

St. Paul's Parish Profile

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**St. Paul's
Anglican Church**

Opening Hearts and Minds to God's Grace

Website: www.stpaulscalgary.ca

Our Parish

One of the oldest Anglican parishes in Alberta, St. Paul's has ministered to the needs of south Calgary since 1885. We worship in a debt-free, modern facility, built in 1998, and our lovingly maintained historic chapel, designated a provincial historic site in 1977. We value team ministry and are currently served by two (non-stipendiary) Assistant priests and a Deacon.



We are a diverse, Christ-centred, Eucharistic parish, committed to meaningful, inclusive and multi-generational worship, prayerfulness and spiritual growth. The generous breadth of the Anglican tradition is reflected in our worship and parish life. Our parish activities reflect our commitment to being a welcoming and inclusive community of persons from many different backgrounds and life experiences. We believe we all can learn from each other and grow together in faith.

In addition to being caring and supportive of the members of our parish family, we are mindful of our need to reach out in partnership and service to those who lie beyond the parish in our city, nation and the world.

Our Diocese

The Anglican Diocese of Calgary is one of 30 in the Anglican Church of Canada. It includes about 10,000 Anglicans in five deaneries with 67 active parishes and four missions in the southern part of the Alberta. St. Paul's is one of 11 churches in the Glenmore Deanery.





Parish Life

Worship is centred on the Book of Alternative Services but also includes sources such as Celtic or contemporary materials and the Book of Common Prayer. On Sunday mornings, a children’s talk is regularly featured. Our Music Director leads a choir of 6-8 people in a mix of traditional and contemporary music from both Common Praise and our own compilation known as the Red Song book.

The Sunday service is live-streamed and posted online. Attendance averages 80 – 100 people, including several families with children. Ministries supporting the service include a Prayer team, Altar Guild, greeters, counters, sides people, servers, lay readers and sound board operators.

A morning prayer service is held each Wednesday morning. Christian Education includes weekly Sunday School with 16 children registered, as well as guided Bible or Theological Studies led by clergy and lay leaders.

Pastoral Care is provided on request by clergy or a small team of trained volunteers who can visit or administer communion.

A fund is available for emergency financial help upon request. Opportunities to develop social connections include coffee after Sunday services, a monthly Men’s Breakfast and Ladies’ Luncheon, numerous seasonal gatherings such as a Pancake Supper and Secret Friends party, as well as various barbecues, potluck lunches and special celebrations. Small groups include a youth group, a walking group, guitar jam, hand chimes and a quilt/prayer shawl ministry.

Other ministries supporting all of these activities include Communications, Maintenance, Stewardship and Shepherding.

The parish is supported by two Assistant Priests and a Deacon. There is a part-time administrative assistant and part-time cleaning person.

Parish Council meets monthly and consists of 12 lay people, representing ministries, and clergy. Finances have been relatively stable for about 10 years allowing financial commitments to be met.



Parish Outreach

St. Paul's primary means of outreach is the allocation of 10% of the offering collected being given to various charitable organizations.

There is also an ongoing collection of non-perishable food for the Calgary Food Bank and several other seasonal initiatives that benefit specific charities.

A youth group called Pioneers of Paul has 14 participants who regularly volunteer at community charities or in settings such as long-term care.

There are also singalongs and eucharist services held regularly at an area long-term care facility.

To engage with our community, St. Paul's hosts a free barbecue each year for our neighbours, holds an annual yard sale, has created

inviting outdoor spaces and participates in the South of Fish Creek Interfaith initiative – joining with area churches supporting various outreach activities.



Parish Priorities

In November of 2023, the congregation was asked to rank parish priorities using nine categories.

Christian Education and Worship/Prayer virtually tied as the most important overall, closely followed by Pastoral Care.

Outreach (Donations) ranked next in importance, followed by Community Building within the congregation and Outreach (Volunteerism), which were considered nearly equal in importance.

The lowest ranked categories were Church Building (property), Evangelizing, and External Community Building (e.g. working with other local churches or providing activities for the local community).

For Christian Education, comments suggested parishioners would like more support for families with children at all ages from nursery to youth.

Comments on Community Building within the congregation emphasized using social events to build relationships with new attendees and creating a community that supports its members.

In general, the priorities expressed in the survey were reasonably consistent with those currently pursued by the parish. However, it does suggest more focus on Christian Education and Pastoral Care are warranted.

Our New Rector

You have a strong, centred faith and feel strongly called to join our parish. You have a living relationship with Christ, a love of scripture, a passion for the Gospel and enjoy Anglican tradition.

You can work with all age groups, highly value inclusiveness and are open to trying new ideas for worship and other activities.

You enjoy working in a team-ministry environment, both with other clergy and laity, and are comfortable delegating tasks that draw on the skills of others, providing support and guidance.

You are willing to accept the support of our congregation and become part of our family.

You understand the importance of building bonds within the congregation and our desire to be supportive of each other. You strive to inspire us and look for us to inspire you. You plan to build on what our parish has already accomplished and help us share our faith with others.

Skills

You are an engaging speaker with sermons that relate the Bible to our daily lives, offering practical guidance, challenging Bible study and opportunities to expand our faith and understanding.

Strong organizational and administrative skills are required to work co-operatively with our church administrator, parish council and wardens to effectively maintain workflow.

Along with effective leadership skills, you have creative ideas to help involve youth and young adults in parish life.

You must be comfortable delegating tasks and working in a team environment. You will encourage the contributions of others and are open to new ideas.

You have strong skills in both pastoral care and prayer and will encourage development of these skills in others.

You are an accomplished communicator and will keep the parish informed about developments within the Anglican Communion and the Diocese of Calgary.

Our Community

Calgary, with a population of 1.6 million people, is on the Bow River in southern Alberta with the Rocky Mountains as a panoramic backdrop. It is the financial centre of western Canada with a diversifying economy, but still identifies with historic ties to cattle ranching and oil exploration and development. It has several universities and post-secondary institutions and has major cultural facilities.

Calgary has a diverse population with new immigrants and visible minorities accounting for about 37% of its residents. This diversity is reflected in the makeup of our congregation.

The parish of St. Paul's originally served the village of Midnapore located south of Calgary. In the 1970s, the village was absorbed into Calgary. St. Paul's grew along with the city, with a new church building constructed in 1998 in the nearby neighbourhood of Sundance. Now, as the only Anglican church south of Fish Creek Park, St. Paul's serves a large and growing number of new neighbourhoods.

The websites www.LifeInCalgary.ca and www.Calgary.ca may prove helpful in learning more about Calgary. More details about St. Paul's can be found at www.stpaulscalgary.ca