

Christian Formation 2026-2027



**St. Paul's Episcopal
Church**

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Paul' s

There are many opportunities for spiritual growth and development of all ages at St. Paul's. These offerings are available throughout the week, both day and night. Some of the programming and many of the groups have developed through the interests of parishioners; they are led and/or facilitated by lay persons. Being a participant and/or assuming leadership is encouraged. Commitment can be as little or as much as your time, energy, and interest allows in your journey for more knowledge, wisdom, study, prayer, and for fellowship.



Follow us on



Christian Formation at St.

2026-2027 Calendar

Date	Special Event
Sep 9 (Wed)	Gathering for Good — 5:30pm
Sep 13	Rally Day — 10:00am
Sep 20	1st Day of Christian Formation — 10:00am Children, Youth, and Adults-The Open Book
Sep 27	Children's Service – 8:45am and 11:00am
Oct 3	Men of St. Paul's Annual BBQ
Oct 4	Blessing of the Animals — 2:00pm
Oct 28 (Wed)	Gathering for Good — 5:30pm
Nov 1	All Saints' Sunday: Concert 4:00pm
Dec 2 (Wed)	Gathering for Good — 5:30pm
Dec 6	Advent Lessons & Carols — 6pm
Dec 12	English Christmas Tea by WSP
Dec 24 (Thur)	Christmas Pageant — 4:30pm
Dec 24 (Thur)	Christmas Eve Services – 7:30 and 11:00pm
Jan 27 (Wed)	Gathering for Good — 5:30pm
Jan 31*	Annual Parish Meeting — 10:00am
Feb 9 (Tues)	Mardi Gras Feast (aka Pancake Supper)
Feb 10 (Wed)	Ash Wednesday
Feb 17 (Wed)	Stations/Lenten Supper/Program (5:30-7:30pm)
Feb 24(Wed)	Stations/Lenten Supper/Program (5:30-7:30pm)
Mar 3 (Wed)	Stations/Lenten Supper/Program (5:30-7:30pm)
Mar 10 (Wed)	Stations/Lenten Supper/Program (5:30-7:30pm)
Mar 17 (Wed)	Stations/Lenten Supper/Program (5:30-7:30pm)
Mar 21*	Palm Sunday (Procession — 10:00am)
Mar 25 (Thurs)	Maundy Thursday – 6:00pm
Mar 26 (Fri)	Good Friday – Noon Svc
Mar 27 (Sat)	The Great Easter Vigil
Mar 28*	Easter Day (Easter Egg Hunt — 10:00am)
Apr 28 (Wed)	Gathering for Good — 5:30 pm
May 9	Youth Sunday
May 16	Pentecost
	Last Day of Christina Formation Classes
Jun TBD	Vacation Bible School: Week of Wonder

* Denotes no regular morning Christian Formation Classes

Formation for Adults

Sundays

Adult Christian Formation:

Classes are offered for adults throughout the program year (Sept-May). Sunday classes welcome newcomers and drop-ins at any time.

THIS FALL

10:00 am – Sunday mornings

Bible Study: The Path – A Journey Through the Bible

Walk in the footsteps of faithful men and women who have done their best to follow God's call. *The Path* is the story of the Bible, excerpted from the New Revised Standard Version so that it is clear and easy to read. Follow the path of God's love all the way from the beginning to the end, from Adam's creation to John's revelation.

With informative trail signs to help you see how each piece of the narrative fits together, *The Path* is an experience unlike any other: an amazing 360-degree overview of the vast, sweeping story of God's extraordinary love for ordinary people. Join us on this epic adventure, a journey through the Bible to grow closer to God.

The Path is a 26-week study, finishing in mid-May. Each week will bring new stories so missing a class won't be a problem. We will meet at 10:00 each Sunday in Room 205 and class will be facilitated equally by both clergy and lay members.

The Open Book

The Open Book is a Christian formation class at St. Paul's, exploring thoughtful works on Christian life. Our first selection is N. T. Wright's *Paul: A Biography*. Sponsored by Adults with Families, the group is open to all adults, and no prior background is needed. Join us for lively, welcoming conversation as we consider Paul's life, faith, and enduring significance.

The Open Book will meet each Sunday at 10:00 in The Conference Room on the second floor. We hope to see you there!

Seekers Program – Beginning Winter 2027

Seekers Program is a program for adults desiring to be baptized, confirmed, or received into the Episcopal Church. Dates to be determined.

Contact: Rusty McCown 615-790-0527 or rusty@stpaulsfranklin.com

Formation for Adults

Other Programs

The Coffee Club: A Men's Bible Study

The men of the church figured it was about time we discussed the Bible amongst ourselves. So, we will gather at 6:45 am each Wednesday

morning in the conference room to do just that. This will be a great way to start your day as we talk about Holy Scripture and how it relates to our lives today.

Contact: Rusty McCown 615-790-0527 or rusty@stpaulsfranklin.com

WITS

WITS (Women in Theological Study) is a women's group that meets on Thursdays from 9:30-11:00 a.m. in Room 205 on the second floor. We study books of the Bible, other books of interest, and engage in conversation and prayer with one another. WITS is for all women to attend whenever you can.

Contact: Monna Mayhall 615-790-0527 or monna@stpaulsfranklin.com

Monday Morning Group Prayer and Daily Office

This group meets for 1 hour on Monday mornings at 8:00 am via Zoom. Everyone is welcome. Commitment is to be present and to join in this spiritual discipline of reading the Daily Office from the Mission St. Clare and praying together.

Contact: Gerald Hancock 615-604-9635 or gwlwhancock@comcast.net

Thursday Meditation and Reflections

We meet every Thursday from 4:00-5:30 pm via Zoom, (ID-858 5382 0650, PW-639 561). Our sessions start with a period of silence and meditation followed by the discussion of a topic. More often than not, we discuss and reflect on Fr. Richard Rohr.

Contact: Gerald Hancock 615-604-9635 or gwlwhancock@comcast.net

Formation for Adults Programs Requiring Registration/Commitment

Education for Ministry (EfM)

St. Paul's has an active Education for Ministry (EfM) seminar group. EfM is an international adult formation program administered by The University of the South. We meet weekly on Tuesday evenings to study

Hebrew Scripture, the New Testament, Church History and Theology, in a small group setting. We also share spiritual autobiographies and work on theological reflections.

Contact: Jean Larson at 847-987-6949 jam.larson@gmail.com or Kelly Pitsenberger at 615-598-6695 pitz@bellsouth.net

DOK

DOK or Daughters of the King is a national order for women and girls who desire a closer walk with the Lord. Daughters are Christian women who are strengthened through the discipline of a Rule of Life and supported through the companionship of one another. After an initial 3-month discernment period, Daughters take vows to uphold a 2-fold Rule of Life, which include a Rule of Service and a Rule of Prayer. All Daughters are at different stages of their Christian journey, but no matter where members are on their sacred journeys, the primary goal is always the same – to know Jesus Christ and to make Him known to others.

Contact: Beth Woodruff at woodruffbeth96@gmail.com or 615-604-1739

Formation for Youth / 6th-12th Grade Sundays

Youth Christian Formation (Sunday School)

Youth Formation meets at 10 AM between church services in Barnabas. The goal of our time together is for students to develop a foundation for lifelong faith in an accessible and engaging way. Our curriculum this year will take us through the Bible, using story telling,

creativity, and discussion prompts to engage with the wonders of Biblical stories.

Episcopal Youth Group (EYG)

Episcopal Youth Group (EYG) meetings are on Sunday evenings from 4:30 - 6 PM in Barnabas, and all students in grades 6-12 are encouraged to attend. Our time together prioritizes fellowship and community through games, activities, and prayer. Occasionally we will use our time for service projects, outings, or attending special events.

Confirmation Class

Any student in 8th grade and older are invited to participate in Confirmation Class during the spring semester. This class is a journey for students to discover what they believe as Christians and Episcopalians and why — as well as what we do and why. Students are encouraged to ask questions and explore their faith. The class culminates with Confirmation by the Bishop in the Spring.

Youth Sunday

On this special Sunday, usually on Mother's Day, our students lead the church services in readings, prayers and the sermon. Graduates of high school and college are recognized and celebrated on this day as well!

Other Youth Programs

Mountain T.O.P.

A summer mission trip to Mountain Tennessee Outreach Project (Mountain T.O.P.) is a nearly 30-year St. Paul's tradition. Mountain T.O.P. serves families in Grundy County, one of the most impoverished counties in Tennessee, through home repair projects and day camps for children. For one week in the summer, teams of youth and adults bond through unforgettable community service, worship, and Mountain T.O.P. traditions like Wacky Wednesday and a talent show. In the fall, Mountain T.O.P. also hosts service weekends for adults 18 and over.

Lock-Ins & Retreats

Our annual winter lock-in, held the Saturday before Christmas, is one of our favorite events! This year we will also have a day retreat in Sewanee with other youth of the Diocese on November 15th. These events provide our youth with a time to unplug from their daily schedules, grow in community with each other, and discover faith through times of prayer and worship.

Pilgrimage

Every other year, high school students have the wonderful opportunity to join the St. Paul's youth Pilgrimage trip. Past trips have included Montreal, Iona, and D.C! The next Pilgrimage will be in June 2028 – save the date!

Fundraising

Shrove Tuesday at St. Paul's means the youth Pancake Supper fundraiser! This event raises money for the youth fund and youth Mountain T.O.P and Pilgrimage fees. The youth also put on car park fundraisers in the Barnabas parking lot during major festivals in Franklin.

Contact: Brett Smith at brett@stpaulsfranklin.com if you have questions or wish to receive the newsletter.

Formation for Children / Infants-5th

Grade Sundays

Godly Play

Godly Play is the Sunday Formation program for children. The children are divided into two groups: preschoolers through first grade, and second through fifth grade. Children learn about Parables, Sacred Stories, and Liturgical Action to discover the depths of God, ourselves, one another, and the world around them. The Godly Play rooms are located on the first floor near Otey Hall.

Children's Chapel

Each Sunday during the 8:45 and 11:00 am services, we offer an opportunity for children to gather in Founder's Hall during the sermon for a time of learning and sharing. During the singing of the Gospel hymn, children follow Children's Chapel leaders to Founders and then return to the main sanctuary at the Peace. During Children's Chapel, we share the Gospel reading and a children's book that has a similar theme. We share our prayers through our own version of the Prayers of the People and exchange the peace before returning to the Sanctuary.

Nursery Care

The nursery is available on Sunday mornings from 8:30 am until 12:15 am to care for children ages 6 weeks through 5 years. Please see an Usher if you need help finding it.

Formation for Children **Other Programs**

Vacation Bible School (VBS) Week of Wonder

Week of Wonder is our summer VBS program. It is a week-long summer program in for 3-year-olds to rising 4th graders that combines learning, fun, and fellowship for participants and volunteers. The themes vary each year, and volunteers are essential to WOW success. Volunteers from rising 5th grades to adults are welcome and needed. We have a closing program and pot-luck dinner to cap off the whole week on Thursday evening, and everyone is invited! We celebrate our Week of Wonder at the Sunday 10 am service.

Children's Service

Children's Service has become a delightful St. Paul's tradition. On September 27th at the 8:45 and 11 am service, children will usher, greet, read, and share in a wonderful service that is "understandable for children and enlightening for adults."

Contact: Libby Sullivan at libby@stpaulsfranklin.com

Children, Youth, & Adults

Gathering For Good

On the 4th Wednesday night of most months, the whole parish is invited to come together to share in dinner and a planned activity from usually 5:30-7:00 pm. Food is provided, so there is no need to bring anything. Whether we gather for music, games, talent, trivia, a movie, or making Advent wreaths, it is good to gather as a parish family. The dates for 2026-2027 are Sep 9, Oct 28, Dec 2, Jan 27, and Feb 9 (a Tuesday), and Apr 28.

Lenten Series

This series is held on Wednesday evenings during the season of Lent. Stations of the Cross begins at 5:00 pm in the Church, followed by a Simple Supper at 5:30 pm in Otey Hall, followed by a Lenten Program

from 6:00-7:00 pm. The dates for 2027 are Feb 17, 24, Mar 3, 10, and 17.

Special Events

In addition to the individual programs available, children, youth, and adults join as a parish family throughout the year to celebrate and enjoy special events such as Rally Day, Animal Blessing, All Saints, Sweets and Treats, Lessons and Carols, Christmas Pageant, Epiphany Brunch, Mardi Gras Pancake Supper, Stations of the Cross, Palm Sunday Procession, Easter Egg Hunt, and Parish Picnics.

Small Groups

St. Paul's is launching Small Groups this fall! Small Groups are a wonderful way for parishioners to connect and support each other, whether over dinner at a restaurant, while discussing a lectionary passage in someone's living room, or through times of prayer! Use our website to find a group that fits your schedule and preferences. Register using the online form and the group leader will be in touch!