

# A PROFILE OF



## ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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**We Are:** A fellowship of Christians seeking to know and serve Jesus Christ by following his teachings, embracing diversity and serving the community and the world through faith, love, prayer and action

*Nous sommes: Une communauté de chrétiens cherchant à connaître et à servir Jésus-Christ en suivant ses enseignements, en embrassant la diversité et en servant la communauté et le monde À travers la foi, l'amour, la prière et l'acti*

**Prepared: February 2024**

## **A PARISH PROFILE**

On August 31 1868, St. Paul's Episcopal Church was incorporated under the New York State Religious Corporation Law with the cornerstone laid in 1872. St. Paul's celebrated 150<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the laying of its cornerstone on August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022. The church is centrally located at the intersection of Route 59 and South Madison Avenue in Spring Valley, New York.

## **DEMOGRAPHICS**

St. Paul's members hail geographically from the Caribbean, Europe, the U.S.A., and the continent of Africa with most identify themselves as Black/African American /Caribbean/African. Its membership spans all ages with 40% of adult members in the 35 to 64 age range, and 26 percent under 35 years old. Most members live in the county, within 15 minutes of the church. However, the majority commute long distances to work in New York City, Westchester, Connecticut, and New Jersey and are generally not available for outreach, meetings, or other activities during the days or early evenings.

## **THE ST. PAUL'S FAMILY**

St. Paul's is a very vibrant church with 110 active members (2022 parochial report data submitted). Sunday attendance averages 45, which is more than doubles at Easter and Christmas. The operating budget for 2024 is \$192,113 of which \$76,117 represents pledges from 34 families.

The church family is warm, welcoming, vibrant, spirit-filled, hospitable, inclusive, and committed to spiritual growth and development. The church is an epiphanic community.

Its purpose is to work actively and collectively in service to the local and global community. St. Paul's reach extends beyond the church to the community at large through active involvement of many of its members in community organizations, including school boards; Parent Teachers Association; NAACP; Martin Luther King Multi-Purpose Center; library board of trustees; the Jamaican Civic and Cultural Association of Rockland (JAMCCAR); American Diabetes Association, People to People, Spring Valley Rotary and Helping Hands for the Homeless of Rockland. One of St. Paul's recent community endeavors was partnering with the Village of Spring Valley to address homelessness.

However, their passion for community services is seen in the bi-monthly hosting of community dinners by Community Dinner and Food Pantry Ministry, who are stalwarts. This ministry is over 20 years old and has grown beyond providing just hot meals. In addition to hot meals for adults and children, perishable and non-perishable food are among the many other items and services provided to the surrounding community. They are called to serve and provide for as many of those in need as they can reach. St. Paul's outreach also spans overseas to the Healthcare center in Nigeria called Community Healthcare Network-Nigeria (CHCN-NG). St. Paul's donated money and went on a medical assistance missionary trip providing aid to patients the center served.

St. Paul's facilities is a place of welcome. It is available for use by other churches and various community organizations.

## **Ministries**

***“But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.” Luke 14:13-14***

### **Community Dinner & Food Pantry Ministry – Beverley Harrigan & Christine Harrigan**

Community Dinner and Food Pantry Ministry was established over 20 years ago due to large food insecurity within the Spring Valley community. This Ministry provides on the first and third Saturdays of each month, hot meals for adults and children, pantry bags that include frozen and fresh produce, including meats/poultry, infant food and supplies, hygiene products and donated clothes. In addition to their feeding program, other services provided are Back to School Backpacks and school supplies sponsored by St. Paul’s families and vestry members, for children within the community. Clothing, coats, hats, socks, gloves, shoes and toys through donations received throughout the year are distributed to those in need within the community. St. Paul’s Community Dinner and Food Pantry Ministry also partners with other community organizations and have pop-up store for the people in need in the community. Community Dinner and Food Pantry Ministry is made possible through grants received from The Food Bank of Hudson Valley, Nyack Homeless Project, ShopRite Interra/Wakefern, Rockland Community Against Hunger, TOUCH/ BRIDGES-food recovery program, and generous donations of individuals in and outside St. Paul’s. Numerous awards and recognition from community organizations as well as public officials have been received for this Ministry. Our most recent one was the Humanitarian Award from JAMCAAR for the Ministry’s long-standing service in the community. In 2023, 7,801 clients were served by this Ministry.

## **Homeless Outreach Ministry – Althea Hutchinson**

One of St. Paul's recent community endeavors was partnering with the Village of Spring Valley to address homelessness. In 2020, the Village of Spring Valley established a Core Task Force Group (Group) to address homelessness in our community. The Group consists of Representatives the from Village of Spring Valley, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Helping Hands for the Homeless of Rockland, Catholic Charities, various churches, and local community organizations. Their primary objective was to have our homeless neighbors mainstream back in the society and believed that this could be achieved through the following:

- 1) Shelter/Housing
- 2) Health Care
- 3) Resource Referral Center
- 4) Education & Empowerment
- 5) Socialization
- 6) Spiritual Connection

A needs assessment survey conducted by the Group identified that cleanliness was one of the top priorities of the homeless. To satisfy this need Helping Hands for the Homeless of Rockland purchased a mobile shower, now used primarily in Spring Valley and Nyack, through funds received from grants, donations from St. Paul's members and various organizations. St. Paul's continues to work with Helping Hands for the Homeless of Rockland and other local community organizations to address homelessness in our community.

### **Seniors Outreach Program – Althea Hutchinson & Janet Brown-Friday**

Our seniors are an integral part of our Church Community and as some become homebound and at times lonely, St. Paul's Seniors Outreach Program was created to address the spiritual and social needs of our senior congregants as well as those in the community at large. This Ministry's goal is to provide spiritual care and to have our seniors socially engaged. This is achieved through pastoral care, home visits, providing transportation to and from church, and to appointments; assisting with light housework, minor home repairs and maintenance; sending care packages; having physical fitness programs and group lunch outings and other group social activities.

### **Community Healthcare Network-Nigeria (CHCN-NG) – Dr. Julius Nwosu**

Community Healthcare Network-Nigeria (CHCN-NG) primary purpose is to eliminate disparities in quality health care and access to the most vulnerable and underserved populations in Africa, specifically Nigeria. The goal is to expand into other communities throughout the world. Their commitment is towards alleviating non-communicable, preventive diseases by ensuring all people are given access to affordable care. Since 2008, Community Healthcare Network has self-funded bi-annual free Medical and Educational missions providing free primary health care previously through its mobile clinic. In January 2020 CHCN-NG completed construction of a 60-bed in-patient hospital. CHCN-NG has now provided medical care for over 280,000 people through its humanitarian efforts. Its mission is to provide **free** prenatal and postnatal care and in the future housing in the maternity village currently under construction. Their newest program is the Compassionate Nursing Service Scholarship for Youth. This scholarship was established to prevent child enslavement and child miscarriages. Their next mission

is in the Dominican Republic where a new hospital is planned in the town of Salcedo.

This is a part of St. Paul's World Ministry which we give donations towards.

### **Youth – Shelley Forde-Taylor**

St. Paul's provides a very nurturing environment for our youth, who understand that they are all part of the St. Paul's family. Their academic and community accomplishments are celebrated in weekly bulletin, and regular announcements in church. They are included in all aspects of our Church ministry and Church life. They are provided with Christian education through Church school; actively participate in the services by being acolytes, lay readers, and speakers; and regularly participate in community outreach, and diocesan activities.

St. Paul's church school currently uses the "Living the Good News" series which follows the liturgy for the regular services, and provides games, art, puzzles, music, praying together, and other activities to supplement the Bible readings. They also use a Smart Board to facilitate Sunday school teachings.

Currently, church school is experiencing low attendance. This was due to many of our children graduating and moving out of the area, as well as the closing of the church due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Although church school reopened, attendance has not returned to pre-pandemic numbers. This downturn in attendance has impacted church school acolyte participation in the services. As a result, St. Paul's current acolytes are primarily adults. However, the children who have returned are taking up the mantle and

are participating as acolytes in the services. We hope growth in our acolyte population continues to trend upwards as more children return to Sunday school.

### **LITURGY**

Our regular service is the Holy Eucharist Rite II at 10:00 am and a French Creole Service at 4:00 pm. The 10:00 am service is fairly traditional but has been enhanced by the addition of LEVAS (Lift Every Voice and Sing) African American Hymnal. Church school is provided at 10:00 a.m. as well, with the children and teachers joining the rest of the church for Holy Communion. A Healing Service is held on the first Sunday of each month. The worship committee meets and provides recommendations for special services and other activities.

We recognized that there was need to provide French Creole Services to this segment of our community thus the **St. Paul's French Creole Ministry** was established with Reverend Jean Lenord Quatorze, as the Celebrant - "The mission of this Ministry is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ." (BCP p.855). The purpose of our French Creole Service is to help the life and growth of our Haitian Congregation of St. Paul's; develop the Ministry of all Baptized, develop of Lay Leadership and have a strong presence in the Church community.



## **THE MINISTRY AT ST. PAUL'S**

### **LAY LEADERSHIP**

#### **The Vestry**

The current vestry is a mix of experienced and newer members, all of whom have multiple talents and are committed to working together to ensure continued growth of our church.

#### **Supply Priest**

Warden	Eroll Holness
Warden	Althea Hutchison
Treasurer	Valerie Fuentes
Financial Secretary	Kimberly Garcia-Sandoval
Clerk	Millicent Johnson
Parish Administrative Assistant	Rhonda Harry-Thorne
Philip Adjodha	Jayne Kyambadde
Janet Brown-Friday	Dian McCullough
Marrietta Gloade	Caleb Larame
Alicia Hamilton-Young	Petrina Whyte
Beverley Harrigan	

## **Other Organization/Activities**

Church School	Shelley Forde-Taylor - Superintendent
Acolytes	Linnette Livermore-James - Acolyte Advisor
Lay Eucharistic Ministers	Millicent Johnson
Lay Readers	Dian McCullough - Coordinator
Worship Committee	Millicent Johnson/Eroll Holness - Co-Chairs
Altar Guild	Lois Butler - Coordinator
Organist	Alexander Farrage
Episcopal Church Women	Alicia Hamilton-Young - President
Men's Group	Eroll Holness/Clem Friday - Co-Chairs
Daughters of the King	Lois Butler
Home Fellowship Bible Study	Eroll Holness
Fundraising Committee	Althea Hutchinson/Linnette Livermore-James
Health Committee	Linnette Livermore-James/Dr. Julius Nwosu
Coffee Hour	Marrietta Gloade - Coordinator
Stewardship Committee	Dian McCullough - Chair
Weekly Bulletin	Rhonda Harry-Thorne - Coordinator
Sexton	Rudy Garcia-Sandoval
Buildings and Grounds Committee	Althea Hutchison/Brian Young - Co-Chairs

We currently have a very active Buildings and Grounds Committee which works extremely hard to maintain the church structure, and to ensure that the grounds are attractive.

## GOALS

Below are the list of goals and action plans, developed by the St. Paul's family in the past year, in connection with the Stewardship program. Some of these goals have already begun, are on-going and/or in the process of being implemented.

1. To ensure that our physical facilities are structurally sound and well maintained for use by future generations. Due to past financial constraints, regular maintenance was deferred. However, our major accomplishments were installing a handicap accessible bathroom on the main floor in the Parish Hall, repairing the roofs, painting, refurbishing of the altar in church, and installing a surveillance system. Other capital repairs identified are waterproofing the Parish Hall and renovating our kitchen.

### Action Plan:

- a. Continue to evaluate the plan in place for our capital improvements, obtain estimates for current and future capital repairs.
  - b. Establish a Strategic Planning Committee tasked with identifying how funds can be raised to support Capital Improvements identified when all estimates for these improvements are received.
2. To achieve the level of financial independence needed to meet budgetary requirements; maintain the facility; and support outreach efforts.

### Action Plan:

- a. The stewardship committee is preparing for the fall stewardship campaign. Establish group to explore and implement plans for other consistent sources of revenue.
  - b. The stewardship committee will work towards full member pledging using the short-term goals.

3. To explore and implement additional services, theological education for youth and adults, study of liturgy, a Healing Service, adult and youth choirs, establish youth program and other programs celebrating our international diversity, as well as other activities which will add to as well as enhance the spiritual life of the Parish.

Action Plan:

- a. Bible study restarted during COVID chaired by Eroll Holness. The group met regularly via ZOOM. However, this is currently on hold until someone is identified to lead Bible study.
  - b. Survey parishioners on the possibility of having Saturday afternoon service or at other times. This will be discussed with the Clergy.
  - c. Increase youth attendance.
  - d. Establish an Adult & Children's Choir under the direction of the organist.
  - e. Establish Youth Program with grant received from the Diocese to fund Youth Program.
  - f. Explore having international festivals and/or forums showcasing the countries of parishioners. These events will be extended to others in the community/other community organizations.
4. To continue to take a leading role in needed outreach activities in the community and other countries, both as St. Paul's Church and in concert with other churches.

Action Plan (immediate):

- a. Parishioners with roots in other countries will continue to be encouraged to identify needs and appropriate organizations.
- b. Explore long-term possibilities for after school programs.

5. To obtain half-time clergy and continue our patterns of growth among parishioners.

Action Plan:

- a. Explore possibility of sharing a Priest with nearby churches

The following is additional demographic information about the Rockland County community and the community surrounding St. Paul's. It is based primarily on information from 2020 census information.

### **Rockland County Demographics**

Rockland County is located approximately 30 miles north of New York City on the west side of the Hudson River situated just above New Jersey. This area is known as the "gateway" to the Hudson Valley, historically recognized for its early river front industry and commerce. More recently seen as a much sought after "hometown" for people who commute to jobs in nearby Westchester, Bergen County and especially Manhattan. Evidence suggests that Rockland County is truly a unique combination of both suburban and rural amenities.

The demographic data for the following analysis was obtained primarily from the 2020 U.S. Census Bureau, and Data US and does not include any estimates or projections.

- A. Physical Attributes. At just 176 square miles, Rockland County is the smallest New York State County (after the five boroughs of New York City). Nearly two-thirds of the county is now covered with industries, residential homes and roads while more than a third preserved open space and parkland. Referencing the Rockland County land use map, the most striking feature is the amount of land that is devoted to housing, specifically single-family units, and parkland and preserves. Rockland's extensive county park system is designated as a Preserve America Community made up of over 3,000 acres within 30 parks. Rockland County also features 32,000 acres of untouched parkland and is home to eight New York State Parks.

B. Population Density. The 2020 census population of Rockland was 338,329, an increase of 8.5% since 2010 census. This equates to a density of 1,951 people per square mile. This represents a relatively high population density. For New York State as a whole, the figure is 429 per square mile. However, Rockland County's density ratio is sparse in terms of its neighboring communities; Westchester County, NY, Bergen County, NJ, and New York County which are 2,317/per square mile, 4,097 /per square mile and 69,594/per square mile respectively. These statistics reveal the influence of the New York City Metropolitan area. In contrast, Orange County, Rockland's nearest neighbor to the north, has only 494/per square mile, thus making Rockland County a transitional area between suburban and rural density patterns.

C. Age. 16% of the County's is age 65 or older which is in line with the national average of 16.9% and the state average at 17.5%. In the county 40% of the population is of working age, between 20-55 years old.

D. Race. The population breakdown by race shows that 62% of the population is white, 19% Hispanic 10% Black, 6% Asian and 3% categorized as others. However, the population considered themselves of Hispanic origins could be included in any of the applicable race categories.

E. Occupations and Income. The total number of households in Rockland County equals 102,161. The median income for these households based on data collected for the 2021 Census data was \$99,707. Of these households, 86% are white collar workers and 14% blue collar. 89,335 or 59.3% work for private companies and 24,728 or 16.44% work for government institutions and 14,726 or 9.79% of the work force are entrepreneurs. 4% of the population relies on public assistance and 37% collect some form of retirement and/or social security funds. 15.2% of the county's population falls below the poverty level. The unemployment figure for the county is approximately 3%. For workers, occupations are categorized as; office and administrative support 68%, service industry 20% and health care and other industries 12%.

F. Housing. The major portion of residential homes in Rockland County is that of single-family units, 68% and 32% are renter occupied. Five percent of the residential homes in Rockland are designated as unoccupied. In 2022, 26.3% of the population was considered living with severe housing problems.

G. Transportation and Commuting. Commuter access, regardless of the mode, is well represented in Rockland County. The county is criss-crossed with major highways, both federal and state funded. Two commuter trains exist, with service to New York City, through Hoboken, as well as one freight line. A multitude of bus companies provide service to New York City, Bergen County, Westchester County as well as destinations to upper New York State. Local intra-county bus service saturates the county, especially servicing communities where economic standards are on the lower end of the scale. Additionally, special on-demand bus service is provided for handicapped and senior residents. More than 20 taxi companies provide service within the county or to neighboring counties as well as the New York City airports. There is also a rush-hour ferry service that bring commuters to the Metro North railroad stations in Westchester County, thus eliminating if so chose, the need to cross the Mario Como Bridge, formerly known as the Tappan Zee Bridge, to reach New York City.

Residents in Rockland commute on an average of 31.6 minutes which is longer than the normal US worker whose average commute is 29 minutes. However, 6.78% of the residents are considered super commuters. These residents commute more than 90 minutes.

H. Education. The county is broken into 8 school districts. 89% of the students received a high school degree or higher which was in-line with New York City and United States. However, from this percentage 42% of the population received a BA or higher. This figure is 20% of the national average, which is 35%.

I. Religion. It was estimated that 70% of Rockland's population consider themselves religious. This is higher than the New York state percentage of 51.6%. Additionally, 23% of Rockland residents are Jewish, 65% Christians (i.e., 37% Roman Catholic, 10%

Protestant and 4% other Christian faiths 1.5% affiliate with Islam). In fact, the national percentages for several of these groups are very different. For example, nationally Jews comprise 1 % of the population while Protestants are 59% of the population, Roman Catholics being only 27%.

### **Demographics of the Community (Spring Valley) Surrounding St. Paul's**

These statistics are based on demographic data obtained from world population review/us cities.

1. Population. The population density is classified as extremely high and contains 16,441 people per square mile. Based on 2023 data, the total population is 33,055 people. Family structure is somewhat traditional with a slightly lower than average occurrence of single parents, at 21 %.

2. Age. The largest age group in this area is 0-18 year olds, comprising 46% of the population. This is slightly higher than the national average for this age group. Conversely, this area has a deficit in the 65+ age group. 10% of the population is 65 years and older.

3. Race. The largest racial group in this area is classified as white. 42% of Spring Valley can be classified as white. This area is classified with an extremely high diversity index. They have above the national average of 34% African Americans and 3% Asians but lower than average occurrence of Hispanics.

4. Education. This community has a lower-than-expected number of high school dropouts, and they meet or exceed the average of graduates from high school through postgraduate school. 13% attained less than 9<sup>th</sup> grade, 13% attained 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade, 26% high school graduate, 29% some college, 7% attain an associate degree, and 12% bachelor's degree and 7% graduate degree.



5. Lifestyle and Income. The race most likely in poverty is white with a poverty rate of 52.4%. The average income for this area is \$66,366. The Stress factor of this area is rated as somewhat low reflecting it is below average statistics in poverty level, single parents, and high school dropouts.

6. Household Concerns. The most relevant household concern for this community is that of "hopes and dreams", 31 %. The second most pressing issue is The Basics at 24%. This represents a similar pattern to the U.S.

### **Household Concerns**

Estimated Households Likely to Be Primarily Concerned With:

THE BASICS: Concerns in this cluster have to do with items that most of us would agree represent the basic necessities of life: food, housing, employment, health care, etc.

Providing Adequate Food. Finding/Providing Aging Parent Care. These seven variables indicate the percentage of households likely to express any of these seven concerns as primary.

THE COMMUNITY: Concerns in this cluster primarily revolve around community problems. Dealing With Neighborhood Gangs. Maintaining Personal Safety. These three variables indicate the percentage of households likely to express any of these three concerns as primary.

THE FAMILY: Concerns in this cluster primarily revolve around family relations and issues. Dealing With Abusive Relationships. Dealing With Divorce. These five variables indicate the percentage of households likely to express any of these five concerns as primary.

HOPES AND DREAMS: Concerns in this cluster primarily revolve around longer-term quality of life issues: fulfilling marriage, financial security, satisfying career, etc. Achieving Financial Security. Finding Retirement Opportunities. These eight variables indicate the percentage of households likely to express any of these eight concerns as primary.

SPIRITUAL/PERSONAL: Concerns in this cluster primarily revolve around personal issues. These concerns might also be referred to as a "searching" cluster. Here people are dealing with change, loneliness, stress and finding direction.

### **Population by Race**

A racial self-identification by respondents to the census, not a scientific or biological classification. Race classifications identified in the report are divided into four categories. Currently, only these four categories are updated with current year estimates and five-year projections on an annual basis. *White (non-Hispanic) Black (non-Hispanic) Hispanic Asian and Other* which includes Native American Indian, Asian or Pacific Islander (Japanese, Chinese, Filipino, Korean, Asian Indian, Vietnamese, Hawaiian, Guamanian and Samoan or the person did not identify themselves or did not consider themselves a part of any race listed).