

Welcome to the Cathedral Church of St. Paul

Caring • Faithful • Dedicated • Friendly • Tolerant • Generous • Principled • Warm

Our vision is to be an extraordinary spiritual gathering place where people of all backgrounds are welcome to question and learn, pray, worship, and serve, resting in the knowledge that they are beloved of God.

The word *welcome*, in its oldest English sense, refers to an honored guest. At the Cathedral, this welcome is central to our life together. We offer hospitality to each other as we seek a life in Christ, and we strive to welcome Christ as an honored guest into our life and our hearts.



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Prayer Shapes Belief

Our Liturgical Life

The Cathedral's liturgical life is central to our self understanding as a parish. We are committed to use of the current *Book of Common Prayer*. Since its founding in 1824, the congregation has worshiped with every edition of the *Book of Common Prayer* used by the Episcopal Church. Transitioning to new revisions as they are authorized and using the current edition as our liturgical lodestar is integral to our 200 year history.

At present our liturgical style is moderately high church. The discussions that informed the creation of this profile revealed that many parishioners are interested in expressing an even higher-church sensibility, which would enable us to continue the Anglo-Catholic tradition of combining formal, ritualized worship with a deep commitment to social justice and service of the poor.

We are particularly proud of how we use liturgy to care for ourselves and our communities. We prioritize quick and sensitive responses to events that we know affect the lives of our congregation and our neighborhood, offering vigil services in times of mourning, war, and anxiety. We also host services for and with our broader Detroit community, including the interfaith service for the unclaimed deceased (in partnership with the Wayne State University School of Mortuary Science), Homeless Persons Memorial Day, and Evensong with Trans Day of Visibility Observance..



Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness • *Our Cathedral Identity*

Our commitment to inclusivity and living tradition is written into the very space that surrounds us as we worship God. We highlight these moments in our history not because we think the most important quality of a church is its building, but because we are proud of our history of cultivating beauty as an aid in worshipping God, who made all beautiful things

The parish that grew into the Cathedral was instituted in 1824, and our present building dates from 1907.

The floor of the church is laid almost entirely in tile from the Pewabic Pottery studio, which was founded in Detroit by Mary Chase Perry Stratton in 1903. The studio's work, including its distinctive glazing style, is a point of local pride for Detroiters, and we are proud that our parish features such a large installation from so early in the studio's history. As our docents often remind the tours they lead, at the turn of the twentieth century it was quite a revolutionary decision to give such a large contract to a firm that was run by a woman, and was Pewabic's first major commission.



Our clerestory windows were installed in 1979. They were designed by a member of the parish, Donna Swanson Taylor, who won an open design competition for the program, which replaced clear windows.



“St. Paul’s Cathedral is the first of the historic churches in Detroit to experiment with contemporary design.”

–Nola Hyse Tutag, Discovering Stained Glass in Detroit, Wayne State University Press

In the mid 2010s the parish commissioned a new set of fourteen Stations of the Cross Addie Langford Stone-Richards, a ceramic artist and member of the parish. They were installed in 2015 and are used both in individual devotion and in weekly recitation of Stations of the Cross on Fridays during Lent.



Our commitment to finding the best artist for these projects (in these cases, all women) and blending fresh, modern design with traditional architecture and spiritual practice is a perfect metaphor for our approach to our faith and our lives together. We deeply value our congregation’s diversity and are proud that our parish family comes from many cultural and ethnic backgrounds and holds identities across the spectra of age, gender, sexuality, and economic status.



Your Neighbor as Yourself

Serving Our Community

The **Community Homeless Interprofessional Program (CHIP)** is a free clinic offered by professional schools from Wayne State University, including the Schools of Medicine, Social Work, and Pharmacy once a month using the Cathedral's facilities. This partnership has been in place for a decade and we are deeply proud of it. The Cathedral also served as a Covid-19 vaccination site in 2021. Free medical care is one of the Church's oldest ministries and we feel very blessed to continue in that lineage.



Our **Feeding Hungry People** ministry has been operating for over 20 years to provide hot breakfast to all comers on Sunday mornings. In practice the program serves the parish's homeless neighbors. It transitioned to a hot takeaway lunch during the early Covid pandemic when we could not eat together indoors. Indoor service later resumed, but the ministry is currently on hiatus. Resuming this ministry is important to a great many parishioners, as well as to the neighbors we serve.



The **Cathedral Foundation** oversees grant funding to support the ministry of the Cathedral and other organizations in metro Detroit. They are also instrumental in supporting Williams Pavilion, an apartment building of subsidized housing for seniors located a few blocks from the Cathedral.

Sing Ye to the Lord

Music at the Cathedral

One of the jewels of our life at the Cathedral is the music, which encompasses the Cathedral Choirs, the Cathedral Choir School of Metropolitan Detroit, and the Cathedral Music Society.

The Cathedral Choir sings weekly services from September through Trinity Sunday, as well as concerts and festal services that fall during the week.

Cathedral Choir School of Metropolitan Detroit, a free program that provides fundamental music education to children in the metropolitan Detroit region, and is open to all youth, regardless of religious affiliation. Choristers focus on vocal technique, musicianship, and citizenship in the context of the liturgical life of the Cathedral. The Choir School is a community that, while focused on music, is a systematic, long-term investment in young people.

Choristers sing multiple services per month, including Holy Eucharist and Evensong, in partnership with adult members of the choir. They attend day camp in the summer where they focus on intensive music skills and complete a service project of their own devising for the parish. Recent projects include garden plots, packing backpacks with school supplies for a local public school, and the construction and curation of a Little Free Library on Cathedral grounds.



Choir Camp



Rehearsing music for evensong



Chorister Promotions



Lessons and Carols 2024

The Cathedral Music Society sponsors concert series at the Cathedral, including choral programs; provides for extra chorister education opportunities, including summer camps through the Royal School of Church Musicians; sponsors instrumentalists for special services; and allows for other opportunities as they arise.

Music at Mid-Day is a program of thirty-minute organ recitals on the second and fourth Fridays of each month at 12:30 pm. Recitals are presented both in person, and via livestream, and in spring of 2025 our organist and choirmaster will play the 100th concert offered since this series began.

The Cathedral's music ministry actively patronizes the continued creation of church music through its commissioning of service music and hymnody. In the past five years alone we have debuted new music and texts by Dr. Sarah Simko, Dr. John Abdenour, Mary Grahame Hunter, Ray Stilwell, and Dr. Gerald Custer, all of whom have professional or personal ties to the Cathedral.



Harpsichordist Dr. Shuntaro Sugie performs the entirety of J. S. Bach's The Art of Fugue, Cathedral Music Society concert series 2025



Mr. Ray Stilwell and Ms. Mary Grahame Hunter after the debut of their hymn Grant O Lord at Evensong with Trans Day of Visibility Observance 2023

See That Ye Love One Another

Fellowship

We love a chance to socialize, especially if there's food involved. We have lively weekly coffee hours and often use them to celebrate milestones such as chorister promotions, baptisms, anniversaries, and staff achievements.



Coffee hour shenanigans



*Pancake Supper 2025
volunteers*

After a full Holy Week, it's time to hunt for Easter eggs



*We have an annual presence
at Motor City Pride!*

With All Your Heart, Mind, and Strength • *Christian Education*

Our congregation is full of curious people eager for the chance to learn, discuss, debate, and question.

We currently offer a weekly Bible study, as well as class series typically offered during a particular liturgical season, such as Lent. Past Lent classes include a series on J. R. R. Tolkien and C. S. Lewis, taught by local professors from Wayne State University and the College for Creative Studies; *Finding God In Paul*, guided by Bishop Rowan Williams' book of the same name; and a symposium on hospitality led by various parishioners.

Catechesis is offered during Lent for those preparing for baptism, confirmation, reaffirmation, and reception. It is currently taught by laypeople with clergy assistance.

We have a growing number of small children in the congregation as long-term members have children and new parishioners with young ones join us. At present we do not have a dedicated Sunday school program; our main ministry for children is the choir school. Various guild work, including the lector and altar guilds and the acolyte corps, is also open to children.



Catechesis 2024

The Harvest is Plentiful

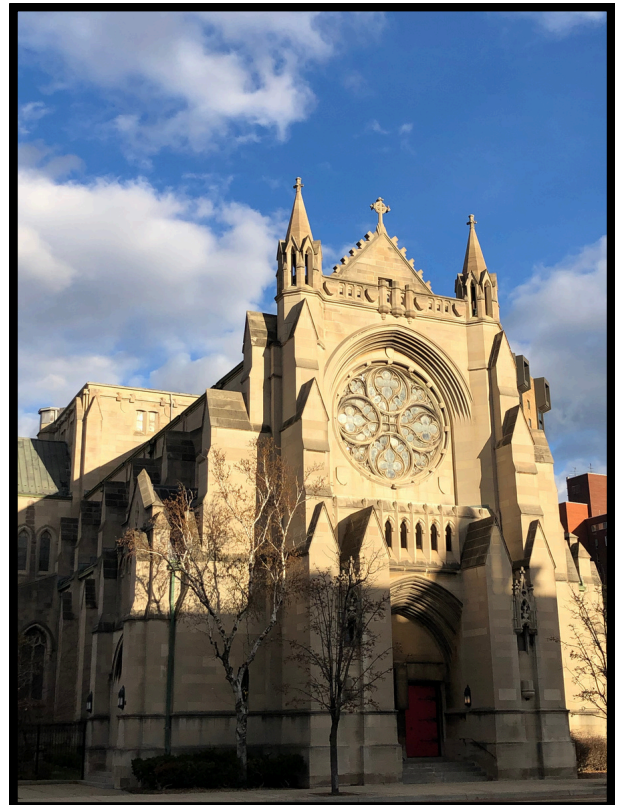
Challenges and Opportunities

As we worked with the congregation to craft this profile, a word that we heard over and over again was *dedicated*. The people who worship and serve at the Cathedral are committed to their work. This often means volunteers take on multiple tasks, and we sometimes that feel that we're trying to do quite a lot with not enough time or people.

Particularly after the financial trauma we endured in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis, we have become used to deficit thinking. While we ultimately weathered the difficulties of that crisis and our finances are in a considerably better place, we often find it easier to think about why we *can't* do something than to imagine how we *can*. The transition process has helped us recognize this, and there is considerable enthusiasm in the congregation for learning how to grow beyond this pattern of thinking.

There is also a great thirst for deeper exploration of the spiritual life. We dream of more consistent Christian education, led by both clergy and laypeople, for all ages. We often focus on our ministry outward, which is a good thing, but we seek to balance that with more attention to the wellspring of study and prayer outside of Sunday liturgies.

As a historic congregation, we are blessed with endowed funds, and have the responsibility to arrange our finances to reflect our current membership and pledges. Currently we are on track to reach a sustainable place in our withdrawal rate from our endowment, but this will require continued effort from our stewardship team and wise planning. For more details please see the budget report at the end of this document. You may also review the report from the 2025 Annual Meeting at detroitcathedral.org/2025-parish-annual-meeting.



On Christ the Solid Rock I Stand

Our Next Dean

We seek a teacher. As the congregation gave feedback on what was important in our next dean, one concern rose above all the rest: preaching. Our love of God and our thirst for the wisdom and understanding that comes from life in Christ were expressed in consistent requests for a dean who is a strong preacher with a passion for teaching and spiritual guidance that is rooted in love for Christ and God's people and in understanding of the Scriptures.

We seek an approachable, trustworthy pastor.

We seek a priest committed to the Book of Common Prayer and with an appreciation for liturgy as central to parish life and identity, who is willing to work closely with church staff and lay liturgical leaders.

We seek a leader who is comfortable organizing people and crafting strategies to navigate challenges and changes. The Cathedral is a wonderful place for someone who enjoys getting out from behind a desk and working regularly with parishioners and community members, including secular neighborhood organizations and other community clergy of various faiths. As dean of a cathedral, there is a responsibility to work in open communication with the Bishop and the diocesan staff. The cathedral property is a split governance structure, with the Vestry in charge of the parish and the "Gothic Building" itself, and the Chapter under the presidency of the Bishop with control of the rest of the site, including the parking lot, fellowship hall, and adjacent structures. A cathedral is a multifaceted space, serving the community, the parish, and the diocese, and our next dean will need strong skills of administration and delegation.

Detroit offers a world-class cosmopolitan life in one of the most affordable cities in the country. The people are friendly; the cultural scene is vibrant; the sports fans are passionate; the nature is beautiful; the food is delicious.

Visit our website at **detroitcathedral.org** to learn more.

Find us on social media at:



CathedralChurchOfStPaulDetroit



facebook.com/stpaulsdetroit



@stpaulsdetroit

Interested clergy should send the following documents to the Rev. Canon Susie Shaefer, Canon for Transitions and Formation for the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan by email: **sshaefer@edomi.org** or mail: **4800 Woodward Ave, Detroit, MI 48201.**

It is very helpful if all three documents can be sent as attachments to a single email.

- A letter addressed to the Search Committee in which the candidate (a) offers a self-introduction, and (b) describes why they feel drawn into discernment around this particular position. The specific form, length, and content of the letter is at the candidate's discretion;
- A current resume
- A PDF of the candidate's current Office of Transition Ministries Portfolio, including answers to all of the narrative questions.

The Cathedral Church of St. Paul
2025 Budget - with Full Time ADMIN

Approved by Vestry: 12/17/2024
UPDATED: 1/20/2024

Basic Summary

	2025 Budget	2024 Actual	2024 Budget
Revenues			
Annual Giving	\$ 280,500.00	\$ 282,889.73	\$ 272,612.00
Investment and Outside Income	\$ 692,715.71	\$ 605,243.80	\$ 599,205.00
Other/Designated Income	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 6,825.00	\$ 7,000.00
Total Operating Revenues	\$ 980,215.71	\$ 894,958.53	\$ 878,817.00
0			
Expenses			
Ministry Overhead & Administration	\$ 741,802.26	\$ 612,892.60	\$ 655,304.00
Education	\$ 4,150.00	\$ 478.61	\$ 4,925.00
Evangelism, Communication & Stewardship	\$ 110,464.75	\$ 109,900.59	\$ 110,094.79
Pastoral Care & Outreach	\$ 23,130.00	\$ 26,270.94	\$ 36,900.00
Worship & Music	\$ 236,268.03	\$ 224,203.52	\$ 241,712.78
Total Expenses	\$ 1,115,815.05	\$ 973,746.26	\$ 1,048,936.57
Net	\$ (135,599.34)	\$ (78,787.73)	\$ (170,119.57)