

## **November 2018...**

St. Paul's Episcopal Church is in the beautiful and welcoming community of Winona in southeastern Minnesota along the banks of the Mississippi River. The parish has a history extending back to 1856. St. Paul's is a faith community of dedicated Christians who cherish their history and welcome their future.

The parish is proud of its facility located on the corner of Broadway and Lafayette Streets in the center of Winona. The facility includes a beautiful church with a capacity of 300, a guild hall, a multipurpose chapel, office space, meeting/education rooms, a nursery, a large kitchen and extended storage space. A highlight is the beautiful stained-glass windows. The congregation is also very proud of the classic pipe organ and a long history of liturgical music appreciation. The property is home to a beautiful Memorial Garden with plots for the interment of ashes for 720 souls. There is also space for meditation and contemplation. The facility has two parking lots. Many parish members spend countless volunteer hours to support the upkeep of the facility.

St. Paul's offers one service on Sunday at 9:30 a.m. with Holy Eucharist Rite II. The anointing of oil for healing is offered once a month. Discussion continues regarding re-instating the 8 a.m. service that was discontinued due to attendance, funds and the availability of a priest. The parish offers Bible Study which is also open to the public. The Lenten programs include a soup and bread supper and the study of religious books or books of the Bible. St. Paul's supports life-long learning and has provided first aid training, hands-only CPR, AED training, food safety for non-profits, church safety, and is open to ideas from the congregation for other learning opportunities. Parish members are interested in expanding their faith and learning more about sharing our Love of God in our church and our community.

St. Paul's shares its education/meeting rooms with several community groups including: Bundles of Love [making blankets and layettes for new-born babies] Alcoholics Anonymous (a men's group and a women's group) and other support organizations.

St. Paul's has a dynamic outreach program. On Sunday from Labor Day to Memorial Day, St. Paul's provides a Community Breakfast. Parish volunteers cook a hot, nutritious breakfast for 60-130 community members free of charge [A free will donation is accepted]. The Community Breakfast is open to the public and all are encouraged to join us in worship. St. Paul's has partnered with the Winona Food Shelf by collecting non-perishables. The Food Shelf has also donated items to the Community Breakfast. St Paul's has hosted a Blessing of the Animals worship service and free will donations have gone to the Winona Humane Society. The congregation of St. Paul's Episcopal Church desires to be a part of our community and to share our faith with our community.

St. Paul's has hosted events including the Wild Flowers vocal group, the Organ stroll [organ concerts in three churches in Winona to showcase their church organs], The Winona Hims – a men's gospel chorus- concert, and the funeral of a child who was pulled from the Mississippi and was unidentified, and other community events.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church has an active ECW group [Episcopal Church Women]. ECW meets monthly and works to support the church in many ways. ECW supports the upkeep of the Memorial Garden. Many members volunteer to do gardening. ECW has a spring and a fall fundraiser. The October Harvest Dinner showcases the great cooks in the parish and many compliments are received on the great food and friendly service.

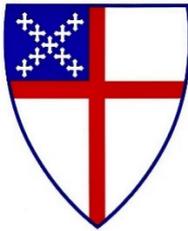
St. Paul's Episcopal church is blessed with several parish members who are licensed eucharistic ministers. St. Paul's is also blessed with parish members who serve as cantors to support the music liturgy.

St. Paul's is shepherded by a Vestry elected by the congregation at the annual meeting in January. The Vestry has a senior and junior warden who have worked closely with the priest to manage the operations of the church. The church employs a part-time administrative assistant who works with the treasurer of the Vestry to help with the finances.

There are six regular commissions- the Finance Commission, the Property Commission, the Commission for Liturgy, Music, and Education, the Outreach Commission The Stewardship Commission, and the Memorial Garden Commission. The commissions are made up of at least one Vestry member and members of the parish. The commissions report to the Vestry.

The congregation of St. Paul's communicates through our website, Facebook page, our monthly newsletter – The Tower, the weekly service bulletin, the outdoor church sign, and guild hall bulletin boards.

The congregation of St. Paul's includes about 100 members. Regular Sunday service attendance is between 20 and 30.



St. Paul's Episcopal Church is...

- A congregation whose mission is to worship God in community, help one another, reach out, and build the church. We listen, proclaim, serve and celebrate.
- A beautiful property that includes a historic church, a Memorial Garden, convenient parking, and beautiful grounds, all owned without debt.
- A parish that responsibly manages an endowment that provides us the flexibility to invest strategically for growth and pastoral impact.
- A welcoming, caring parish with congregates who greet newcomers and members with a bright smile, handshake and a big hug. And, of course, coffee.
- A parish that embraces a variety of outreach opportunities including our Sunday Community Breakfast, Bible Study and space sharing with community groups.
- A parish open to finding the right spiritual leader to lead us on our journey.

Our doors are open. Our arms are outstretched. Our faith is strong.