

# The Person We Seek

# Parish Life



St. Paul's is genuinely unique: the parish is anchored on an island, and is the only Episcopal Church on Nantucket. We are searching for a pastoral priest who enjoys being with the congregation, and who brings unique qualities and an adventurous spirit to our community.

We seek a seasoned parish priest with depth and breadth of experience. We are looking for a collaborative leader, with the ability, energy, and spirituality to draw on the potential of our congregation, to grow and energize our parish, and to walk with us on our spiritual journey.

### We seek a pastor with the following strengths:

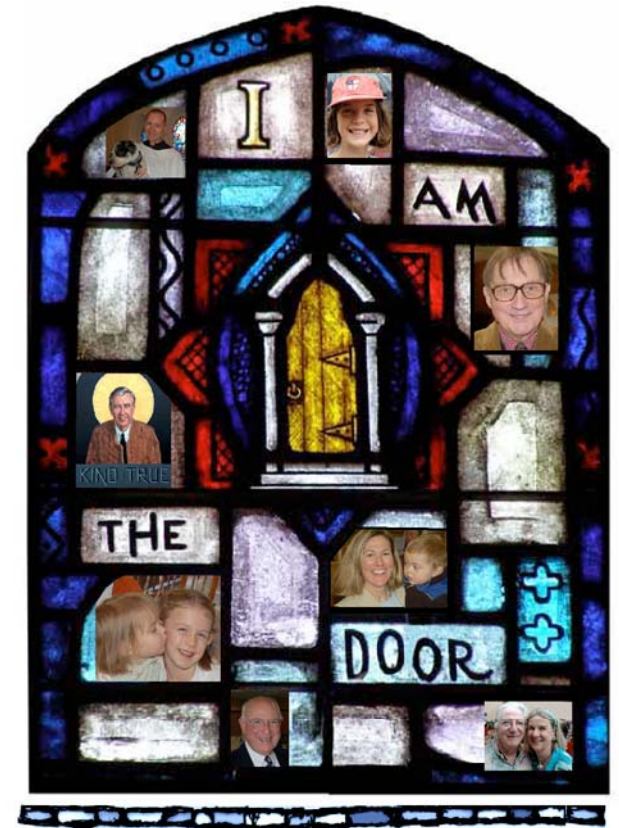
- **Leadership skills** - to inspire us, recognize our talents, and empower our laity
- **Excellence in preaching** - a centrist theologian to teach us and to unite us
- **Adaptability** - to embrace island life and its heritage
- **Management skills** - to plan, to organize, to delegate, and to follow up
- **Generosity of spirit** - to work in partnership with the congregation
- **Openness and curiosity** - to consider and respond to change
- **Creativity** - to help us innovate, encourage our ingenuity, develop new programs, fine-tune existing ones, and to persist
- **Positive outlook** - to view challenge as an opportunity for growth

Are you a person of insight, energy, enthusiasm, courage and flexibility? Do you have a sense of humor? Is your spirituality grounded, transparent, and humble before God? Are you looking for a place where you will grow and change? If so, we would like to hear from you.

A people's person...someone who will get in the boat with us.



The "I am" clerestory windows were recently restored and opened for the first time in many years



# St. Paul's Church Nantucket Island

To share the love of Christ  
with each other,  
our island, and the world.

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# Nantucket Island

# St. Paul's Church

# Our Hope for the Future



St. Paul's Church is located in the historic town of Nantucket, on an island thirty miles off the coast of Massachusetts. On this elbow of sand, the cobblestone streets and architecture from the whaling era attract scholars and visitors alike, while the safe harbor, open moors, and miles of beaches offer natural beauty and recreation. A popular summer resort, Nantucket is also an active community of over 10,000 year-round residents with a complete public school system, private pre- and grade schools, diverse cultural offerings, an established hospital, many social services, and a town government that continues to rely on voluntary selectmen and town meeting.

Within this confined space, differences are intensified, creating a community of contrasts. Nantucket has a storied nautical heritage, yet its businesses are largely peopled by modern cosmopolitans. Conservation and preservation are crucial and readily funded on this historic, fragile outpost, yet there is a shortage of housing for the working class. New arrivals from all over the world settle and work alongside multigenerational native families; captains of industry and captains of fishing boats walk the same streets.

We want everything that every parish wants, but we need someone who can do it 30 miles offshore

Nantucket's charm and allure come with geographic limitations that have fostered self-reliance and independence dating back centuries. This cultural heritage informs and influences many of Nantucket's traditions and values, not the least of which is helping one's neighbor in times of trouble and celebrating together in times of triumph. The physical barriers that at once protect and separate the island from the larger world also compel Nantucketers to find strength and sustenance within the community.

*Need not*



At first glance, St. Paul's resembles most small-town, New England parishes: a Romanesque stone church nestled in a close-knit community. With a rich history and sense of tradition forged over many years, St. Paul's has evolved along with the greater community we serve. Today we come from various social, economic, educational, and religious traditions, thus bringing together a range of beliefs regarding worship, theology, and change in the church. St. Paul's brims with activity as our ranks swell with summer members, bringing fresh enthusiasm and ideas. These facets of parish life are a source of strength and vitality, as well as challenge.

The abundance of wealth on Nantucket would seem to indicate a large endowment and robust pledging, but that is not the case. We work diligently each year to fund all that we hope to accomplish. Many of our parishioners lead somewhat itinerant and hectic lives, which affect the continuity of our programs and ministries. We acknowledge these issues and have faith in the ongoing process, for we are blessed with talented, committed parishioners who drive and sustain numerous programs, truly making a difference in our church and the community. We have dedicated and deeply spiritual worshippers at both Sunday services, whose faith inspires those who are not as steady. The energy, intelligence, and variety of our members sustain an overall enthusiasm at St. Paul's.

To welcome the one you have been forming for service to our church

Given these challenges and strengths, we come together as Episcopalians, united in appreciation for the beauty of St. Paul's, the dignity of worship, the inspiration of music, and the yearning for a Eucharistic life.

*walk on water*



*For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord...plans to give you a hope and a future...You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you declares the Lord.*

*Jeremiah 29:11-14*

The transition process for St. Paul's has been both revealing and uplifting. An in-depth congregational discernment, combined with ongoing assessment have given form to our ideas and a renewed sense of mission. With a growing core of talented, committed lay leaders, and responsiveness to new programs and ministry, we have great hope for the future of St. Paul's. We recognize that both parish and island life can be comfortable yet confining, and that, as a congregation, we are ready to move forward to fulfill our mission.



**Specifically we wish to:**

- **Reach** out to all islanders, particularly young families, and to increase membership
- **Inspire** congregation-wide involvement, giving, and endowment
- **Strengthen** our youth, music, and educational programs
- **Empower** both laity and clergy in collaboration and ministry in our parish, community, and world

*but must be a strong swimmer*

