

# SAINT PAUL'S CHURCH

*Anglican Province of America*



ONE PARISH. ONE FUTURE.



Summer 2020

Dear friends,

SAINT PAUL'S CHURCH, a parish in the Anglican Province of America, has been ministering to Brevard county since 1994 by offering up our prayers and worship to the holy and undivided Trinity. Our parish has conscientiously been a witness to the Holy Scriptures as the very word of God and has unabashedly proclaimed the good news of the timeless Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our history here has been one of unwavering constancy to the truth of the Christian faith and its enduring power to save souls and transform lives. As your rector, I am humbled and grateful that God has allowed me to share in this impressive legacy with you.

OUR PARISH still gathers on Sundays to offer those same wonderful prayers to God. It is my belief that we still exist as a parish because God has something for us to do. If we had already completed in full the ministry which God had for us, we would not exist today. My firm hope is that we will heed the call of God and take the opportunity he gives to add the next chapter to our legacy. What has God called us to do? The mission of the Church has not changed in nearly 2,000 years. By God's grace, we are called to preach the Gospel and make Christians (St. Matt. 28:18-20). How can we do that today? Even more pressing, how can we build something at Saint Paul's that will last and be able to carry on that mission in 5 years? 10 years? 100 years? By laboring now, we can pass this legacy on to our children, grandchildren, and even great-grandchildren. We can ensure that they always have a faithful parish to call home.

IN THIS BOOKLET, you will find a vision for the future and steps we can take in order that we fulfill our mission for years to come. I have named this vision **"ONE PARISH. ONE FUTURE."** If we are to successfully enter into the future we must recover an older sense of the word "parish." A parish is not *only* the four walls of the physical church building, but it includes the geographic area around it. It includes homes, schools, fields, and even people who are not (yet) Christians! The parish priest was responsible for the spiritual health and well-being of the *whole parish*. So with this wider sense of "parish" we can see that the concept includes more than just Sunday worship. Daily life is parish life, and that includes education, the home, the family, and work. All of these aspects of life are spiritual sacrifices done for the greater glory of God and flow out from the Sacrament of the Altar. Sunday worship then becomes the pinnacle of life's weekly rhythms. Only by laboring to become a parish in this wider sense, can we make Christians out of future generations. I am excited to go forward into the future with you. May God bless our efforts so that we may hear those blessed words, "well done, thou good and faithful servant...enter thou into the joy of thy lord." (St. Matt. 25:21)

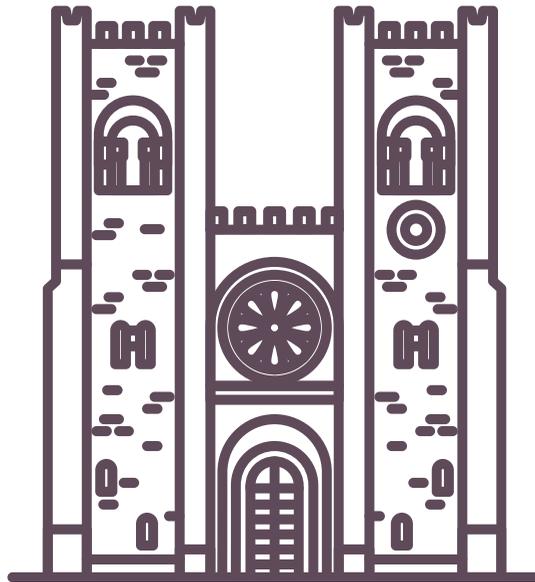
In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B. W. Oldfield". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

## WHAT IS A “VISION”?

A VISION describes a goal of where we want to be as a parish in the future after a certain amount of time. Ask yourself the question, “What should Saint Paul’s Church look like in 3 years?” What about 5 years? 10? Only perfect or dying parishes will uncritically conclude, “Exactly the same.” No parish is perfect, so we must find a path forward to answer this question *well*. We need a vision that will ensure, by God’s grace, that Saint Paul’s Church thrives for years to come.

THE NUMBER of different visions that Saint Paul’s Church could pursue is endless. There are many ways in which a parish can accomplish the mission that Jesus Christ has set before the entire Church. However, we cannot pursue an endless number of visions. In fact, we cannot pursue more than one. Competing visions within a single parish can only result in failure. Resources are limited, and chasing after two competing visions will fracture the parish into two or more smaller and weaker groups. Schism and disunity are not what Jesus intends for his Church. We are one just as he and the Father are one.<sup>1</sup> As one parish we must pursue one future *together*. To better understand where we want the parish to be we must first ask the question, *what has God called us to do?*



*Cathedral of St. Mary Major  
Lisbon, Portugal  
1147 A.D. - Present*

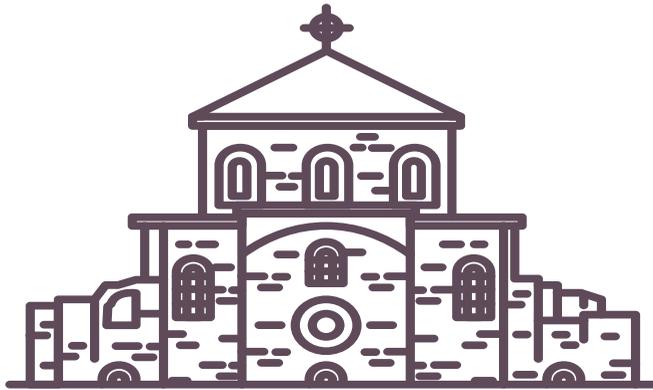
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1 St. John 17:21

## OUR MISSION

“MISSION” REFERS to the objective which the parish strives to achieve. Thankfully, the Lord Jesus already outlined the universal mission of the Church when he said, “All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” (St. Matt. 28:18-20). When Jesus commissioned the Apostles, he also commissioned their successors throughout time including Saint Paul’s Church. The question that we must answer is “What would it look like for us to accomplish the Church’s mission in the 21<sup>st</sup> century in Brevard county, Florida as Anglicans?” The mission of the Church for our context would be:

**MAKE LIFELONG CHRISTIANS WHO EMBRACE THE APOSTOLIC FAITH AND PRACTICE OF THE CHURCH AND FAITHFULLY PASS IT TO THE NEXT GENERATION.**



*Church of St. George  
Sofia, Bulgaria  
4<sup>th</sup> c. A.D. - Present*

OUR MISSION is not merely to “grow the church” or “increase our average Sunday attendance” or “boost giving.” The parish must focus on making lifelong Christians who know and love the Lord Jesus Christ and the Faith which he first taught to the Apostles. Yet, the promises God makes in the Gospel are not made only to us, but “to [our] children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.” (Acts 2:39). We have a positive duty and commandment from the Lord to pass the Faith on to our children and form them to know and love this same Lord Jesus Christ. By pursuing *spiritual health* first, all other needs will be met as we grow and flourish.

**BUILDING A PARISH THAT ENDURES AND THRIVES**



*Cathedral of St. Florin  
Vaduz, Liechtenstein  
1874 A.D. - Present*

## OUR VALUES

“VALUES” REFER to those principles which guide the parish in accomplishing her mission. They ought not be vacuous or ambiguous. Values should be clearly articulated and reflect eternal principles that everyone ought to know and strive to embody. When values are faithfully embodied on the individual level, they will become part of our parish culture. Furthermore, our values should always be those that lead us to virtue and holiness. These values inform every decision we make and action we take at Saint Paul’s Church because our values are directly tied to the mission of our parish. Our values are:

1. CATECHESIS (*a faith to believe*) – Catechesis (or teaching) is one of the direct commandments which Jesus gives in the Great Commission (St. Matt. 28:18-20), and it is at the heart of forming us after the likeness of Jesus. In teaching, we grow in our knowledge of God, the Holy Scriptures, and the Faith, as well as learn how we ought to live in the world.
2. HOSPITALITY (*a place to belong*) – The parish is our home. It is the place not only where we worship and learn, but the place where we have fellowship with one another. Our parish warmly welcomes all who seek after God in and through Jesus Christ. The parish provides a welcoming and stable home for families to grow in love for the Lord and His Church.
3. PRAYER (*a rule for life*) – Prayer is the primary activity of the Church. We worship God and pray to him through the Lord Jesus Christ for the life of the whole world. From ancient times, the Church has given to us a pattern (or “rule”) to live by that revolves around daily personal and corporate prayer and practice. The Book of Common Prayer is the time-tested way by which Anglicans have kept this ancient and godly pattern for centuries.

These values are critical to form us as a parish that is known to take Jesus Christ seriously, resulting in her members living in a way that honors him in the world.

## OUR VISION

WITH OUR MISSION and values in mind, our vision for the next three years takes shape. *We are called to orient our lives around the life of the parish because we receive the life of God in the parish.* All of life is parish life because we are “one body” called to “one hope” by “one Spirit.”

<sup>2</sup> Our union with the Holy Trinity through our baptisms brings us into union with each other. The ministry of the parish cultivates the spiritual health of Saint Paul’s members, and our members shape parish culture. As mentioned above, all spheres of our lives are spiritual sacrifices for God: work, child-rearing, education, leisure, etc. so that God, “who is above all, and through all, [may be] in you all.”<sup>3</sup>

2 Ephesians 4:4

3 Ephesians 4:5

OUR VALUES have already begun to manifest in our parish. Saint Paul’s Church keeps a “rule for life” for prayer by using the Book of Common Prayer. We celebrate the Holy Communion on Sundays and Feast Days, as well as offer up the daily “sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving”<sup>4</sup> by keeping the daily offices of Morning & Evening Prayer. We consecrate time by observing the feasts and fasts of the Church calendar. We emphasize catechesis and hospitality through our Wednesday Night Fellowship where we eat together and study the Scriptures. We catechize and teach our children under the guidance of Dss. Clare Burgess. We welcome all those who seek after God in and through the Lord Jesus Christ. In this way, *everything we do as a parish is an outworking of who we are in Christ Jesus.*

BECAUSE ALL life is parish life, especially forming and educating our children, **our vision is to establish a new classical parochial school to begin operating in Fall 2021.** A new school gives us significant way to fulfill our mission to pass the faith to the next generation and magnifies all of our values listed above. Founding a new school will give our current families with children a way to further order their lives around Jesus Christ and his Gospel, and give families outside of the parish a way to enter into its life. The parochial school then becomes a means by which Saint Paul’s Church can evangelize our community by forming students to cultivate virtue and seek after truth and wisdom. By pursuing excellence in classical education we can reach out to a skeptical culture and say “come and see.”<sup>5</sup>

THIS IS a tall task and an undertaking that requires high commitment and a herculean effort to accomplish. In light of that reality, and as outlined at the Annual Parish Meeting Rector’s report and the Parish budget for 2020, **Saint Paul’s Church is bringing on a new Curate** who is intimately familiar with classical education. Dcn. Raymond Davison will be joining the staff of Saint Paul’s Church this summer. He has taught in classical schools and understands the great need for Christian education that follows the ancient models which have educated the West for centuries. His ministry among us will be to help me to found and lead this new institution.

WHERE WILL Saint Paul’s Church be in 3 years? By God’s grace, we will have a thriving school that instills wonder and awe into students; which gives them a love for beauty and the rule of prayer; which cultivates such good changes in them that parents realize that there must be something more to church than they were led to believe. In short, the ministry of Saint Paul’s Church will shift to fulfill the mission by making the parish, and thereby the Lord Jesus Christ, the beating heart of all life.



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4 Book of Common Prayer, 81.

5 St. John 1:39

*“One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”*

-- Ephesians 4:5, 6

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**Clergy of Saint Paul's Church**

The Most Rev'd Walter H. Grundorf, D.D., *Diocesan & Presiding Bishop*

The Rev'd Brian W. Oldfield, *Rector*

**Staff**

Charlie Manship, *Organist & Choirmaster*

Clare Burgess, *Deaconess*

Debbie Bunker, *Parish Coordinator*

Cheryl Unterburger, *Thrift Store Manager*

**Vestry & Wardens**

Don Johnston (2022), *Rector's Warden*

Phill Schlatter (2022), *Junior Warden*

Charlie Manship (2020)

Clare Burgess (2020)

Michael Stone (2021)

Candy Haddix (2021)

Hope Hines (2022)



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