆ We will promote diversity and inclusivity in all our service and parish life.
- ◆ We will create a spiritually and physically unified campus.
- ◆ We will support current and future ministries/outreach through stewardship of our resources.
- ◆ We will increase spiritual formation opportunities for adults, young people, and children.

***\*An expansion of the five-year parish goals is found at the end of the Parish Profile on p.11***

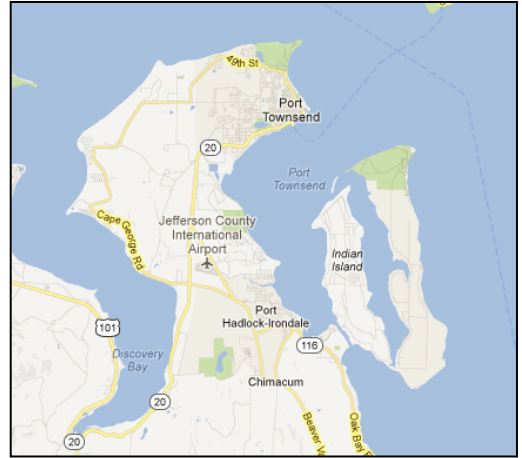
# About The Larger Community:

## Port Townsend and Eastern Jefferson County

Port Townsend, a town of about 9,000 residents, is located on the northeast tip of the Olympic Peninsula. ([Link to Google Map.](#))

Founded in 1851, the pioneer settlement quickly grew into an important port town for sailing ships on the American west coast. In the late 1880's, when steamer ships and railroad routes located their junctions in Seattle and Tacoma, the bottom fell out of the town's main sources of commerce. Without leaving its seafaring roots, Port Townsend evolved first into a working class town with a paper mill and military base, and then, in the latter years of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, into

a regional cultural center and tourist destination.



A shop in uptown Port Townsend.

Port Townsend's boom-and-bust history bequeathed its neighborhoods with a unique collection of late-19th Century homes, public buildings, churches, and parks. St. Paul's church is located within Port Townsend's historic district, which is a U.S. National Historic Landmark District.

Port Townsend is the county seat of [Jefferson County](#), with a population of about 30,000. St. Paul's serves primarily a cluster of communities in East Jefferson County, including Port Hadlock, Chimacum, Port Ludlow, and Quilcene.

The local economy is composed of an industrial, government, and agricultural base, with tourism also bringing revenue into the area. Primary employers include [Jefferson Healthcare](#), a paper mill, City and County government agencies, and ship building. The

agricultural base encompasses tree farms for logging, shellfish aquaculture, and a growing organic farming sector. Besides being a favorite weekend getaway for the Puget Sound region, Port Townsend offers a vibrant schedule of cultural events, drawing thousands of visitors from around the world. Happenings through the year include:

- ♦ The May [Rhododendron Festival](#).
- ♦ Music and writing conferences and festivals offered through [Centrum](#) at [Fort Worden State Park](#).
- ♦ The [Wooden Boat Festival](#).
- ♦ [The Port Townsend Film Festival](#).
- ♦ [Key City Public Theatre](#) productions.
- ♦ [Kinetic Skulpture Race](#), a unique and mostly-local event.

The community's unique setting has its pros and cons. With water and snow-capped mountains on all sides, Port Townsend is stunningly beautiful – and geographically isolated. The drive from Port Townsend to Seattle or SeaTac airport takes between two and three hours, depending on ferry schedules and bridge conditions. As a result, our community is more insular and self-contained than many, with residents who care about their town and tend to band together to solve problems locally.



Recent entry in the Kinetic Skulpture Race

On average, residents of the region that St. Paul's serves are grayer, poorer, whiter, greener, and better read than the state as a whole.

- ◆ **Grayer.** In the 2010 census, 26.3 percent of the county's residents were in the 65 and older category, compared to only 12.3 percent of the state's population.
- ◆ **Poorer.** Over the period from 2006 to 2010, median household income in the county was \$46,048, compared to the state's average of \$57,244. In the county, 13.5 percent of residents were living below the poverty level, compared to 12.1 percent of the state population.
- ◆ **Whiter.** The population includes a much smaller percentage of people of color than the state average, with 91% of county residents classified as White compared to 77% state-wide.
- ◆ **Greener.** Served by the many regional organic farms, the [Port Townsend Farmer's Market](#) has been recognized by the Washington State Farmers Market Association as the best farmer's market in the state. The [Port Townsend Food Co-op](#), a natural foods cooperative, serves over 7,000 co-owners with annual sales of \$11 million.
- ◆ **Better read.** The [Port Townsend Public Library](#), housed in a historic Carnegie Library building, ranks as the *number one* public library for per capita circulation in the state of Washington. Our new rector will join a parish and larger community with a good helping of well-educated, intellectually curious persons who like to talk about ideas.

The local style is casual and accepting of shorts and jeans as well as suits and cocktail dresses. One is more likely, however, to see Birkenstocks and Carhartt than Prada and Ralph Lauren on the streets of Port Townsend—and in the pews of St. Paul's.

## Other key Links and References

Activities: [EnjoyPt.com](#) and [PTGuide.com](#)

Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce <http://jeffcountychamber.org>

North West Maritimes Center <http://www.nwmaritime.org>

Main Street <http://www.ptmainstreet.org>

Marine Science Center <http://www.ptmsc.org>

Port Townsend School District <http://www.ptschools.org>

Chimacum School District <http://www.csd49.org>



## Characteristics of the Rector

### We are Calling

- **Ability to connect and work with all kinds of people.** We look forward to partnering with a friend and counselor who listens well, speaks directly, and nurtures our many talents.
  - **Skill in preaching.** Worship is central at St. Paul's. We delight in sermons grounded in scripture, tradition, and reason, with an awareness of contemporary theological thought. We hope for messages that connect the Gospel to our daily lives and the world around us.
  - **Talent for bridging traditional with progressive expressions of worship.** Though firmly anchored in the BCP liturgy, we are inclusive worshipers and welcome a rector who will embrace both traditional and alternative worship. We wish for someone with a foot in each boat who can bring us together in spirit.
- 
- **Enthusiasm for igniting inspired leadership.** We seek a leader who doesn't have all the answers, someone strong enough to hold our ship on course while supporting the leadership gifts among us.
  - **Awareness of technology and social media.** In light of our desire to reach out for younger people, we seek a rector motivated to help us grow with the help of these tools.
  - **Willingness to bond to this community.** We hope for a priest who will love our quirky town and take an active role in its life and spirit.
  - **Desire to connect one-on-one.** Our spirits thrive when we have a sense of being "known," not only as "The Saints of St. Paul's," but as individuals with our own yearnings and offerings. We seek someone to inspire each of us to a deeper spiritual walk.

St. Paul's is calling to a rector with a **joyful, thankful heart** who will join us in our journey of faith. If our call speaks to you, we hope that you will call back to us.



**\* St. Paul's Episcopal Church Five-Year Plan, 2012 – 2017**

*The three primary functions of a parish include liturgy (the organized corporate worship within a faith community), ministry within and outside of a faith community, and the spiritual formation of its members, which is the process of nurturing an intimate relationship with God and his people. With all of these in mind, we set forth the following goals for the next five years here at St. Paul's in Port Townsend, Washington.*

<b>Goal 1:</b> We will continue all existing liturgies and explore new ones.			
Strategy	Timeline	Responsibility	Benchmark
Develop clear statements about all of our liturgies and their purposes.	August 2012	Worship Committee	Documents on file
Offer all three Eucharistic liturgies each Sunday & reevaluate the service schedules.	September 2015	Worship Committee, Third Liturgy Planning Committee	Schedules posted
Explore other forms of regular common prayer, (i.e. Evening Prayer, Compline) and organize field trips for people to experience other forms of worship.	November 2012	Junior & Senior Warden	Visits scheduled

<b>Goal 2:</b> We will promote diversity and inclusivity in all our service and parish life.			
Attract and involve all generations in all facets of parish life including worship services and other parish activities.	September 2012	Staff with other assistance	Recorded observations
Explore various options for children's choir.	September 2012	Music Director	Schedule of children's choir activities
Research what draws younger adult populations to churches.	November 2012	Ad Hoc Committee	Documentation of results of study
Explore Inter-faith youth activities.	August 2012	Youth Minister, Music Director	Record of activities
<b>Goal 3:</b> We will create a spiritually and physically unified campus.			
Increase the use of the Judy house as we consider new and different functions.	Ongoing	Office Manager, Staff, Vestry	Schedule/calendar of events publicly available
Develop a plan for improvement in the Judy House.	June 2012	Vestry Liaison & Staff	Written plan on file
Utilize signage to identify St. Paul's property and buildings.	June 2012	Communications Committee,	Signage in place
Clarify & review the functions and differentiation of various committees involved with the campus.	June 2012	Vestry Liaison, Committee chairs	Written purpose statements

<b>Goal 4:</b> We will support current and future ministries/outreach through stewardship of our resources.			
Develop a specific plan for maintenance with financial support including a maintenance reserve fund.	October 2012 January 2013	Vestry Liaison, Property Committee, Vestry	Written plan on file  Budget Entry
Use various methods to educate our community and the larger community to make our ministries/outreach known and reevaluate our advertising.	March 2013	Ad Hoc Committee	Record of all communications in this area.
Explore opportunities to collaborate more with other faith communities.	Feb. 2013	Vestry Retreat, Clergy	Record of Activities
Review our current pastoral care and prayer ministries and inform parishioners how to access them, including training in these areas.	June 2012	Vestry Liaison, Deacon, Committee Chair	Establishment of a functioning Committee

<b>Goal 5:</b> We will increase spiritual formation opportunities for adults, young people, and children.			
Develop a process of Conflict Resolution.	October 2012	Spiritual Formation Director & Ad Hoc Committee	Process Published
Increase an emphasis on stewardship as a vital spiritual practice.	June 2012	Vestry & Stewardship Committee	Written plan Increased pledges
Increase Sacred Saturdays & other spiritual formation activities, adding new offerings.	June 2012	Spiritual Formation Director, Youth Minister	