

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Pleasant Valley, New York

Parish Profile 2021



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

PO Box 1449 (Traver Road at the corner of Route 44) Pleasant Valley, New York 12569

Tel: 845-635-2854

www.stpaulspv.org

Vestry

Wardens

Rick Harris

Rita Carver

Vestry Members:

Jackie Allerton

Donato Caferra

Barbara Jane Haight

Rudy Macak

Kay Mackey

Pat Malin

Kimberly Marker

Jonathan Symer

Liz Whitman

Treasurer

Marilyn Kirchner

Assistant Treasurer

Eileen Johnson

Clerk of the Vestry

Deborah Glynn

Music Director

Marilyn Kirchner

Organist

Marilyn Kirchner / Jesse Goldberg

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Located in the small suburban and rural community of Pleasant Valley, New York, the congregation of St. Paul's is a diverse group who live in many neighboring towns and gather to worship and find fellowship here. Our parish is a cross-section of the area, comprised of widely varied professional, social and economic backgrounds.

St. Paul's single strongest asset is the active caring relationships fostered among the parishioners. We are a Christian family who strive to support and nurture each other and our community through faith with the grace of God.

Fellowship and Caring are the two words that most describe our congregation. Each year the Parish hosts a number of fundraising and fellowship events, which strengthen the bonds amongst our parishioners while advancing the Parish finances.

The Parish family is very supportive of its members during normal times and especially during times of trial. The Parish family, on a regular basis, prays for each family's needs, offers assistance to each other, looks out for one another, and ensures that those who are unable to attend church or get around are visited and have the Eucharist brought to them. During times of trial, the Parish family comes together in spectacular ways, hosting fundraisers, visiting, helping the families, and showing the kind of support only a family can give.

The COVID-19 pandemic impacted St. Paul's as it did all parishes within the Diocese with St. Paul's closely adhering to the dictates of our Bishop. St. Paul's response to the pandemic truly showed its resiliency and creativity in the face of necessary restraints while seeking to preserve our community of faith. From the early days of the pandemic, St. Paul's presented weekly worship virtually featuring sacred music, hymns, readings from the Lessons and Gospel, prayer, and inspirational sermons from our actively involved supply priests. Each service was pre-recorded weekly and available for viewing Sundays at 10:00 a.m. and thereafter. A dedicated "telephone tree" was formed and preserved the passing of the Peace from member to member. The outreach met the worship needs of our Parish and beyond until services recommenced with live broadcasts continuing to date. We look forward to the resumption of Sunday school and Bible Studies as permitted by health considerations.

Outreach and Ministry

St. Paul's Parish family supports a wide range of programs in Pleasant Valley, in Dutchess County, and in the world. Locally, we actively participate in the Pleasant Valley Community Ecumenical Food Pantry, which we support with weekly volunteers, donations, and referrals. We also run our own Thrift Shop where we sell secondhand clothing and household items at very reasonable prices; we participate in the Crop Walk for Hunger where both adults and youth raise funds and walk in support of this effort to fight hunger in Dutchess County and around the world; we support Rural and Migrant Ministry by providing funding for the summer camp programs, collecting toys for their Christmas Store Project, and most years providing back-to-school kits. We also support the United Thank Offering. Past outreach has included support for our Veterans, and the Anglican Diocese of Tanzania, to name a few.



Fellowship and Hospitality

One of the highlights of our parish life is our shared Fellowship and Hospitality. We enjoy many regular events, such as the Annual Meeting and potluck luncheon, women's and men's group lunches, Ice Cream Social, the greening of the church and clean-up days.

Each Sunday, following the 10:00 a.m. service, Coffee Hour is held in the Parish Hall. This gives the congregation time to connect and new families to meet the congregation. We look to reinvigorate these fellowship get togethers with the easing of the pandemic restraints.



Fundraising

The Parish, as a part of meeting our financial obligations but more so as an extension of our fellowship, hosts a number of fundraisers each year. Fundraising dinners have included the Irish Dinner, Soup To Go, Chicken BBQ, and a Fall Pork Dinner.

In addition to these dinners, we have an annual Mothers Day bake sale and plant sale, the sausage and pepper booth at Pleasant Valley Community Weekend, and a fall craft fair. In a small parish, our activities overlap greatly, blending the lines between fundraising and fellowship. This ability to serve the parish while enjoying each other's company is the glue that holds us together.



Our Priest and Our Future

Our parishioners believe that St. Paul's is well rooted and an integral part of our community with a very open and welcoming Church embracing our diverse Parish. The areas for which we believe our new Priest may be the catalyst for our growth, direction and enhanced viability are in re-invigorating past active members of our parishioner base, attracting new parishioners, retaining younger families and developing/improving our youth and adult Christian education. Our Priest should have a strong background in and will lead our efforts in improving Christian education. Our parishioners are dedicated to realizing this set of goals.

We are seeking a Priest who will be a Pastor to our Parish and an active presence in our community. Foremost, our new Priest should be able to relate the tenets of faith to everyday life in their approach to preaching. The Priest should be mindful of societal issues without espousing a political agenda. We will welcome such a Priest who looks to be a vital part of our community.

Our older church members who are unable to join us for Sunday services or members who are experiencing critical times need the support of regular pastoral care including home visits. Our Priest should be personally active in this ministry and support/inspire our members in delivery of this ministry. Our Priest needs to have and to deliver a strong sense of providing care and pastoral comfort for our congregation.

As a small parish without a paid support staff, our Priest needs to be willing to be an active participant in the day to day affairs of our church and provide direction and encouragement to those actively assisting in these tasks. The Priest should be an effective communicator, leading and inspiring our congregants to fulfill the needs of our Church. Most of all, we are prayerful that we will find a Priest for St. Paul's who will share in our growth in Christ.

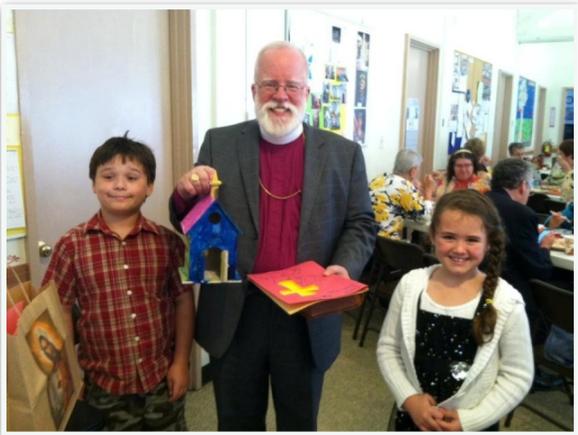
Christian Education

St. Paul's has a small but lively church school for the children of the parish. In addition, for the youngest children, nursery care has been provided at the 10:00 am service, as needed.

The children meet during the first half of the Sunday church service and join the congregation for the Eucharist.

In addition to the classes, the children are involved in worship services, as well as helping with special services around Christmas and Easter where they participate in the Christmas pageant.

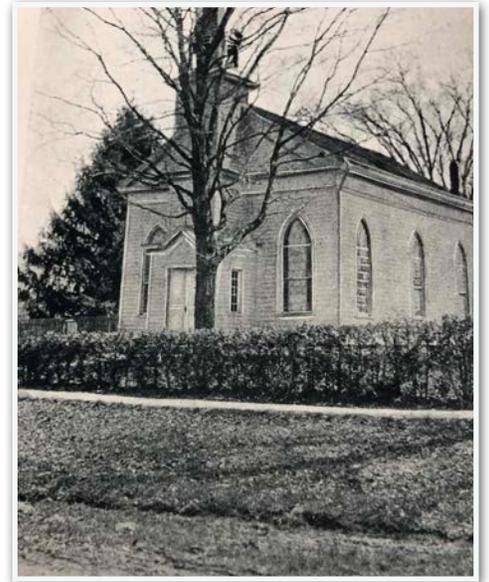
The adult Christian education offers two bible study groups, one in the middle of the week, and the other following the coffee hour on Sunday. This group also has a Lenten study program. In addition to the Bible Study group, there are also classes for adults interested in being confirmed or received into the church.



History

Back in 1836, Mr. Tiffany opened his famous jewelry store in New York City. Not long afterward, there was a period of severe inflation followed by a 5 year depression. In the midst of this strange juxtaposition of contrasts — St. Paul's in Pleasant Valley was starting life!

In June 1836, the Rev. Frederick Hatch assumed the duties of Rector at St. Paul's Church in Poughkeepsie, and by that October, he reported that he was also holding services on Sunday afternoons at Pleasant Valley "where the assemblage has been large and the people much interested in the services."



On February 27, 1837 the parish of St. Paul's Church in Pleasant Valley was incorporated, and the congregation, formed a Sunday School there as well.

The cornerstone of the church building, located at the corner of Traver Road and Main Street (Route 44), was laid on December 10, 1841 and the church building was begun by grace of a loan from Trinity Church, Wall Street. By this time, the Rev. Sheldon Davis had assumed Missionary duties here and on January 25, 1843, the church building was consecrated by Bishop Benjamin T. Onderdonk. On Easter Sunday 1848, Rev. Sheldon Davis was appointed Missionary of Dutchess County, dividing his attention around the entire county. In 1863, the Rev. Sheldon Davis left Dutchess County. The Rev. George Henry Smith became the next Rector in February 1869. He remained until 1876. Missionaries filled in for short tenures throughout the remainder of the 19th century.

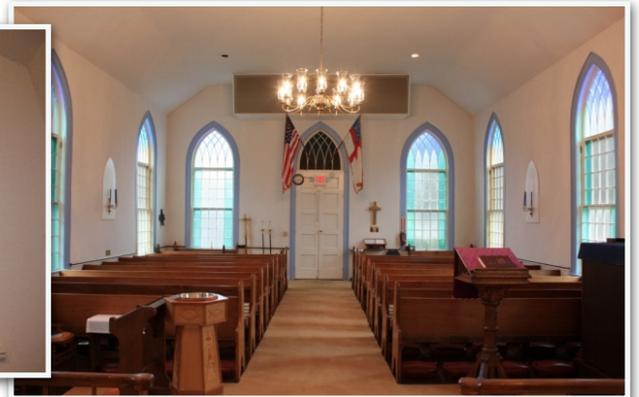
In 1973, St. Paul's reached its goal of being a self-supporting parish. The Pleasant Valley parish celebrated its 150th year with special events throughout 1987. Thereafter, the Reverend Megan Sanders served as the Rector from October, 2015 though August, 2019. St. Paul's Church in Pleasant Valley currently serves about 125 members. Like the "Little Engine That Could", St. Paul's weathers challenges with a vital sense of trust in God and a cheerful, "can-do" spirit.

Worship

St. Paul's offers two Sunday services, both providing weekly Eucharist. The 8:00 a.m. service has regular attendance of approximately 10-15 people. The service presented is the Rite I service without music and is a quieter more traditional service. The 10:00 a.m. service is attended by 20-30 parishioners and is more oriented to families involved with the Sunday school program. This service is a Rite II service and it includes organ music with singing of traditional hymns. Our Sunday School elementary age children and teachers attend class at the Parish Hall and join the rest of the parish for the Eucharist following the sermon. Although the two regular church services have a different format and feel, both services offer the same welcoming atmosphere. On occasion, we have held teaching services, aimed at orienting new parishioners to the Episcopal service, as well as children's services where the service has been shortened and the sermon involved a message directed to the children.

St. Paul's also provides a Friday Evening Prayer hosted by our Lay Ministry, which is attended by a small but growing group of dedicated parishioners each week. The service uses both the Prayer Book and personal prayers, which are solicited each week through the use of a prayer box constructed by the Sunday School children. We also hold Bible study groups on a select weekday and on Sundays following the 10:00 a.m. service.

St. Paul's has an active group of Lay Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, and Acolytes. In addition to their normal duties during the Sunday services, they will also take communion to homebound parishioners, host the evening prayer services, and lead the bible study.



Parish Statistics

The congregation at St. Paul's is an older congregation, with many of the active members of the Parish older than 60. The majority of the members are married with children who have moved from the community. Many came to St. Paul's from a neighboring Parish or moved into the area. Most have been attending St. Paul's for more than 10 years and most stay because of the people in the congregation and the fellowship.

As of September 2021	
Total Church Members	122
Communicants	107
Average Sunday Attendance	40
Pledging Units	48
Children	8
During 2021	
Marriages	0
Baptisms	8
Burials	2
Confirmations/Receptions	3

Parish Financials

Revenues	2020 Budget	2020 Actual	2021 Budget
Plate	\$4,000	\$1,309	\$2,000
Pledge	\$98,639	\$95,947	\$86,000
Parish Hall Rental	\$3,000	\$694	\$1,500
Thrift Shop	\$5,000	\$1,931	\$3,000
Altar Flowers	\$2,000	\$738	\$1,000
Fundraising	\$10,126	\$6,972	\$8,000
DIT	\$23,553	\$0	\$25,467
Total	\$146,318	\$107,591	\$126,967 *
Expenses	2020 Budget	2020 Actual	2021 Budget
Salaries	\$58,393	\$31,680	\$49,998
Benefits	\$39,090	\$2,835	\$32,490
Operating	\$22,900	\$13,372	\$19,300
Office	\$3,500	\$3,261	\$3,600
Program	\$5,900	\$3,113	\$5,000
Misc	\$16,535	\$15,537	\$16,579
Total	\$146,318	\$69,798	\$126,967
Surplus/Deficit		\$37,773	
<p>*Accumulated reserve account current worth approximately \$166,400 for which Vestry is committed to its use to augment assets for Priest salary and benefit contributions.</p>			

Community

Pleasant Valley is located in the heart of the Hudson Valley, in Dutchess County, New York. Located about 75 miles north of Manhattan and 75 miles south of Albany, the town is near the history rich Town of Hyde Park and Village of Millbrook.



The primary mode of travel in the town is by privately owned vehicle. Travel to NYC is readily accomplished by train from Poughkeepsie on the Metro-North line. Located close to the Taconic State Parkway, travel to NYC and Albany also is easily accomplished. Major domestic air travel can be made through NYC, Albany or at close-by Newburgh.



Cultural and educational opportunities abound in the Hudson Valley. In addition to being the center of early American history, there are premier colleges nearby - Vassar, Marist, Bard, and Dutchess Community College. The Culinary Institute, US Military Academy, Bardavon Theater, Dia Beacon, Vassar's Powerhouse Theater, and Bard's Center for Performing Arts are but a few of the many cultural opportunities that are available.

The natural beauty of the Hudson Valley provides the setting for all forms of recreational activities including hiking, biking and outdoor pursuits with miles of established rail trails.

Pleasant Valley has a small business district which provides stores and services to suit any need. More extensive shopping is close by in the neighboring Town of Poughkeepsie.



Schools and the Area

The school district serving Pleasant Valley is the Arlington Central School district, a large but highly ranked school. There are two elementary schools in the town, with one immediately across from the church. The Middle and High schools are located in the neighboring town of LaGrange.

Pleasant Valley is an active town, home to numerous service organizations. These organizations include the Volunteer Fire Company, PTA, Grange, American Legion, Lions, Rotary, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, 4H, Ecumenical Food Bank, Masons, and Historical Society, to name a few.

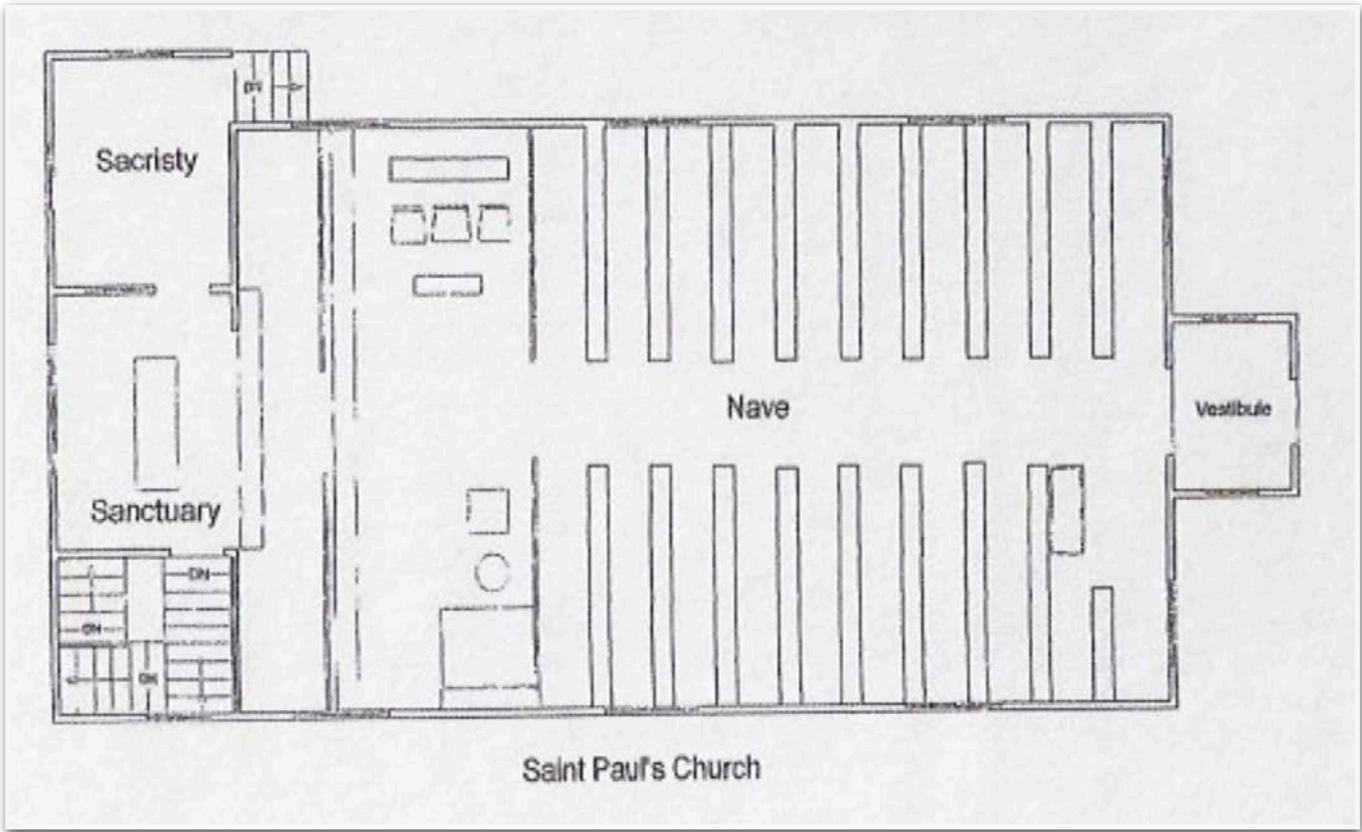
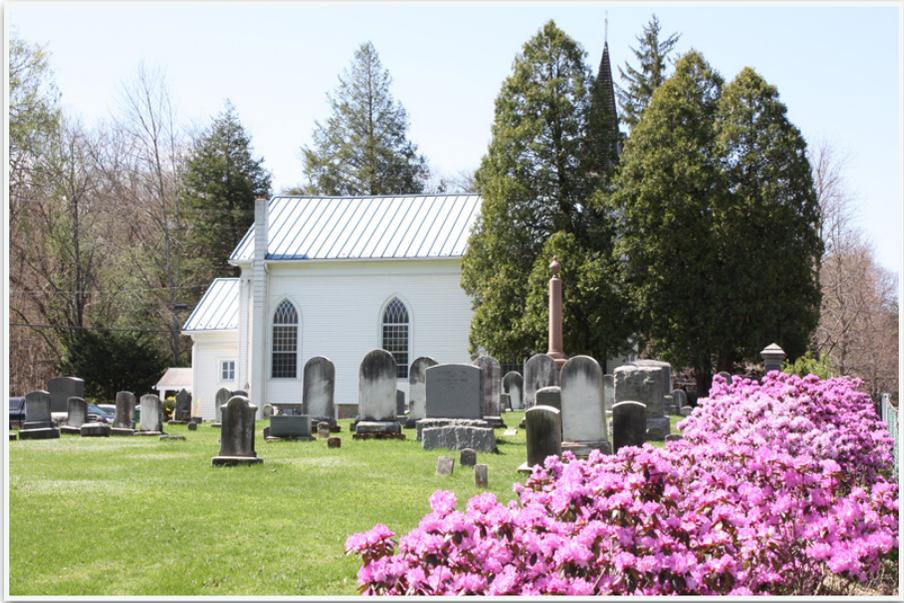
There are six churches in the Town of Pleasant Valley, with St. Paul's being the sole Episcopal Church. There is an ongoing and active ecumenical relationship with the churches, and several ecumenical services are held each year.

Pleasant Valley is a rural-suburban community distinguished by its three main hamlet areas: Pleasant Valley, Salt Point, and Washington Hollow. The Town is located in the center of Dutchess County, in southeastern New York State.

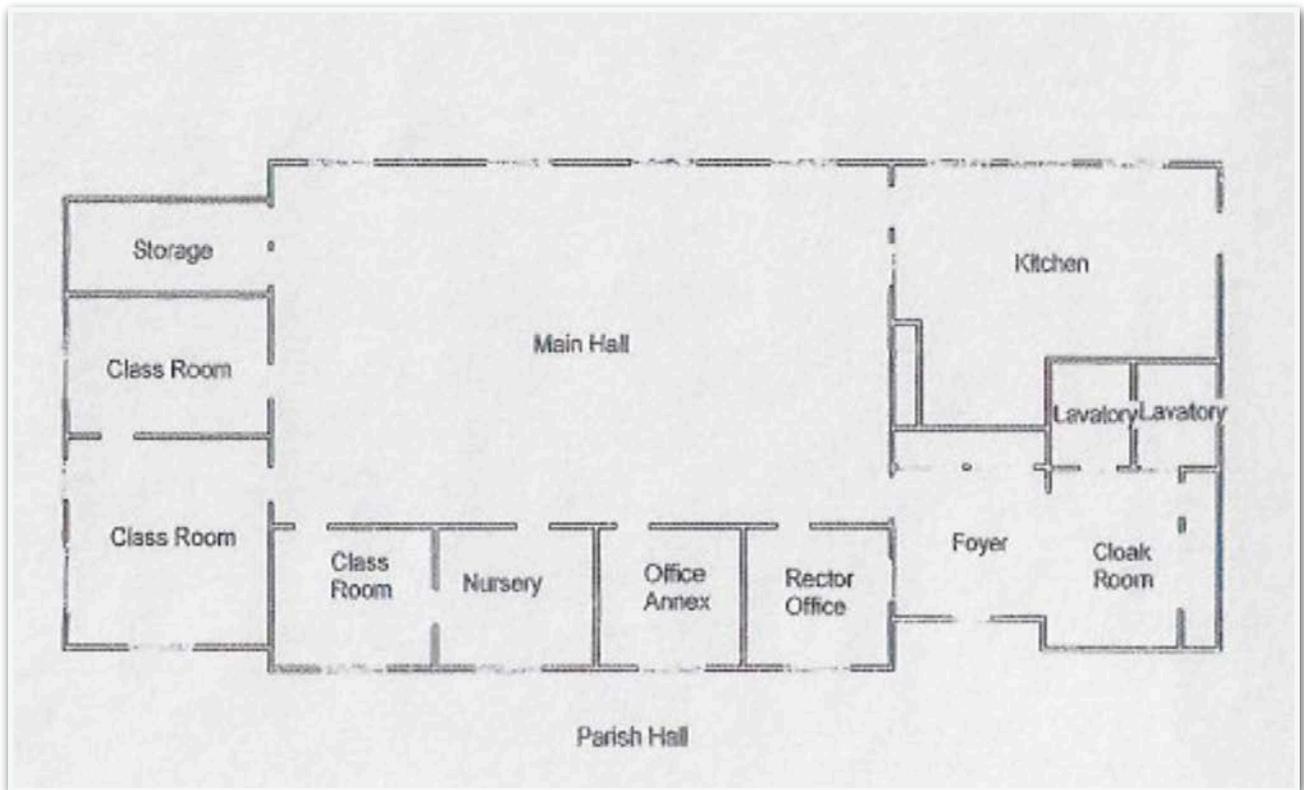
Quick Facts and Links:

- Year Established: 1821
- Population: 9696
- Area: 33 square miles
- Annual Budget: in excess of \$5M
- <http://pleasantvalley-ny.gov>

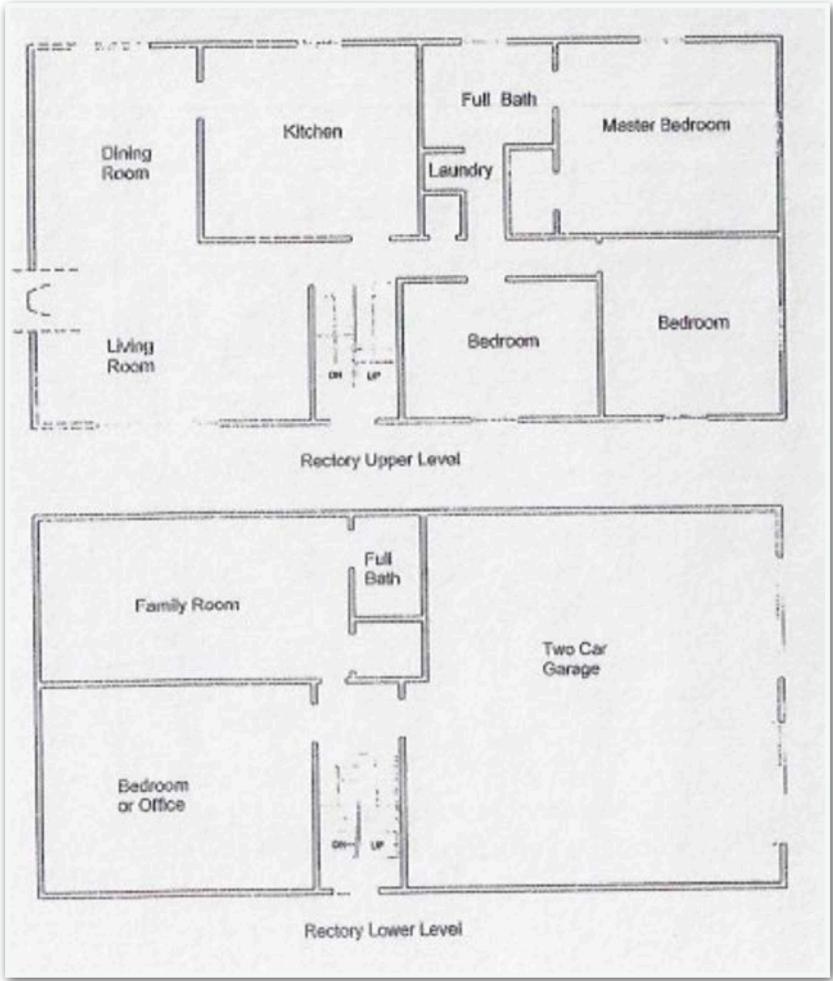
Saint Paul's Church



St. Paul's Parish Hall



St. Paul's Rectory



2021 Search Committee

Chair-Vestry

Jonathan Symer
240 Charwill Drive
Clinton Corners, NY 12514

Vestry Representation

Rita Carver
1549 Route 20
New Lebanon, NY 12125

Rick Harris
1427 Route 44
Pleasant Valley, NY 12569

Non-Vestry Representation

Deborah Glynn
624 Traver Road
Pleasant Valley, NY 12569

Roger Tumbarello
PO Box 719
Pleasant Valley, NY 12569

Marilyn Kirchner
6 Talbot Drive
Pleasant Valley, NY 12569

St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Pleasant Valley
is a Christian family of caring people who strive
to support and nurture each other and their community
through faith and the grace of God.

**Cover Letter, Resumé, and OTM Profile should be sent to
search2021@stpaulspv.org with a copy to Canon Nora Smith at
nsmith@dioceseny.org Receiving Names until November 21, 2021**