

ST PAULS MEMORIAL CHURCH

at the UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA



Fall 2026

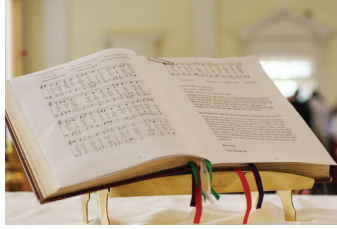
Sunday Worship

Sunday Services

8 a.m. – **Holy Eucharist** (*quiet, traditional*)

10 a.m. – **Holy Eucharist with Choir** (*festive, intergenerational*)

6:30 p.m. – **Evening Worship with Music** (*informal, contemplative*)



PROGRAM YEAR KICKOFF

Welcome Back Sunday – August 23

- A **festive 10 a.m. service** on August 23 marks the beginning of our fall programs.
- **Following the 10 a.m. service**, all are invited to gather in the parish hall for our **Fall Common Hour Kickoff**. After brief welcoming remarks and recognitions, adults will hear an overview of the common hour schedule for the fall while children and youth meet their leaders and classmates, followed by games and activities.
- **Fall weekly Sunday evening worship** starts at 6:30 p.m. The service is followed by food and fellowship.

On the cover (*clockwise from upper left*): Henry and his dog at the St. Francis Day Blessing of the Animals; Erin, Jacqueline, Suzannah, and Samantha at a Young Families potluck dinner; Steve Bevis at the Annual Meeting dinner; TUF students enjoying time at Shrine Mont; Will Peyton welcoming and blessing baby Ollie.

Weekday Services

Weekday Services

Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – **Virtual Morning Prayer** (*Zoom*)

Mondays, 8 p.m. – **Compline** (*chanted, candlelit*)

Tuesdays, 12:15 p.m. – **Holy Eucharist** (*simple, intimate*)

Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m. – **Evening Prayer** (*casual, kid-friendly*)

PROGRAM YEAR KICKOFF

Welcome Back Wednesday – August 26

- Wee music time begins.
- Rehearsals begin for our Primary, Junior, and Parish Choirs.
- Kid-friendly, brief, all-ages Evening Prayer service starts at 5:30 p.m. in the Chapel.
- Welcome Back picnic follows the service.



Thank God It's Wednesday!



Choir Times

Primary Choir
4:45-5:15 p.m.

Junior Choir
4:15-5:15 p.m.

Parish Choir
7-9 p.m.

Evening Prayer 5:30 p.m.

All-Ages Meal 6 p.m.

Wee Ones
(ages 3-4)
crafting before dinner
music after dinner*

**Contact Samanta Kang
for more information.*



Welcome

When newcomers tell me they want to talk about St. Paul's or the Episcopal Church, I often ask how the St. Paul's community might help them explore their faith. But stepping back to consider how God is working in your life, or where you might be called to take the next step in your own faith isn't just for newcomers.



No matter how long you've been part of St. Paul's, or how well you know our practices and traditions, I hope you'll read everything in this booklet as an invitation to explore our worship and fellowship this fall, and to grow in faith and community.

God bless you now and always. See you on The Corner this fall!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Will".

The Rev. William Peyton, Rector

Weekly Update

Our weekly e-newsletter, the *Weekly Update*, is our primary means of communication with parishioners and newcomers. It is full of everything you need to know about what's going on at St. Paul's, including information about upcoming services and events, parish news, and prayers. Scan our QR code to subscribe.



Shrine Mont

Shrine Mont

September 4-6
St. Paul's annual
parish weekend
at Shrine Mont
– the Diocese
of Virginia's
spectacular
mountain retreat
center in Orkney

Springs, Virginia – offers fun, fellowship, relaxation and renewal for families, undergraduates, elders, and everyone else, with activities for all ages, and plenty of non-activity for those who just need a break.



The 2026 Koinonia Lecture

Talking About Israel And Palestine: The Challenge To The Churches In The Age Of Gaza

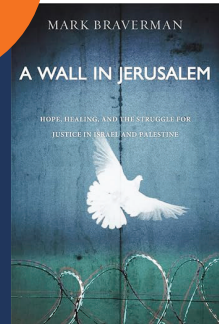
Mark Braverman



**Sunday,
September 27 –
4:30 p.m.**

Watch for
book groups
forming
soon

Dr. Mark Braverman was raised in the Jewish tradition, with deep family roots in the Holy Land. Since 2006 Dr. Braverman has devoted himself to the global church movement for Palestine, working with clergy, churches, and ecumenical bodies in the United States and internationally. He has published and lectured widely on Kairos theology, Christian Zionism, post-Holocaust theology, Christian-Jewish relations, and the call of the Palestinian Christians. Dr. Braverman will discuss the background for the current crisis and bring key texts from scripture to bear on the question of the biblical promises, the challenge of Christian Zionism, the weaponization of antisemitism, and the historic role of the church as a moral compass and force for change.



Children's, Youth & Family Ministries



For children's and youth programming details, sign up for our families email list by contacting Coordinator of Children's Ministries Samantha Kang, samantha.kang@spmcuva.org.

Sunday Nursery during Worship: Childcare is available during worship beginning at 9:30 on Sundays and is open to infants and children who have not yet started kindergarten. Older children (ages 3-4) are escorted to Children's Chapel during the 10:00 service and should join their families at the Peace; parents may accompany children back to the nursery if they choose.

Children's Chapel during Sunday Worship: Kids through grade 2 are invited to follow the procession to Children's Chapel for about 20 minutes of prayer, story, and songs. They return to the main service at the Peace.

Parents may accompany their children or not, according to each family's preference.



Sunday Nursery during Common Hour: Nursery coverage continues during the Common Hour period from 11:15 a.m. until 12:15 p.m., allowing families with small children to fully participate in adult formation while taking advantage of our programs for school-age children. Here, older children transition from unstructured play to informal religious content. Snacks, Bible stories, and related activities are provided during this time.

**Children of all ages are always welcome in worship;
whatever works for your family works for us.**

Children & Youth Formation during Common Hour

Grades K-2: Building on the topics introduced in Children's Chapel each week, this class will focus on developing a basic literacy of faith and tradition. Through stories, crafts, games, and other activities, we'll explore the main characters and stories of the Bible, the language of prayer and worship, and what it means to be a Christian. *Leaders: E.D. Rambo, Ellen Tully, Suzannah Spaar.*

Grades 3-5: Older elementary students will take a deeper dive into both the Bible and the foundations of our faith and worship. They will learn about baptism, communion, and the types and purpose of prayer, and begin to consider how these topics are relevant personally and communally, through conversation and small outreach projects. *Leaders: Sophie Gibson, Samantha Kang, Frank Rambo.*

Middle School (Grades 6-8): Community building and group identity is the focus for middle school kids. They will work on recognizing each other as full participants in the life of the parish, and explore ways to incorporate what happens in church with what happens at home, school, and in the broader community. Topics include spirituality, local service, and fun.

High School (Grades 9-12): Programming for older youth will emphasize leadership, social justice, and service. Programming for older youth will emphasize leadership, social justice, and service, while offering an opportunity to explore confirmation.

Youth Group: There are opportunities for youth in grades 6 through 12 – both separate and combined – to gather at various times throughout the year outside of Sunday mornings. Activities include field trips, a winter weekend getaway, seasonal events, and a service project. Juniors and seniors will have additional opportunities for fellowship, service, and participation in a mission trip.

Common Hour for Formation, Fellowship, and Service

Every Sunday after the 10 a.m. service, St. Paul's welcomes parishioners, friends, and visitors of every age to explore faith and community through learning, doing, and being together. Sometimes all of us gather together, and other times we sort ourselves out by age from kindergarten up.

Highlights of the fall schedule include:

- **Fall Common Hour Overview** – Aug. 23
Program year kickoff and a brief introduction of Episcopal Church Leadership fellows and scholars
- **How to Get Connected and Involved at St. Paul's** – Aug. 30
- **Simple Reception with Coffee** – Sept. 6 (Shrine Mont weekend)
- **Formation Programming** – Sept. 13 and 20
- **Koinonia Speaker Mark Braverman** – Sept. 27
- **Stewardship, Capital Campaign & Building Project** – Oct. 4
- **Mission & Service** – Oct. 11 (Child Health Partnership coat drive ingathering)
- **Formation Programming** – Oct. 18 and 25
- **All Saints Sunday Reception** – Nov. 1, for all ages
 - Food and fellowship for all
 - Reception to honor the newly baptized
 - Pledge Blessing and Celebration
- **Mission & Service** – Nov. 8, 15, and 22
Focus on the Episcopal Church's Global Mission with a particular emphasis on Haiti culminating on Christ the King Sunday with a celebration of Legliz Kris Roi (Christ the King) School and Church in Léger.
- **Advent Wreath Making & Doughnut Decorating**
for all ages – Nov. 29
- **Advent Programming** – Dec. 6
- **Simple Holiday Reception with Coffee** – Dec. 13, 20, and 27

Adult Formation Committee Members:

Bubba Beasley, the Rev. Elly Brown, Vickie Gottlob,
the Rev. Dr. Peter Kang, and Diane Wright

Fall Formation Programming

In the Episcopal Church, we take seriously the ancient maxim, “prayer shapes believing,” that our beliefs about God are shaped by our encounters with God in worship. And not only our beliefs, but also our lives and work in the world. With this in mind, our formation programming this fall will begin by examining the meaning of what we do and say here in our celebrations of the Eucharist, in a two-part series — **Exploring the Eucharist**. We then turn to how we are called to live our lives in this community and nation, with attention to the contemporary challenge of confronting so-called “Christian Nationalism” — **Being Faithful Citizens**. And finally, we look beyond our local context to our call to mission and service in the world, with a special focus on our ministry relationships in Haiti — **Mission and Service: Haiti**.

*For children’s and youth programming details,
sign up for our families email list by contacting
the church office at office@spmcuva.org.*

Other Formation Offerings

Mondays, 9:15-11:45 a.m. (Sept. 7 to May 17) –
Education for Ministry (virtual)

Mondays, 4 p.m., Lectionary Bible Study (virtual)

Thursdays, 7:30 a.m. – Group Bible Study at St. Paul’s (beginning
Sept. 10)

Early December – **Advent Retreat**: a half-day retreat on personal
devotional practices and ways of integrating the Bible
into daily life.



University Ministry

Parish Ministry at St. Paul's

For UVA students, participating in The University Fellowship means participating in the life of the Church. At St. Paul's, college students are an integral part of intergenerational parish community, and participate in all of our ministries from serving on parish committees to serving the chalice on Sunday, from singing in the Parish Choir to leading children's ministries. We endeavor to meet students where they are, welcome them into a loving and supportive community, nurture their faith and curiosity, and help them grow into mature Christians in the Episcopal tradition. Our hope is that they will move on from their UVA experience to become active members contributing to the life and ministry of church communities wherever they go.



Communal Worship & Food

- **Sunday evenings at 6:30 p.m.** – a candlelit, contemplative service followed by food and fellowship for all.



- **Wednesday evenings at 5:30 p.m.** – a relaxed, kid-friendly service followed by an intergenerational community dinner.

University Ministry

Small Groups — Student-led small group gatherings for prayer, relationship-building, mutual inquiry, and learning. Each group is organized around different topics and interests.

This fall's student-led small groups include:

- **Walking Through the Word** – a weekly Bible study for TUF students, co-led by Augusta Halle and Ted Williamson. Students connect in a small, consistent community committed to walking through the semester together.
- **Thin Places** – an exploration of how architecture, landscape, light, silence, sound, and sacred music shape our experience of place and contribute to our perception of the sacred, through a series of “field trip” visits to different sacred spaces in the area, open to student and community members, led by Grey Edens with assistance from the Rev. Lachlan Hassman.
- **Mission and Service** – incorporating students into St. Paul's volunteer Mission and Service efforts.
- **Adventures with Dice** – facilitated by TUF students for middle and early high school-aged youth, an exploration of the world of tabletop roleplaying games, engaging the imagination and building relationships through collective storytelling, organized by Fionn French.
- **Graduate Student Fellowship** – a weekly gathering for graduate students for theological reflection and spiritual discussion led by Tomoya Nishira and James Quillen.

Episcopal Church Leadership Scholarships

St. Paul's awards scholarships on behalf of the University to support the education of full-time undergraduate and graduate students preparing for life and leadership within the Episcopal Church.

We have awarded scholarships to

23 students for the 2026-27 academic year, totaling **\$250,000**.

Meet the ECL Scholars and Fellows during Common Hour after the 10 a.m. service on Welcome Back Sunday, August 23.



Music at St. Paul's

Wee Music Time *Led by Joyce Polifka*

- A fun learning experience for children ages 3-4.
- Gathering on Wednesday afternoons (late August-May).
- Wee Crafting before the service and dinner, Wee Music after dinner.
- Watch the *Weekly Update* for information on Bagel Sundays with Wee Music time.

Primary Choir *Directed by Joyce Polifka*

- A fun training choir for children in grades pre-K-2.
- Rehearsals are Wednesday afternoons from 4:45-5:15 p.m. (late August-May), followed by the brief informal 5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer service, a 6 p.m. kid-friendly dinner, concluding with crafts after dinner.



Junior Choir

Directed by Deke Polifka

- Open to children and youth in grades 3-8.
- Rehearsals are Wednesday afternoons from 4:15-5:15 p.m. (late August-May).
- All choristers and their families are invited and encouraged to stay for a brief informal Evening Prayer service at 5:30 p.m. and a 6 p.m. kid-friendly dinner, followed by crafts.

Parish Choir *Directed by Deke Polifka*

- The principal musical ensemble of St. Paul's for high school age and above.
- Singing each week for the 10 a.m. Sunday service throughout the year, as well as for major feast days, Choral Evensongs, and special concerts.
- Rehearsals on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. (late August-May).

Special Musical Events

Sun., Sept 27, 6:30 p.m.

Festive Choral Evensong for St. Michael & All Angels (Michaelmas) featuring guest organist Albrecht von Gaudecker

Our Parish Choir offers beautiful choral music for the traditional service of Choral Evensong, a form of Evening Prayer that draws from the medieval Latin offices of Vespers and Compline.

Albrecht will play a mini-recital before Evensong beginning at 6 p.m.



Sun., Oct 18, 10 a.m. **The choir of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Winston-Salem**, travels to Charlottesville to join our Sunday morning worship.



Sun., Nov 15, 5:30 p.m. **Choral Compline (aka Chompline)**

TUF hosts a Chili Cook-Off followed by a special service of Choral Compline at 6:30 p.m. Students and more seasoned parishioners are encouraged to bring their favorite chili recipe for a chance to win honor, bragging rights, and the esteemed “golden ladle.”

Fellowship Events

St. Francis Day Blessing of the Animals

October 7, 5:30 p.m.

Parishioners, friends, neighbors, and pets of every description gather in the church for a brief, beautiful, and potentially chaotic service of prayer, music, and pet blessings, with dinner following outside.



Evening Prayer followed by Pumpkin Carving & Pizza

October 28, 5:30 p.m.

Immediately following our informal, all-ages 5:30 p.m. service in the chapel, parishioners, friends, and neighbors head outside for a pumpkin-carving and pizza party. BYOP (bring your own pumpkins). Halloween costumes encouraged!



Fellowship Events

Advent Wreath Making & Doughnut Decorating

November 29, 11:15 a.m.



This family-friendly event prepares parishioners of all ages to keep a holy Advent at home by making Advent wreaths. All materials provided. Doughnut wreath-making for kids is back by popular demand!

Advent Lessons & Carols

December 6, 6:30 p.m.



The Parish Choir and Junior Choir combine for a classic candlelit service of Advent Lessons & Carols. Readings, anthems, hymns, and prayers prepare the way for the joyful Christmas season.

Building Centennial Campaign Update



Master Plan

- The reformulated Building Committee is charged by the vestry with implementing the master plan. The committee co-chairs are **Rachel Lloyd** and **Taro Matsuno**. Members are **Jim Beer**, **Steve Bevis**, **Rachael Buchanan** (TUF '28), **Kelly Carney**, **Pat Punch**, **Frank Rambo**, and **Anne Ribble**.

Campaign Update

- A detailed report on the status of the Building Centennial Campaign will be included in the Stewardship package to be mailed to all parishioners in September 2026.

Lease Negotiation Update

- The negotiation committee has been appointed: **Chris Barth**, **David Gillis**, **Angelica Light**, and **William Taylor**.
- The committee's work has begun and they are coordinating with Matthews Development, our lawyers, and the University Foundation.

Mission & Service

We believe that community engagement is both an exploration of and an expression of our faith. Because outreach is integral to Christian formation, we strive to provide opportunities for all ages to engage in Mission & Service. We seek to serve our community by raising awareness, promoting advocacy, and taking action.

Charlottesville Pride

Each fall, St. Paul's hosts a booth at the Charlottesville Pride Festival in celebration and support of the LGBTQ+ community. **This year's festival takes place on September 26** at the Ting Pavilion.



Child Health Partnership

St. Paul's supports the Child Health Partnership by collecting winter coats for families with young children. This local nonprofit offers in-home health and parenting support to families experiencing poverty or resettlement. **Our coat drive runs through October 11.**



Habitat for Humanity

St. Paul's partners with Habitat for Humanity of Greater Charlottesville to help build safe, affordable housing for neighbors in need. Volunteers support local build sites and the Habitat ReStore.



IMPACT

IMPACT is a coalition of faith communities working for justice in the Charlottesville area which addresses systemic challenges such as housing, mental health, and transportation. This year, IMPACT is focused on expanding affordable housing, improving public transit access, and increasing neighborhood safety.

Kris Roi Partnership (Léger, Haiti)

Since 2018, St. Paul's has partnered with the Episcopal Church of Christ the King (Kris Roi) in Léger, Haiti. We will highlight our work in Haiti during Common Hour on **November 8, 15, and 22.**

Mission & Service Committee Members:

Elizabeth Andrews, Anne Cressin, Ken Dabkowski, Peach Dumars, Katie Hall, Sheila Haughey, Barry Keith, Sarah Shalf, Ed Wright

Important Fall/Winter 2026 Dates

Sun Aug 23	11:15 am 6:30 pm	Common Hour kickoff First Evening Worship of the new school year
Wed Aug 26	5:30 pm	Fall Wednesday Evening Prayer begins Welcome Back Picnic Wee Singers as well as Primary & Junior Choir rehearsals start
Fri Sept 4 – Sun Sept 6		Parish Weekend at Shrine Mont
Sun Sept 20	10 am	Holy Baptism
Sat Sept 26	12:30 pm	Cville Pride 2026 at the Ting Pavilion
Sun Sept 27	4:30 pm	Koinonia speaker Mark Braverman
Sun Sept 27	6:30 pm	Michaelmas Evensong sung by the Parish Choir
Sun Oct 4	6:30 pm	Choral Evensong sung by Zephyrus
Wed Oct 7	5:30 pm	St. Francis Evening Prayer & Blessing of the Animals (<i>Junior Choir singing</i>)
Sun Oct 11		Coat Drive ingathering
Wed Oct 28	5:30 pm	Evening Prayer followed by Pumpkin Carving & Pizza for all ages
Sun Nov 1	10:00 am	Blessing of the Pledges All Saints' Day & Holy Baptism (<i>Junior Choir singing</i>)
Tues Nov 3	12:15 pm	Election Day Prayers
Sun Nov 15	5:30 pm	Chili Cookoff and Choral Compline (aka Chompline)
Sun Nov 29	10:00 am 11:15 am	First Sunday of Advent Advent Wreath Making & Doughnut Decorating
Sun Dec 6	6:30 pm	Advent Festival of Lessons & Carols (<i>Junior Choir singing</i>), followed by a reception
Wed Dec 9	5:30 pm	Celebration of the Feast of St. Nicholas