

Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Richmond, Indiana



Figure 1 Our red door welcomes everyone to St. Paul's Episcopal at 800 North A Street in Richmond, Indiana, the oldest public building in town still being used for its original purpose.



figure 2 Carolyn MacDowell and Alexis, daughter of Brown and Petra Mujete, share a laugh during coffee hour.

Rector Search

St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Richmond, Indiana, is excited to be searching for a full-time Rector. Thank you for visiting our profile. We hope it will provide the information you need to consider applying for the position.

We miss having a parish priest. From 2013 to 2016, we shared a priest with St. James Episcopal Church in New Castle, Ind., about 25 miles away. Though that arrangement did bring us closer to St. James, it also brought frustrating problems with scheduling (both weekly services and High Holy Days) and a lack of clarity about pastoral responsibilities between services. Shortly after the priest left, the search for the 11th Bishop of the Diocese of Indianapolis began and that became the focus of both the diocese and the parish. For the past three

years, we have been well served by a small number of excellent supply priests, but the time has come to look for a more permanent arrangement.

With the support of Bishop Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows and the diocese, St. Paul's will be utilizing a portion of its endowment to fund the calling of a full-time rector. We take this step-in faith, recognizing the need for a new season of leadership. We love our parish and want to thrive.

One of the good things about these years without a priest is that the Vestry, committees, and individual members have stepped forward to keep St. Paul's vibrant. We are prepared for a leader who will recognize and nourish what we have been doing and help us discover new possibilities for the future.

As you read this profile and explore our website, imagine taking a significant step with us in ministry. God alone knows where we are being led in this journey. We are diligent in prayer, resourceful with our time, talent, and treasure, and confident in God's guidance. Comfortably residing in the past is neither practical nor appealing. We pray for a priest who will lead us fearlessly and hopefully into the future with faith, insight, and spiritual maturity. If you're a leader with vision, creativity, humor and joy, we invite your discernment.

Responses to this search should be sent to: The Rev. Kristin White, Canon to the Ordinary for Congregational Development and Leadership, Diocese of Indianapolis, at white@indydio.org.

Our Parish

Although modest in size, the membership of St. Paul's is committed, inclusive and includes a range of ages, economic levels and talents. We are open and affirming of all people regardless of race, color, class or gender expression. Average Sunday attendance is 27. The spiritual life of the church is enriched by our members' commitment to worship and participation in community organizations. We hold one service at 10am using Rite II throughout most of the year with Rite I in Lent.



Figure 3 The Rev. Whitney Smith, supply priest, leads worship on Pentecost 2019. Holding the candles are Senior Warden Bill Jackman and member Kelley McDermott.

Strengths and Challenges

Strengths of St. Paul's	Challenges of St. Paul's
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fellowship	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attracting and retaining new members
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Caring for church building
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Committed lay leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nurturing a balanced budget
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outreach programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Broadening all programs



Figure 4 The Rev. David Ottsen, supply priest, assisted by Deacon Barry Cramer, sprinkles Holy Water on a dog and cat belonging to St. Paul's organist Jonathan Hampton during the Blessing of the Animals in 2019.

Fellowship and Lay Leadership



Figure 5 From top left: Holy Conversations, after the Blessing of the Animals, St. Paul's Prayer Warriors, lunch at church, Bob and Behi Wilson honored for dedicated gardening at church, cleanup day, gathering at MacDowells', coffee hour announcement, representing St. Paul's at local NAACP dinner and the diocesan convention.

Community Involvement and Outreach

St. Paul's Episcopal Mission Statement



*They knew him in the breaking
of the bread*

**Because of God's creation, we celebrate life.
Because of the Gospel of Jesus Christ,
we accept everyone around one table.**

Empowered by the Holy Spirit we...

- **reach out to the world in witness and in love**
- **welcome all**
- **grow together in love**
- **proclaim and share the Good News**
- **serve God and God's people**

From its beginning, St. Paul's has been involved in service to the Richmond community. The early church had a day school. In 1884, the church founded the first hospital in town, St. Stephen's, and operated it until 1905, when it merged with what is now Reid Health. In the early decades of the 20th century, St. Paul's had a home for the elderly, a food service for shut-ins, and a day nursery. The church gymnasium was open to all races.

Concern for the community now is addressed in several ways.

Community Kitchen

St. Paul's hosts a free lunch for anyone who needs it every Wednesday and Thursday.



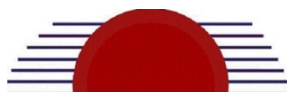
Most days, 85-100 people attend. The lunches are prepared by volunteers from churches and a service organization. A team from St. Paul's handles food preparation one day a month. Our sexton makes sure the Simmons Room (our Parish Hall), kitchen, and restrooms are ready for volunteers and lunch guests.

Open Arms Ministries



Former classrooms in the church now serve as office space for Open Arms Ministries, the joint effort of several churches and other social ministries to connect people in need to the resources available to them. The Open Arms staff coordinates with the Wayne Township Trustee and the local office of the Salvation Army. Open Arms provides some material support, such as backpacks filled with hygiene products for people without permanent homes and small boxes of starter supplies for people just out of prison or jail. Its primary function, however, is to work with clients to improve their living situations so they are less dependent on emergency services. St. Paul's donates to Open Arms and a member of the parish is on its board.

Hope House



St. Paul's is one of several local churches, foundations, and other agencies that support Hope House, a faith-based residential facility for men in recovery from drug and/or alcohol addiction. The facility will be moving to a site just a few blocks from St. Paul's in the coming months.

The Laundry Project



Last year, St. Paul's began collecting quarters for The Laundry Project, operated by the Wayne Township Trustee, which provides relief for struggling families in Richmond with three days each month when they can do 3 to 5 loads (depending on family size) of laundry at no charge. In 2018, we collected more than \$500. St. Paul's continues to support this worthy ministry.

Giving Tree



The Giving Tree gives parishioners an opportunity to make in-kind gifts to organizations addressing various needs in and around Richmond. The most recent collections have been school supplies and toiletries for Richmond High School students in need and canned cat and dog food for area no-kill animal shelters.

Our Hopes for the Future

- To continue to welcome everyone around God's Table.
- To expand our reach as we invite friends and family, neighbors and strangers to join us in what for them might be a new way to worship, providing guidance and explanation, as needed.
- To broaden our engagement with current ministry partners – Hope House, Giving Tree, Laundry Project, Open Arms Ministries, St. Paul's Community Kitchen – and to open ourselves to new outreach opportunities.
- To provide for the needs of parish members through a deep commitment to pastoral care and Christian formation.
- To leverage our beautiful historic campus in the heart of Richmond and expand the possible uses of the buildings and grounds by the church, neighborhood and the community at large.



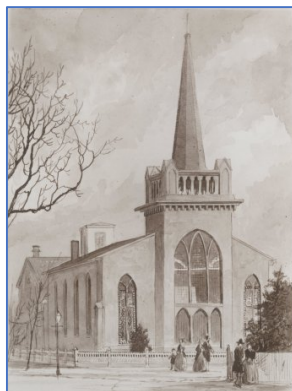
Our Next Rector

- Spiritually, biblically and ethically grounded. Unapologetically Christian. Enthusiastically Episcopalian.
- Welcoming, caring, and compassionate. Ready to listen. Ready to comfort. Ready to laugh. Ready to cry. Vigilant, Attentive, Prayerful, Sacrificial.
- Honest, fair, and respectful in words and actions, and encouraging that behavior in others.
- Committed to St. Paul's and its ministries. Willing to help look for ways to expand those ministries and to grow the church, while at the same time helping parishioners look out for and enjoy the company of one another.
- A preacher of the Gospel committed to the Good News and mankind's need of a Savior.
- Excited about living in Richmond and the possibilities here.



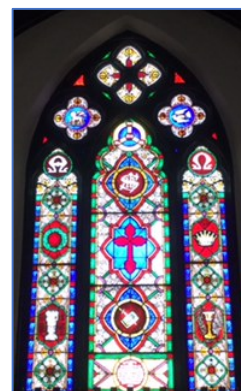
Figure 6 Clockwise from above: The Rev. David Ottsen, supply priest, tells a children's story before his sermon. Parishioners wash one another's feet during Maundy Thursday service. The Rev. Whitney Smith, supply priest, visits parishioner Marilyn Pike at Friends Fellowship Community.

Our History

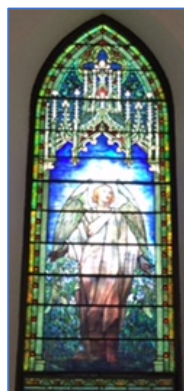


Missionary Bishop of Indiana the Rt. Rev. Jackson Kemper celebrated the first Episcopal service in Richmond in February 1837. St. Paul's was officially organized in 1838, the same year as the Diocese of Indianapolis. We were the seventh parish formed in the diocese and the tenth in Indiana.

Construction of the building began in 1842. It was consecrated by Bishop George Upfold on Dec. 20, 1849. Finding funds to build the church was not easy. To save money, some 250,000 bricks were “fired” on the church property at a cost of \$700. The full cost of the building and grounds was \$8,000. The original church bell is still in use.



In 1866, a large window was placed over the altar in memory of the Rev. George Fiske, our first rector. Stained glass panes for the window were ordered from England and assembled here at a cost of \$1,100. A “catalogue or story window,” it displays symbols representing tenets of the Christian faith.



In 1903, St. Paul's most treasured window was added. “The Angel of Resurrection” designed by Louis Comfort Tiffany of New York, was donated by Richard Jackson in memory of his parents.

The 1920s marked the highest point of membership at St. Paul's – 180 communicants and 67 church school students. A visitor from that era would find the nave a familiar space with some new additions, including a three-manual pipe organ installed in 1966 and a 40-niche Columbarium installed in 2001.

Other parts of the church – the tower, the Parish Hall, a former gymnasium and a classroom addition – have seen many changes over the years.

Despite those changes, St. Paul's is a local landmark. In a town and neighborhood steeped in history, St. Paul's stands out as the oldest public building (as opposed to private residence) in Richmond still being used for its original purpose.

Our Community



Figure 7 The Madonna of the Trail statue at Richmond's Glen Miller Park.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church sits in the heart of Richmond, at the intersection of U.S. 40 and U.S. 27, a town of just under 37,000 located midway between Dayton, Ohio, and Indianapolis on the Interstate 70 corridor.

The interstate runs parallel to U.S. 40, the Old National Road, a major route for settlers heading west in the early 1800s. In Richmond, early travelers hit a snag – a beautiful, deep gorge created by the fast-moving Whitewater River. Not surprisingly, many decided to stay.

Quakers escaping slave states settled here, as did German workers who came to build bridges across the gorge. With the coming of the railroad, they were joined by people of

many backgrounds and ethnicities. Over the years, Richmond manufactured farm equipment, lawnmowers, autos and auto parts, bicycles, caskets, pianos, and more. Like many towns in the Midwest, Richmond lost many of its large manufacturers in the closing decades of the 20th century, and the population dropped.

Today, the local economy is dominated by the service industry. Reid Health – a network of medical offices and clinics with its flagship hospital in Richmond – is the town's single largest employer. And though the companies are smaller in size, manufacturers still create a wide variety of products from elevator parts to home insulation. Because of its location along I-70, Richmond has plenty of hotels and restaurants. The retail landscape is changing, but you can still buy most everything you need here.



Figure 8 Looking down into the Whitewater Gorge from the G Street Bridge in Richmond.

There are six institutions of higher learning in Richmond: Earlham College, Indiana University East, Ivy Tech Community College, Purdue Polytechnic, Earlham School of Religion, and Bethany Theological Seminary. This gives residents access to programs unexpected in a town this size, from Chinese opera to Angela Davis. Every fall, ESR hosts a Ministry of Writing colloquium. In 2018, Barbara Brown Taylor was keynote speaker. There is an active ministerial association in town, as well as the informal Happy Hour Heretics, a mixed group of clergy and lay people that meets bi-monthly for discussion over drinks.



Figure 9 Earlham College

From the early 20th century, Richmond has been known as a home of the arts. Works by the Richmond Group of impressionist painters are an important part of the collection at the Richmond Art Museum. Some of the earliest jazz records featuring artists such as Hoagy Carmichael, Duke Ellington, and Louis Armstrong were produced here at Gennett Records.

Now, we have wonderful music from the professional Richmond Symphony Orchestra and the amateur Richmond Community and Richmond Jazz orchestras. Each summer, the Richmond Shakespeare Festival puts on two productions featuring professional and aspiring actors from around the country. Richmond Civic Theatre gives local folks a chance to be part of excellent productions of drama, comedy, and musicals. And, of course, there's the county fair, the farmers market, and parks galore. Elstro Plaza, a new city park very near the church, is host to an annual ice-carving festival in January. During the festival, St. Paul's offers visitors a place to warm up with some hot chocolate while listening to live music.



Figure 10 The splash pad at Elstro Plaza, home to the Richmond Farmers Market and several festivals.

But all these opportunities do not make living here expensive. In fact, Kiplinger.com recently named Richmond No. 1 in its list of the 13 Cheapest (we prefer "best value") Small Towns in America 2019.

According to the report, "residents spend 35% less on housing than the average American does. Apartments are roughly half the national average. Average home prices are 27% less. Health care is also a bargain. For example, a visit to the eye doctor costs about 40% less than the national average. An appointment with a physician is a fifth less expensive."

Unfortunately, average pay is also lower than the state average. The rector at St. Paul's will earn more than most folks in the area, especially those living in the immediate vicinity of the church. Like most cities in the U.S., Richmond has been hit hard by the opioid crisis. Opportunities for service abound. The parish already is involved in many.



Figure 11 Richmond High School

Several of our parishioners are current or retired employees of Richmond Community Schools, which includes pre-school in addition to K-12. Richmond High School has excellent academic and vocational programs. Students can earn college credits through local institutions of higher learning while still at RHS. Also, in Richmond are Elizabeth Seton Catholic Schools (pre-K through 12), Richmond Friends School (pre-K through 7) and Community Christian School (pre-K through 6). There is programming for kids through the parks, library, Boys & Girls h Clubs, Girls Inc., and area museums.

More information about Richmond is available at: www.visitrichmond.org, www.waynet.org, and www.wcchamber.org.

Our Invitation

We invite you to discern a call to serve with and among us. Over the years we have learned to trust how God holds our future. Be part of our ongoing story at St. Paul's!



Figure 12 Could this be your future workplace? To respond to this invitation, please contact The Rev. Kristin White, Canon to the Ordinary for Congregational Development and Leadership, Diocese of Indianapolis, at white@indydio.org.