

Profile



The High Altar where our Worship, Fellowship, and Service
begin and end and begin, again....

The Cathedral Church of St. Paul the Apostle

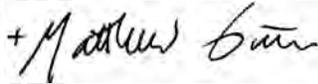
Fond du Lac, Wisconsin

From Our Bishop

Thank you for your interest in possibly serving as the next Dean of our cathedral. Inch for inch there is not a more beautiful cathedral in the country. It evokes wonder, worship, and awe. Through Broken Bread and other ministries, the cathedral congregation has an outsized impact on its community. Indeed, when asked about the Cathedral of St. Paul, a member of the larger Fond du Lac community referred to it as “The church that does what Jesus would do.” I believe the congregation of the cathedral is primed for growth – both spiritually and numerically. There is much mission potential in the community of Fond du Lac.

I am hopeful that the next Dean of our cathedral will lead the congregation forward from strength to strength. I am also hopeful that the next Dean will take a leadership role in the Diocese of Fond du Lac while making the Cathedral of St. Paul a place of exemplary worship, spirituality and mission.

Under the Mercy,



The Rt. Rev. Matthew Gunter





A Brief History

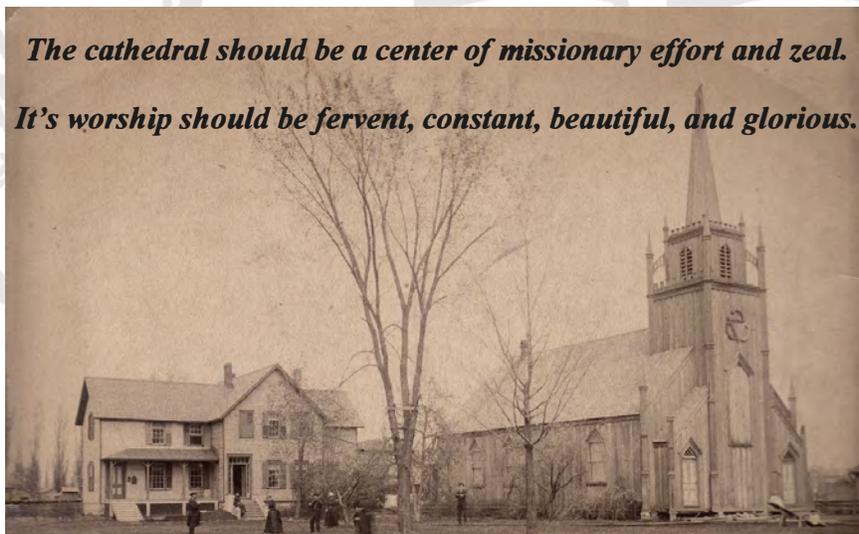
The Diocese of Fond du Lac was formed in 1875 with the parish church of St. Paul the Apostle being accepted as the Cathedral soon after. The first resident bishop was John Henry Hobart Brown from the state of New York. The original cathedral, on the same site as the present building, was destroyed by fire in January 1884. The cornerstone for the new church was laid on October 28, 1885.

Bishop Brown did not live to see the new building completed, as he died in 1888. The second bishop of Fond du Lac, Charles Chapman Grafton of Boston, came to his see city in 1889. Using personal funds, as well as enlisting financial and artistic support from many contributors, Bishop Grafton made the completion of the cathedral a priority of his episcopate. In 1883, Bishop Brown had stated:

Nothing can be too beautiful, too grand, too costly for the service of God, but I do insist that the beauty, the grandeur, the costliness, shall be pure, holy, and unworldly.

The rebuilt cathedral is much larger than its predecessor with the additions of transepts, organ chamber, sacristy, choir room, chapel, and choir/sanctuary areas. Throughout the years of succeeding bishops and deans, the Cathedral Church of St. Paul the Apostle has remained a remarkable witness to its founders, a welcoming spiritual home to its worshipers, and a continual blessing to congregation, community, and diocese. We strive to adhere to Bishop Brown's vision:

*The cathedral should be a center of missionary effort and zeal.
It's worship should be fervent, constant, beautiful, and glorious.*



Who We Are

St. Paul's Cathedral Parish is an Episcopal congregation with a long, distinguished history in the Diocese of Fond du Lac. For over 150 years, St. Paul's has provided a beautiful place for people to worship and serve the Lord. For most of our history we have been an important center of the Anglo-Catholic revival and tradition and our buildings reflect this commitment.

We have people from many walks of life and a variety of professions. While many are life-long Episcopalians, many are also converts from other denominations or from none, and some of our members have spent the greater portion of their lives as members at St. Paul's. Though membership has declined over the past decades, we are now hopeful that the congregation is poised for a new era of growth and a new vision of what we can be in and for our community. Because many of us are of retirement age, attracting and retaining new members is one of our primary goals. We are reinstating our Godly Play program this fall in an attempt to meet needs of younger members. It is also important that we continue to minister to the needs of older parishioners. To that end, we have been conscious of accessibility issues and recently arranged for installation of a T-coil hearing loop in the cathedral and Automatic External Defibrillators in both the cathedral building and the parish hall.

During the interim period members have been energized by increased participation and growing attendance. We have seen some new faces and some faces we haven't seen in awhile. We are poised to grow and desire a leader who will help us do that, both in spirituality and participation.



Where We Live

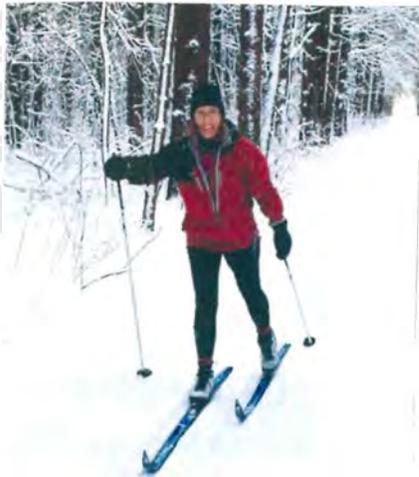
St. Paul's Cathedral is located in downtown Fond du Lac, easily accessed with a large public parking lot and park across the street. Fond du Lac is the county seat, located on Lake Winnebago, one of the country's largest inland lakes at 220 square miles. It is a haven for boating, fishing, water-skiing, stand-up paddle boarding and windsurfing. In the winter, Lake Winnebago turns into a mini-city on the ice during the sturgeon spearing season and also becomes a great place for ice fishing, snowmobiling and ice kiting. Nearby trails provide venues for hiking and nature walks, as well as biking. Nearby Kettle Moraine State Forest-Northern Unit provides almost 30,000 acres of rolling hills, lakes, forests and grasslands.

The greater Fond du Lac area has a lively cultural life, with four institutions of higher learning, community chorus and band, art shows, and speaker series. The cathedral is one of the host sites for a summer organ concert series open to the public, and regularly host concerts by the South Shore Chorale and other groups. The cathedral is also a tourist destination because of its outstanding collection of German and American woodcarvings in an English Gothic setting. A Town Art Walk is held the third Friday of the month in the Downtown Arts District.

With an abundance of public parks and an excellent public school system, as well as several private/parochial schools, Fond du Lac is a fine place to raise children. Lakeside Park on Lake Winnebago offers 400 acres for family fun.

We think our city is a special place!

We are only about a 90 minute drive from Milwaukee, Green Bay and Madison.



Our Vision

As a result of a visioning exercise in July of 2017, the Cathedral Chapter arrived at a unanimous decision to make the following our official Vision Statement, reflecting what we believe we are and what we desire to become:

We are a welcoming, Christ-centered community sharing His love and compassion with others through sacramental worship, fellowship, and service.

Our Mission

The Cathedral congregation will share the love and compassion of Jesus Christ by offering:

- 1) meaningful and authentic worship opportunities to an ever increasing circle of people.
- 2) service to the neighborhood and wider community through programs and space which meet specific needs, e.g., nutrition, ex-offenders, AA.
- 3) fellowship opportunities for members and others throughout the year



Ministries and Activities

Through the years, St. Paul's Cathedral and its people have undertaken a variety of ministries, including many of which have been outreach to the community and beyond. We have been known as "the church that doesn't say no." Some of those ministries have outgrown our campus and moved to other quarters, while others have had their time and ended.

We support a number of ministries and community activities, such as annual concerts by the South Shore Chorale and Orchestra, as well as the Fond du Lac Symphonic Band. Our facilities are made available on a regular basis to Alcoholics Anonymous and Circles of Success (a support group for recently released prisoners). Our location downtown also brings a steady stream of people needing assistance, so we serve as an informal referral site.

Two of our ministries are quite substantial and deserve special mention:

Broken Bread

Members of the Cathedral and others from the community join together to serve the needs of hungry people through Broken Bread. The ministry began as a small venture over 25 years ago and has grown every year since. Over 75 volunteers from various churches and service groups collect and distribute food to over 200 families each week on Friday evenings, providing both groceries to take home and a light supper. A paid staff member oversees the program and coordinates volunteers.



Dinner for Broken Bread Volunteers



Volunteers Prepare to Serve

The Mouse Factory

One of the largest ministry activities is The Mouse Factory. A unique ministry, it is instrumental in financing the maintenance and restoration of Cathedral buildings. Members of the group work all year to design, sew, package and sell Cathedral Mice Christmas Ornaments, which are distributed at an annual St. Nicholas Faire the first week in December. Cathedral Mice have become highly prized collectibles in the Fond du Lac area, the Diocese and elsewhere for over forty years. The Mouse Factory contributes around \$40,000 annually toward special projects. This year, the Mouse Factory has aided in carpeting a section of parish hall, the installation of Automatic Electric Defibrilators in the cathedral and the parish hall, a new washing machine, and a hearing loop in the cathedral.



Children and Youth

We are in a period of transition in our programs for children and youth. Godly Play was introduced to St. Paul's in September 2002. It is our intention to reinstitute Godly Play for children. A qualified teacher has agreed to help us do this and preparations are underway. A Cathedral tradition has been to offer Christian Education for children and youth on a day other than Sunday, and we are returning to that practice, as well.

The Diocese offers a lively youth program, including summer camp for Pre-Kindergarten thru Senior High, youth conferences, a Happening program, and diocesan mission trips. Costs are kept to a minimum by using trained volunteers for camp and fund raising for mission trips. Scholarship aid is always available. Many of our volunteers are former campers themselves.

We would like to offer programs to our neighborhood children and have tentatively planned to do so next summer. While we have a small number of children and youth at the present time, it is our desire to increase that number substantially.



Our Finances

St. Paul's Cathedral has an annual operating budget of about \$225 thousand. A little over half of that income is from giving, and about a third is from investment returns. Expenses are typical of an Episcopal parish, except that our buildings and grounds expenses are higher than usual, as a result of our large campus. The Cathedral has run a small deficit in most recent years.

In addition to the above, two of our ministries have significant separate budgets. The Broken Bread food ministry has an annual income from grants and contributions of typically \$75-100 thousand (plus substantial in-kind donations), and comparable expenses (mostly food). The Mouse Factory is a long-running fundraiser that provides significant support for the operating budget, but primarily funds preservation and improvement of the cathedral building and campus; it has an annual income of about \$40 thousand and direct expenses of about \$6 thousand.

The Cathedral has total liquid assets of about \$1.7 million. Almost all is invested in stocks and bonds, including the Diocese of Fond du Lac's Common Trust Fund, with the returns supporting day-to-day operations. Our campus and other property is valued at \$10 million for insurance purposes, exclusive of artwork. We have no mortgages or other financial liabilities.



Our Diocese

The Diocese of Fond du Lac is a community of over 5,000 souls worshipping in 37 locations across northeast Wisconsin. We are seeking to be a people of God's mercy and delight as revealed in Jesus Christ and living out our faith in the Episcopal and Anglican traditions expressed in catholic Anglican worship and piety.

Founded in 1875 out of what was then the Diocese of Wisconsin, the Diocese of Fond du Lac was formerly part of the Missionary District to of the Northwest and the Missionary District of Wisconsin. Our heritage goes back to Jackson Kemper, the first missionary bishop of the Episcopal Church. We are intent on reclaiming that missionary heritage.

We are bound together by Holy Scripture interpreted through the Church's tradition and applied reason along with our common worship which together connect us to the life of God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Through our life together, we are discovering the hope we have in Jesus and God's call to us in our daily lives. We are living out our faith and hope through

- + regular sacramental worship, spiritual programs
- + reaching out to serve the community around us
- + sharing our Christian story with others
- + seeking God's love together in study and prayer
- + giving from our means and talents to God' work

Worship in the diocese varies in both form and style from traditional Anglo-Catholic to more contemporary praise & worship, ranging from an "imminent" to a "transcendent" experience of God's presence. The congregations and members of the diocese support outreach ministries, including food programs, health ministries, youth ministries, and other mission opportunities.

Because of diocesan size and proximity to one another, clergy of the diocese enjoy a collegiality and frequency of sharing not easily reached in a larger diocese. They meet in deanery groups as often as monthly.



The Dean We Seek

A survey of members identified several qualities desired in a new Dean. Among them are Pastoral Skills, Preaching Skills, Church Growth, Teaching Youth and Adult. Because of our history of Anglo-Catholic worship, it will be essential that the new Dean is comfortable and skilled in leading that particular form of Prayer Book worship. As the seat of the Bishop of Fond du Lac, we also are looking for someone who is able to strengthen our ties with the Bishop and diocesan staff.

Someone who is approachable, positive, able to discern the gifts and talents of others and young of heart are other characteristics parishioners have mentioned as desirable in a new Dean. Experience with diverse age groups would be helpful. We are an aging population with a strong desire to draw young people.



Are You Interested In Serving St. Paul's Cathedral?

Let us know by sending a letter of interest to the Diocese of Fond du Lac Transition Ministry Officer, the Rev. Meredyth Albright. Please include your Full Ministry Portfolio from the Episcopal Office of Transition Ministry and/or a Resume.

If you would like to engage in further conversation about this position, please send an email to Mthr. Meredyth.

Materials may be submitted electronically to meredythalbright@gmail.com or as printed material to PO Box 1226, Rhinelander, WI 54501-1226.

This profile and additional information about the community and the diocese can be found at diofdl.org/deansearch.