

St. Paul's Episcopal Church By the Salish Sea



Our Next Chapter — Narrative Budget, 2023

Greetings to the St. Paul's congregation, whether you're new to the parish or have been here for years. You are a vital part of this community, which is in its 122nd year in Bremerton and its 56th year at this current location.

That's a lot of history, and we're about to make some more! In 2024, we reach a new crossroads. Mother Kathleen Kingslight, who has been our rector since 2010, is retiring January 1. It's time for us to prayerfully consider what our community has accomplished, where we are now and our hopes for the future.

To that end, we're launching our Stewardship drive for 2024. We need to ask you all to pray and consider your pledge for the new year. Then we can prepare a budget to take us into the new year and toward the process of calling a new rector. So let's look at where we are.

This Narrative Budget will show you St. Paul's with the 2023 budget, and it also will provide a glimpse of many of the ministries of St. Paul's through the years and changes in our society.

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected churches across the world. We're not alone. So now, how do we continue to bounce back?

Our Rector

The vestry called the Rev. Kathleen Kingslight in 2010, and she helped the church stabilize and grow following a long and difficult search process after our previous rector departed. She and her husband John, being musicians (singers and instrumentalists) have helped maintain a focus on music, which has been one of the charms of St. Paul's by the Salish Sea.



The rector is responsible for planning and presiding over worship, spiritual development and Christian education. But she also

serves as the parish's operations manager. That means presiding over vestry meetings, and hiring and managing a part-time office coordinator, music director and sexton.

With the pandemic, starting in 2020, came the need to give people a way to watch services from the safety and comfort of our homes. That's meant obtaining equipment and coming up with new ways to make services as accessible as possible.

Worshippers local and beyond can watch services on Facebook and find past services and related videos on YouTube.

The job also entails pastoral care, which can be needed at any time of day or night, communication and being the face of St.



Paul's in the community and Diocese. It IS a full-time job, but we currently are only able to afford part-time pay.

Upon her retirement, and with the help of the diocese, we'll be faced with the question of what we can afford for a new rector

A Spiritual Home

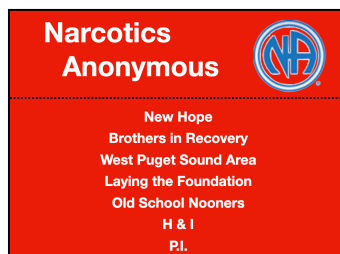
Through Mother Kathleen's leadership, St. Paul's provides Holy Eucharist each Sunday, as well as services on Ash Wednesday, during Holy Week and at Christmas. She also leads us through special programs. In addition to spiritual guidance and pastoral care, she also provides training classes leading up to Confirmation.

Sacred Ground A Race Dialogue Series

For several months, we have been involved with the Episcopal Church's Sacred Ground program, through which small groups walk through chapters of America's history of race and racism, while weaving in threads of family story, economic class, and political and regional identity. This has included field trips around the area.

A Safe Harbor

St. Paul's has been blessed with a prime location and large facility and has a tradition of making itself available to nonprofit organizations. For years it hosted the Lord's Neighborhood Diner until that Saturday meal program was taken over by the Bremerton Salvation Army.



The church also at times has hosted child and adult day-care programs that have made use of the Parish Hall and other rooms on that floor. Some of these have been rental arrangements, while small groups donate what they can



for use of the space.

St. Paul's has long relationship with Narcotics Anonymous and similar programs, Girl Scouts and medical support groups.

As of last week, the church hosted 15 groups that meet weekly or monthly in the Parish Hall, Oliver Room, Vestry Room and Sanctuary.

We view providing this space as one of our ministries to the community.

Outreach

St. Paul's works to spread its support outside these walls by providing a monthly offering to selected organizations. This collection is taken the first Sunday of each month.

The organizations supported in 2023 are the Bremerton Salvation Army, Bremerton Backpack Brigade, Kitsap Immigration Assistance Center, Episcopal Relief & Development, Santa Marta LGBTQ Center in El Salvador, Bremerton Foodline, YWCA Women's Shelter and the Coffee Oasis.

In addition, volunteers from the church help make and serve lunch at the Salvation Army once a month. You can find more about each of these agencies on the Stewardship page of our Website.



Assessment

We are part of the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia and pay a financial assessment each year based on the size of our budget.

This money goes toward grants to congregations for innovative and emerging ministries, training for those working with children and youth, support for those entering the priesthood and advocacy for marginalized populations.

The assessment also funds technical assistance to congregations, workshops for clergy and lay leaders, Bible Study programs and support for ethnic ministries, national church work on missions, justice, refugee assistance and emergency response around the world.



Prayers for postulant Hillary Kimsey, 2019.

Music & Kids Programs

These are areas in which St. Paul's has historically been strong, but circumstances have required us to be



especially innovative and resourceful.

We've traditionally had a strong choir to lead congregational singing and provide anthems to enhance our worship. But the lasting effects of the COVID shutdown and resulting decrease in church attendance have meant we cannot afford to pay a music director at this time.

We're fortunate that John Kingslight, Kathleen's husband, has the musical skills and the willingness to be able to lead our volunteer music team without compensation. And we continue to be blessed to have people willing to share their talents through worship music.

In the same way, St. Paul's has historically been home to strong children and youth group ministries, including summer Vacation Bible School and activities in Kitsap County and Seattle. Mother Kathleen provides training for people seeking to be confirmed in the Episcopal Church.

In recent years we have not consistently had the number of young people to be able to provide an organized weekly program.

However, we have the willingness and the facilities to make music and children's education a central part of our post-COVID rebuilding. And we continue to pray for God's guidance as we seek the necessary people and funding.



Sunday School program, 2012

The Basics

We are blessed with a wonderful building and grounds. It is expensive to operate, however, and a significant part of our operating budget goes to such “nuts and bolts” as utilities, insurance, supplies, Web outreach. We have a part-time rector, a part-time office coordinator and part-time sexton. There's a large amount of volunteer work all around.

As an example of how dangerous it is to try to go without basics, consider the November 2021 storm that damaged our roof, sanctuary and Parish Hall. Because we have maintained insurance, we were able to make good repairs — essentially an unexpected remodel.

It's now time to look forward, praying and considering what each of us can do to continue the work God has done through the presence of the St. Paul's community.

The Way Ahead

As you may have noticed because of traffic, the Bremerton/Port Orchard areas are booming with growth. The Diocesan leadership has recognized this, and the fact that St. Paul's is poised to be a gathering and growing church. Our future looks very exciting.

It's often said money is power. But remember, God has more power than anyone and shares it with us freely as we experience this wild and interesting life.

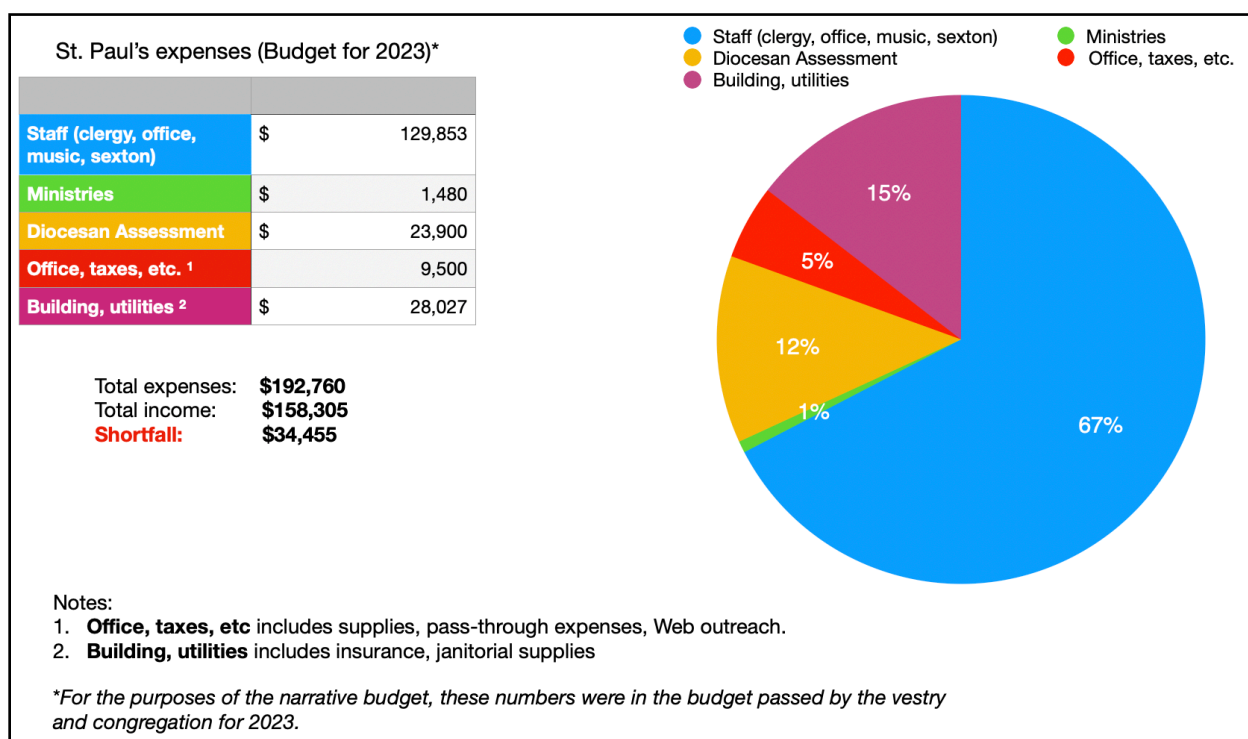
Part of that life is the life of the church. And to be in vital communion with God and in alignment with God's mission, we care for our members and our community.

Let us give to that care now so that God's power can continue to flow through us to heal the broken in our church and community.

Blessings in Christ

Richard Horn, Stewardship Chair

Expenses, 2023 Approved Budget



Income, 2023 Approved Budget

St. Paul's income (Budget for 2023)

Pledges, nonpledge offerings	\$ 105,108
Ludwig Parking Lot	\$ 22,000
Building Use	\$ 5,000
Fundraising	\$ 1,500
Investment Funds*	\$ 24,625

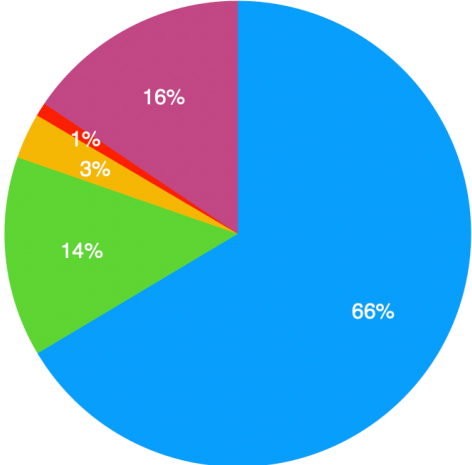
Total income: **\$158,305**
 Total expenses: **\$192,760**
Shortfall: \$34,455

** Investment funds: These are carefully monitored gift funds, usually from estates. They have restrictions on how they can be used. We have been relying heavily on this, but they cannot last.*

We receive no money from the Diocese of Olympia for our budget. We pay the Diocese through our assessment. We can apply for diocesan grants for specific ministries.

● Pledges, nonpledge offerings
● Ludwig Parking Lot
● Building Use

● Fundraising
● Investment Funds*





Pentecost 2023