



The Excitement is Building!

Attendance at services is increasing. Newcomer are coming. The Holy Spirit is on the move, and great things are happening at St. Paul's again. We are blessed, and we look forward to a wonderful year!



3290 Loma Vista Road, Ventura, CA 93003
office@saintpaulsventura.org 805.643.5033
www.saintpaulsventura.org

How to Make a Pledge

Please think and pray about this important decision, and then complete a pledge card or simply let us know how much you'd like to pledge in any way that is convenient for you – mail, call, email, etc.

Ways to Give

Donations may be made by cash, check, PayPal, or you can Text StPaulsVentura to 73256. You can also arrange online payments through your bank, click the "Give" button at www.saintpaulsventura.org or use the QR code below.

Consider a Legacy Gift

Remembering the church in your estate planning is a wonderful way to give a gift that keeps on giving long after our years. Our generosity can benefit future generations. This is a great time to make these arrangements.

Have any Questions?

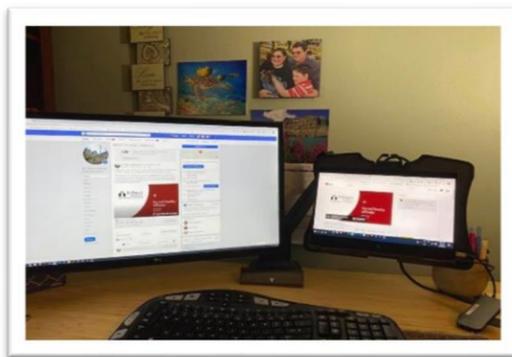
Please contact the church office. We're always happy to hear from you! We'd be glad to answer your questions over the phone, via email or to set up a meeting with you.



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Keeping the Faith Through the Pandemic and Beyond

2021 Annual Giving Campaign



Watch our Online Services at:

WEBSITE: www.saintpaulsventura.org/live

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/saintpaulsventura

YOUTUBE: www.YouTube.com/stpaulsventura



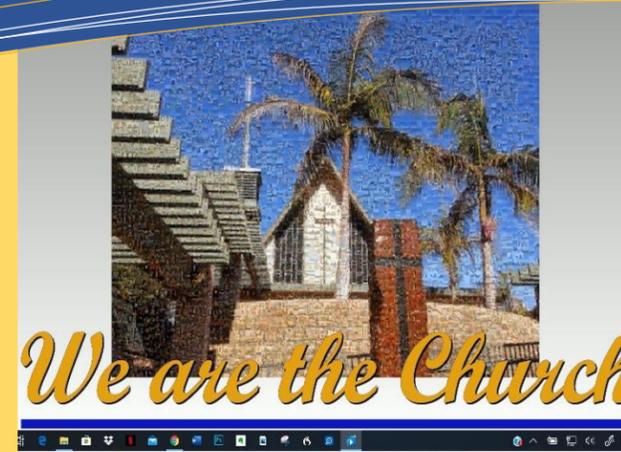
If you can help, even a little, we'd really appreciate it!



Annual Giving Campaign

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

We follow Jesus, nurture ministries and welcome all.



This Year's Stewardship Packet Contains:

- Campaign Brochure
- FAQ Page
- Pledge Card

Because of Your Generosity...

Though we were unable to offer public worship services for fifteen months, the generosity, commitment and prayers of our members kept the church going. We reached out through phone calls, emails and newsletters. Online services were offered so that we could enjoy worship together, even while keeping a safe distance apart. A Spiritual Support Group formed to offer prayers and provide encouragement. The choir continued meeting each week online. Many ministry and church meetings were held on Zoom – an online platform. Through it all, our members were faithful. Your generosity got us through these difficult months. Pledges and donations came in – some through the mail, others through online giving platforms. We are so grateful!

Keeping the Faith Through the Pandemic and Beyond

Welcome to this year's Annual Giving Campaign. We are asking for pledges to support the mission, ministry and growth of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. The materials in this pledge packet will introduce you to the campaign and explain our goals for the coming year. We ask you to please think and pray, then pledge to support St. Paul's Operating Budget through the year 2022. We really appreciate your support!

St. Paul's was established in 1889. Since then, we have been a source of comfort, strength and inspiration for people seeking God's holy presence. In March of 2020, the COVID-19 outbreak became a global pandemic. We were all ordered to shelter at home. The church building and campus were closed for what we thought would be two weeks. Fifteen months later, we finally re-opened for Sunday services.

It was the commitment, prayers and generous donations of our members that kept St. Paul's running through the pandemic which, unfortunately, isn't over yet. Now we face the challenge of virus variants and spiking numbers of COVID cases in Ventura and across the world.

We continue to offer services online and provide two options for in-person worshippers: distanced seating and open seating. With your help, 2022 can be a great year for the church. We are determined to keep on growing through the pandemic and beyond!



7 Ways Your Pledge Makes a Difference

1 Operating Expenses & Staff
With your help we can keep the church running, pay our monthly bills, purchase supplies and produce bulletins, newsletters and promotions. We can also take care of our dedicated staff.

2 Sunday Worship Services
As a liturgical church, the heart and soul of who we are is expressed in our worship services. Your pledge makes it possible for us to offer weekly worship services as we have for over 130 years.

3 Music Ministry
Our beautiful and inspiring music lifts our spirits and connects us with God. Your pledge helps us to provide wonderful music as an important part of our worship experience.

4 Youth & Children's Ministries
We provide Christian Education through our Sunday School and Youth Group Programs. Your pledge makes it possible for us to support families as they develop their faith.

5 Prayer & Pastoral Care
Taking care of those in need is one of our most important callings. With your help, we can continue to support the sick or shut in and provide prayer and support to those who need it.

6 Fellowship & Formation
All are invited to enjoy the fellowship and hospitality following Sunday services. We also offer many opportunities for life-long formation as we learn and grow in the knowledge and love of God.

7 Outreach
The people of St. Paul's have a heart for outreach. We take seriously our call to serve Christ by serving the world. Your pledge will help us continue this very important work.



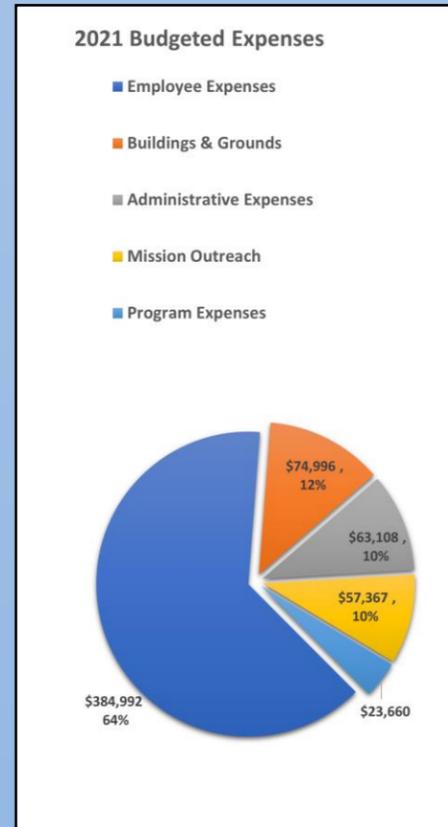
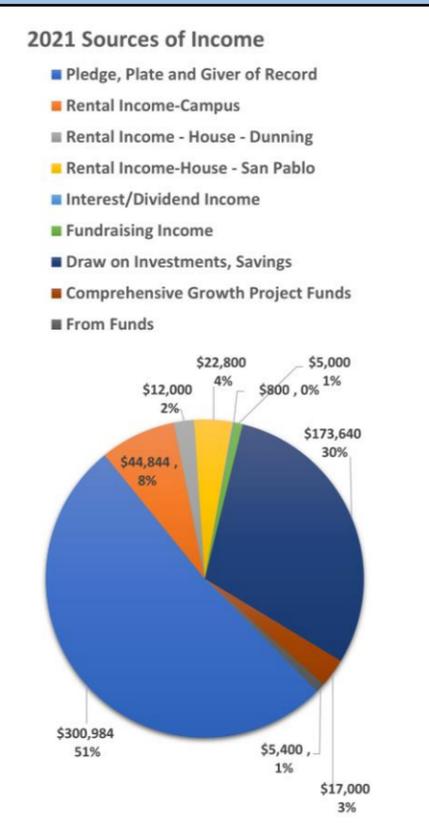
Walk up Eucharist – Christmas Day, 2020

Church Budgeting: What does it cost to run the church for a year? What does our pledge money cover?

The church Operating Budget varies from year to year depending on income, needs and what the Vestry chooses to focus on that year. In 2021 we adjusted our budget to reflect the needs of the church during a global pandemic. We created online worship services and reached out to the congregation scattered during the stay-at-home orders. Here's a quick look at the 2021 Budget. Now that the church is able to offer an option for in-person attendance, some items have been adjusted. What will happen in 2022? That depends on how much income we can expect and what happens with the pandemic.

OPERATING INCOME – Where does the money come from?

The funds we have to work with come from pledges payments, plate donations and other gifts, but also from campus rental income, facility use fees and fundraising. We also draw from some funds (savings) and continue to use up some money that remained after the Comprehensive Growth Project concluded. In 2021 most of the pledges continued to come in despite the pandemic. We were able to get a PPP loan which has now been forgiven, converted into a grant. Fundraisers had to be postponed and several potential new renters did not move in. Gradually, some of our renters have been able to restart their programs. The things that had been “on hold” in 2020 have gradually begun to re-open and come back to life.



EXPENSES – Where does the money go?

- **64% goes to Employee Costs** – Our staff included two full-time Clergy, a part-time Parish Administrator, a part time Administrative Assistant, a part-time Sexton (groundkeeper), a part-time Music Minister, a part-time Assistant Music Minister, a part-time Organist, an ASL Interpreter, and an hourly Nursery Care Provider. We have recently added two paid positions in Youth & Children's Ministries.
- **12% goes to Buildings & Grounds** – This category includes: cleaning services and supplies, landscaping services, property taxes, trash pickup, utilities, and security as well as upkeep and projects on campus. We have a very large campus and feel that it's important to keep up with the maintenance and not let the campus fall into disrepair. The Building and Grounds Committee forecasts the projects we'll need to do in the coming year and the approximate cost.
- **10% goes to Administrative Expenses** – This category includes everything it takes to keep the office running and the congregation up to date, including: telephone and internet, copier lease and office supplies, bookkeeping software and services, technical equipment and maintenance, insurance, account and program fees, and postage.
- **10% goes to Mission Outreach** – These are the costs associated with the ways we reach out to the world in the name of Christ. They include: our pledge to support Mission Congregations in the Diocese of Los Angeles, a small amount for Deanery dues and a gift to support Theological Education. We also pledge to support operations of Family to Family and support various programs that serve the needy locally and throughout the world.
- **4% goes to Program Expenses** – this does not include the clergy or staff needed to run the programs, they are in Employee Costs. Program Expenses consists of all the supplies needed for worship services--altar supplies, flowers, hospitality, etc. It also covers music and choir supplies, organ maintenance & repair, and the curriculum, supplies, and materials for all our programs including Sunday School.

What is Stewardship? Why is it an important part of the Christian Journey?

*All that we have,
all that we are and all that we can do
are gifts from God.
Stewardship is the way
we show our gratitude.*

*Through acts of careful and loving
stewardship we help to bring the
blessings of God to the world
in the name of Christ.*

*Stewardship is what we do
after we say, "I believe...."*

*Stewardship is not fundraising
but the Christian act of caring for and
investing in the mission and ministry of
the church out of
an abundance of appreciation
for God's gifts to us.*

*Stewardship is living into
a vision of ministry
in a concrete way.*

*Stewardship is the main work
of the church.*

*Stewardship is the way we use
all our resources, including:
our time,
our talent
and our treasure.*

*Stewardship is something
we all do together.
We hope that every member
of the church will contribute
in whatever ways they can.
It is especially important
to have a pledge – any amount
can help us to the important work we
are called to do.*

*We look forward to doing great things
in the name of Christ with whatever
you can give.*

Thank you!