



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

PARISH PROFILE 2018

A community seeking to grow in God's word and spirit through praise, worship and study, so we may share Christ's love with others.

Contents

A Community Called to Serve _____	1
Our Hope for the Future _____	2
Who we are as a Community in Christ _____	4
Our Prayer Through this Journey _____	11
Additional Information _____	12
St. Paul's Episcopal Church _____	12



"I look for ways to serve God in the church."

Karen Daniels

"Church means everything to me. I have become a Christian in my lifetime at St. Paul's. We have Bible study and I am enriched by the knowledge,"

Marion DeWitt

*Gifts to equip the saints for
the work of ministry,
for building up the body of Christ. Ephesians 4:12*

A COMMUNITY CALLED TO SERVE

A Community Called to Serve

WELCOME

Thank you for taking time to learn about St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Suamico, Wisconsin. We are located on the northeastern side of the state just north of Green Bay, home of the beloved Green Bay Packers. The church is part of the Episcopal Diocese of Fond du Lac and our Bishop is The Rt. Rev. Matthew Gunter.

The people of St. Paul's have been given a tremendous gift for the purpose of supporting the mission and ministry of Christ's church: two grants that will enable us to have a full-time priest for the purpose of serving the parish and the community at large for a period of five years. The goal is spiritual growth and sharing the message and love of Christ resulting in growth and sustainability. How this unfolds will involve a process of prayer and discernment between the people of St. Paul's, our new priest, and the Holy Spirit. To support this endeavor, we have begun a long-term partnership with the diocesan Commission on Congregational Vitality (CCV), which offers guidance, leadership development, strategic planning, and training.

We are excited about the journey we are on and look forward to the opportunity to learn and grow through this process. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact The Rev. Meredyth Albright, Transition Ministry Officer for the diocese, whose contact can be found on page 13.

OUR STRENGTH - A PASSION TO LOVE AND CARE

St. Paul's is dedicated to caring for people, connecting with those who are underserved, and working to address community issues. We are a small mission-driven parish, comprised of people of a wide range of ages, that has served Suamico and the surrounding area for more than 135 years. The people of St. Paul's love and care for one another and work together to help each other and the greater community. Our strongest asset is that we work well together on ministry projects: we are energized by the opportunity to make a positive impact. We are a hardworking, loyal and faithful group of people who have committed to present and on-going work with the CCV.

OUR CHALLENGE

While St. Paul's size has contributed to the nurture of deep, sustaining relationships, it is also a challenge. Christian formation and programming have grown stagnant over the past decade, and it has taken a toll on the congregation resulting in a decline in membership and attendance despite significant growth in our Village and community. We look forward to working with our new priest on the development of ministries, study, and formation programs for members of all ages, as well as becoming more effective evangelists.

St. Paul's also experienced several conflictual situations in the past decade and did not handle them well, with some members leaving the parish in response. St. Paul's is in the process of coordinating a parish-wide training on conflict resolution to learn how to identify the cause and address conflict so that we can better manage situations in the future.

Assist us, Lord, in living into the future. In the face of change, help us to set unnecessary fears aside and to recognize our potential for creative response. Help us to develop a reasonable optimism when confronted by 'the new' and to guard us against our own defensiveness. Be with us as we remember and celebrate former times, and keep us from unreasonable yearning for them, which takes us away from the work you have set before us in our time. All this we ask in the name of your Child, our savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.



OUR HOPE FOR THE FUTURE



Our Hope for the Future

THE TRANSITION JOURNEY

Following Fr. Jim Conradt's retirement in the spring of 2017, the people of St. Paul's celebrated the gifts of time, love and teaching that he had provided for almost two decades, first as a deacon and then as a priest.

However, a parish without a priest cannot rest on laurels for too long so the vestry began working with the Diocese to develop a plan. We hired Fr. Jim Biegler as our long-term supply priest and faithfully began the journey of prayer, exploration and discernment about what God has in store for

us next. This journey has not been without cost and apprehension, but it is one we enter with faith and trust in God.

The process that brought St. Paul's to this point in the transition included visits from the Bishop; vestry and congregational meetings; a parish survey; and multiple workshops related to transition, evaluation and the development of goals with representatives from the Commission for Congregational Vitality. Communication has been key throughout and occurred in a variety of formats. The goals listed below are the product of the work that has been completed through this process. The enthusiasm surrounding the conversations that have occurred, the objectives identified and possibilities to come are exciting.

OUR GOALS & PRIORITIES

The people of St. Paul's have discerned that we are being called to learn, grow and develop in the following areas:

- *Share the Gospel of Christ in our neighborhood.*
- *Equip us for ministry and evangelism leading to spiritual and numerical growth.*
- *Develop and expand lifelong formation and ministry.*
- *Incorporate teaching of stewardship year-round, inviting people to deepen lives of generosity and gratitude.*



OUR HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

OUR VISION FOR OUR NEXT PRIEST

St. Paul's is seeking a priest who is an evangelist: someone with passion for the Gospel of Jesus Christ and who is energized to share that with us and the wider community. It is our hope that this person will equip and partner with us to engage in God's work in our neighborhood. We already have a passion and commitment to outreach ministry: we seek someone who can help us discern gifts, forge new relationships that reflect greater diversity and ecumenism, and invite others to join us as we follow Christ.

We desire a person who will help enliven and deepen our relationship with God: someone who can stimulate our minds and our souls through preaching and teaching that is relevant to daily life; who can help us grow in areas where we are challenged and prepare us for ministry in the world around us. While we are a congregation of mostly older members, we also have children whom we wish to nurture in faith: we seek a spiritual friend and guide for all ages.

We are ready and committed to grow and thrive. We are looking for someone who is skilled and passionate about congregational development: someone who is able to lead us in the adventure of growing.

We appreciate and thrive most with collaborative models of leadership. We seek a pastor who will work with us to further develop our abilities to communicate, work to resolve differences constructively, encourage us to risk and fail, and recognize the accomplishments of others.

We hope this person will joyfully come into our parish with all its strengths and foibles and help us grow into the fullness of God.



One who walks the steps of Jesus but speaks the talk of today.

John Richardson



WHO WE ARE AS A COMMUNITY IN CHRIST

Who we are as a Community in Christ

HISTORY



St. Paul's was started in 1874 by families who emigrated from England. They held services in their homes until a church building could be built. In 1878, the first Bishop's Committee was organized and at approximately the same time, the Women's Guild was started for the purpose of raising funds to build a church and provide money for people in need. The Women's Guild, now known as the Women's Ministry, continues today providing support to local non-profit organizations and people in need.

In 1879, members of the congregation erected a small building on land donated by a parishioner with materials, labor and love provided by all members. Bishop Brown consecrated the church in 1882 and for the next quarter century the congregation was ministered to and cared for by a number of priests, deacons and laypeople. In 1906 The Rev. Lucius

Hopkins became the resident vicar and he served until his death in 1936. St. Paul's, Suamico and St. Mark's, Oconto shared priests from 1936 until 1950. A vicarage was built next to the church in 1950 and the mission was served by a number of priests until 2001, when Deacon Jim Conradt was ordained a priest. Father Jim lead the parish until he retired in 2017.

St. Paul's has been an active part of the community throughout its history. In 1917, parishioners built a Guild Hall a short distant from the church and it became the center for religious and social activities, not only for St. Paul's but the entire community. Wedding receptions, funeral dinners, variety shows, dances, card parties, and Bible school were all part of the joyous noise made in this community landmark. Parishioners learned to roller skate or square dance in the 40's; the 50's saw weekly card parties; the 60's and 70's saw the start of a local tradition, the *Friday Night Fish Fry* when the entire community would come together.

The Hall became too much for the little parish to maintain and was sold in 1973. The hall still stands today and is an apartment complex known as the, Guild Hall Apartments. God found a way for the building to continue to be of service to the community.

In 2001, Ken Nelson, a member of the church, donated land for a new church site with the stipulation that it be built within 5 years. With a great leap of faith, the small parish decided to accept the offer and developed a plan to build the church in two phases to avoid incurring any debt. Phase one included the construction of the fellowship hall, with dual purpose of worship space, kitchen, classroom, offices and bathrooms. Phase two is for the sanctuary and narthex.

On June 11, 2005 ground was broken for phase one and on December 11, 2005 the first service was held in the new building. On January 19, 2006, Bishop Jacobus consecrated the new church. The dream to complete phase two still exists; however, not in the near future so in 2016, a new vestibule was added, the altar was remodeled, a communion rail installed and a bell tower was built to hold the bell which was brought from the original church building.



WHO WE ARE AS A COMMUNITY IN CHRIST

St. Paul's parish community is comprised of members who have strong family and friendship ties, some that have existed for generations. Members are family and are loved and cared for intimately. We enjoy spending time together both in fellowship and service. We socialize after worship services; and we gather together in celebration, to accomplish a task, and as we raise funds for ministries. As with most smaller congregations, at St. Paul's everyone has the opportunity to lead in some way, be it in outreach ministries, worship, teaching, committees, or prayer.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

The heart of St. Paul's worship is the Holy Eucharist, with a single weekly service on Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. and special services during Lent and holidays. The worship service is a traditional Rite II Holy Eucharist from the



Book of Common Prayer. Our music comes from a combination of *The Hymnal* and *Celebration Hymnal* and is accompanied by a piano and occasional guitar. Lauren Pritzl serves as our part-time music minister and pianist.

Preaching in a manner that applies faith to daily life, invites us to reflect, and leaves us enlightened, challenged, and inspired is a valued component to the liturgy. We enjoy an informal presentation where sermons are delivered in the round.

Those who wish to receive laying on of hands, anointing with oil and prayers for healing are invited to meet with a prayer team after communion.

In addition to our long-term supply priest, we are fortunate to have Deacon Nancy Behm with us every other Sunday.



"I realize that not only did I become a part of St. Paul's, St. Paul's became a part of me."

Ron Schiltz



"I am proud and happy to be a part of St. Paul's. It's a very comforting place to worship and be closer to God. I pray it continues to grow."

Jody Richardson



WHO WE ARE AS A COMMUNITY IN CHRIST

SERVICE AND OUTREACH

Sharing Christ's love and creating relationships with God and each other is the epitome of St. Paul's where members reach far beyond the walls of the church through countless outreach ministries.

Transitional housing for homeless families: In 2011, St. Paul's joined twenty churches and the Salvation Army to support homeless families in our community by providing shelter, case management, mentoring, education, support and budget counseling. Ecumenical Partnership for Housing (EPH) owns and manages 20 family-size units. Volunteers from the partner churches help to run its organization and maintain the homes. St. Paul's provides a safe and nurturing home for the people who receive shelter at the Barnabas House by praying, maintaining the property, providing meals, birthday cakes, food and household supplies. Families are welcomed with a hot meal, pantry staples and a comforter for each member.

Coordinate volunteers and deliver homebound meals: St. Paul's has partnered with the Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) to ensure meal are delivered to residents in the area who are homebound and not able to prepare their own meal.

Memory Café: Following the diagnosis of dementia for one of St. Paul's active members, a ministry team dove in to identify how this parishioner and their family, as well as other families in the community could be supported. The outcome was the formation of a monthly Memory Café coordinated by and offered at St. Paul's. Memory Cafés reduce stigma associated with dementia by providing an opportunity for people experiencing memory loss to remain engaged in the community in a safe and comfortable environment. Family members, caregivers and their loved ones can relax and enjoy the company of others on the same journey, provide mutual support and obtain resources.



*"What a great church family this is! It sure is called love."
Amy Schiltz*

Barnabas Home

"Barnabas was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith. When he went to Antioch and saw how God had blessed the believers there, he was very happy. He encouraged them all, saying, "Always be faithful to the Lord. Serve him with all your heart." Many more people became followers of the Lord." Acts 11: 23



Jericho Ministries: St. Paul's provides regular support in the form of prayer, finances and needed resources to support a missionary, Betsy Hakes, and ministry in Honduras. Jericho Ministries cares for women and children who have experienced traumatic events by providing discipleship training, education and prayer-filled loving care in a family atmosphere.

Shining Stars: This Christmas gift ministry was started more than two decades ago to ensure that people who would not otherwise receive a gift at Christmas are blessed with gifts, and the knowledge that they are prayed and cared for. Referrals and wish lists are received each November, parishioners adopt, shop, wrap and deliver gifts in December in time for Christmas. Those receiving gifts are always invited to join the St. Paul's family.



WHO WE ARE AS A COMMUNITY IN CHRIST

Women's Ministry: All women of the parish, regardless of age, are invited to participate in the Women's Ministry, which gathers each month at the parish. Their mission is to "meet in fellowship and love, to help others and support our church." That mission is accomplished in a variety of ways including raising funds to provide Diocesan Summer Camp scholarships and to support local non-profit organizations.

Support to area pantries and shelters: These opportunities frequently include supply drives, funds and providing holiday meals, or specific items to the Giving Tree Pantry, St. John's Homeless Shelter, NEW Community Shelter and Freedom House Ministries.

Operation Shoebox: Packing a simple shoebox with gifts each November offers the people of St. Paul's the opportunity to bless and share Christ's love with children in need around the world.

St. Paul's also offers meals, educational programs, health screenings, entertainment activities, and fundraising events to support a need within the community. The focus is on love, care and service and the efforts are truly endless.



CHRISTIAN FORMATION

As mentioned in our goals above, the people of St Paul's are eager to have expanded offerings for people of all ages. Currently we offer Sunday School for children each Sunday morning during the first half of the worship service. Adult Bible study is offered mid-week and garners a small but consistent and engaged group who are passionate about learning and growing. During the season of Lent a discussion series is offered and well attended.

Members of St. Paul's are also engaged in diocesan programs such as Cursillo, a renewal ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Fond du Lac that focuses on key elements of relationship, evangelism, and reconciliation, and Summer Camp for children and youth from kindergarten through twelfth grade. Nearly a dozen members have been through Cursillo with several regularly participating in the Ultreyas and one member on the Secretariat. Regarding camp, St. Paul's offers scholarships to members who want to attend and each year several children participate in this fun-filled week of worship, learning and activities.

GOVERNANCE & FINANCES

St Paul's has a typical vestry structure, with two wardens and four vestry members. The Vestry meets monthly to oversee and provide guidance related to ministries, operations and finances. While parishioners are invited to attend vestry meeting, the vestry also communicates with parishioners in person, via formal or informal presentations to the congregation and the newsletter. The work of the Vestry is supported by our parish secretary, Marie Schiltz.

St. Paul's is not a financially wealthy parish; rather, time and talent are where this congregation's riches lie. A large number of our parishioners and regular givers live on fixed incomes. As a community we value giving generously when there is a specific need, working hard and paying for that which we owe. We are good stewards of the resources entrusted to us and generous in our giving to many individuals and organizations. That being said, we recognize the need to grow our financial giving in part by shifting our perspective to give as a way of living out our faith.

Currently, St. Paul's has 120 members with only a quarter of them committing to a pledge and less than thirty percent attending church on a regular basis. We have seen membership, participation and giving decline each year since 2010. Each year there has been a stewardship program using a format of education and witness over a period of three Sundays and culminating with commitments and celebration. Of note is that the portion of pledged revenues compared to all revenues is very high with pledged income making up 80% of all revenue in 2016. The remaining balance of revenues come from loose or special offerings and programs. Though there is no denying that revenues need to increase for long-term success, we believe that our ability to continue on a relatively minimal expense, is directly related to the involvement of so many at St. Paul's.



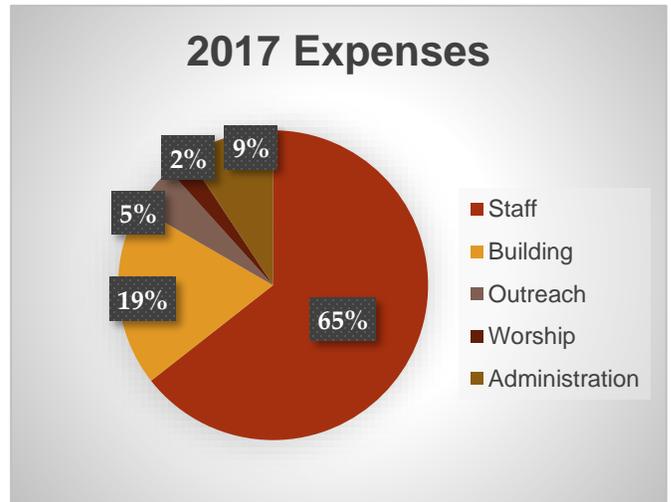
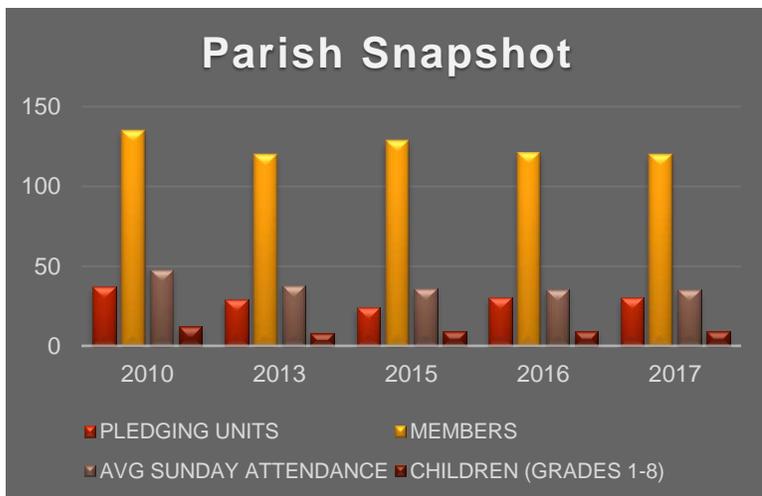
WHO WE ARE AS A COMMUNITY IN CHRIST

ST. PAUL'S α COMMPARISON BETWEEN 2016 and 2017



ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS	2010	2013	2015	2016	2017
All Revenues	\$70,057.00	\$75,484.00	\$82,307.00	\$67,650.00	\$53,283.00
Pledged Income	\$45,435.00	\$38,808.00	\$38,324.00	\$47,092.00	\$42,688.00
Operating Expenses	\$76,703.00	\$69,192.00	\$80,970.00	\$234,582.00*	\$57,105.00
Property Improvements	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$156,082.00*	\$0.00
Account Balances	\$13,038.00	\$21,816.00	\$16,148.00	\$12,452.00	\$7,211.00
Common Trust Fund	\$214,750.00	\$225,100.00	\$178,208.00*	\$18,541.00*	\$16,181.00
Pledging Units	37	29	24	30	30
Members	135	120	129	121	120
Avg Sunday Attendance	48	38	36	35	35
Children (Grades 1-8)	12	8	9	9	9
Youth (Grades 9-12)	0	0	0	0	0
Baptisms - Children	3	4	1	0	0
Communicants Added	4	0	0	0	0
Pledges % of Revenue	65%	51%	47%	70%	80%

*NOTE: In 2016, St. Paul's completed a significant renovation of the church building. Funds from the Common Trust were used to finance the project and in reflected in the decrease in the Common Trust balance from 2015 to 2016, the increase in operating expenses and property improvements in 2016.

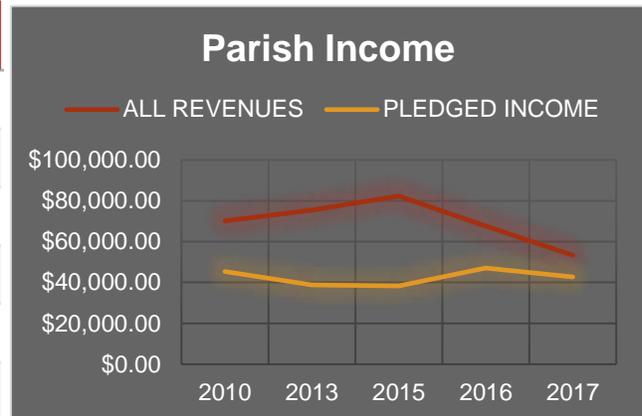


WHO WE ARE AS A COMMUNITY IN CHRIST

PEOPLE

The chart below provides a snapshot of St. Paul's congregation. We are a small energetic and friendly congregation that is generally older, with a majority of parishioners at or near retirement age; however, amongst the members who are not in that age group, there is a wide range of ages, including nine children.

PARISH NUMBERS	2010	2013	2015	2016	2017
TOTAL MEMBERS	135	120	129	121	120
AVG SUNDAY ATTENDANCE	48	38	36	35	35
CHILDREN (GRADES 1-8)	12	8	9	9	9
YOUTH (GRADES 9-12)	0	0	0	0	0
BAPTISMS - CHILDREN	3	4	1	0	0
COMMUNICANTS ADDED	4	0	0	0	0



NOTE: The reduction in income between 2015 and 2017 is due to a building renovation funded with dollars from the Common Trust.

BUILDING & GROUNDS

St. Paul's is located on Flintville Road in a burgeoning area of the community. The single building was constructed on land donated by a parishioner with funds gifted by members of the parish community- a labor of love and joyful sacrifice resulting in a beautiful worship space and no debt. The church was consecrated in 2005.

The reason members of St. Paul's made a decision to move to the current location was to provide an accessible space, increase capacity and to improve parking. The building is well-maintained, accessible, open and flexible. The vestibule was added and altar area renovated in 2016.

The worship space is open, bright and flexible with moveable seating allowing the space to be used for a variety of events including community dinners, health screenings, luncheons, programs and memory cafés. In addition to the worship space, we have a large kitchen, two offices, a large classroom that is able to be divided into two smaller classrooms, and accessible restrooms.

The building is primarily used for St. Paul's services, meetings, functions and activities; however, groups such as AA, a community women's group and Boy Scout troops have used St Paul's as a meeting location in the past.



The property is nearly four acres with a portion paved for parking and a large area

groomed with grass and trees and shrub around the church.

The Junior Warden takes primary responsibility for assuring the building and grounds are maintained and he is supported by volunteers as well as paid staff for snow removal and bi-weekly cleaning of the interior.



WHO WE ARE AS A COMMUNITY IN CHRIST

"To me, St. Paul's is extended family. People you can count on if needed. People who, for the most part, enjoy being together and working to help other people."

Renee DeBroux

"St. Paul's has helped me in many ways, especially spiritually. There are so many beautiful people here and I marvel at the way we all work and get along together."

Gail Revord

"St. Paul's has a special place in my heart and in my life. I have witnessed miracles and have learned how to get closer to God."

John Richardson

COMMUNITY PROFILE

St. Paul's is located in the Village of Suamico in Brown County, Wisconsin, approximately ten miles northwest of the City of Green Bay. The Village has experienced significant growth in the past two decades and can expect that pattern to continue over the next twenty years. Estimates indicate that Suamico's population will grow to 15,639 residents by 2020 and to 18,786 residents by 2030. The growth is likely driven by the community's natural beauty, quality schools, and easy access to Green Bay via I-41/US 41.

The downturn in the agricultural economy has given rise to the presence of developable land, and has resulted in farmland sold and developed, primarily for single family homes. The location of the Village adjacent to the Green Bay Metropolitan area makes for easy access to public services as most residents live in the Village and commute to jobs outside the community.

In general, the village is a relatively wealthy, older, Caucasian and well-educated community. In 2010, the median age of the Village of Suamico resident was 41.1 years, which is significantly older than the State of Wisconsin at 38.3 years and Brown County at 36.1 years. The Village has a higher percentage of residents with post-secondary education degrees compared to the county or the state. Occupations include professional, management, sales and office positions. The median home value of \$222,700 is significantly higher than the average County value of \$159,900. ([Village of Suamico Comprehensive Plan 2015 Update](#))

The school system for residents of Suamico is the Howard-Suamico School District. There are five elementary schools, one intermediate, one middle school and one high school. The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction rated the district as "exceeds expectations" with four out of five stars for the 2016-2017 school year. Over 94% of Bay Port graduates go on to higher education.

Suamico's Town Center is an active and growing area with historic buildings, restaurants, shops and summer farmer's market. The Village is also home to several parks, the Mountain Bay Bike trail, Windjammers Sailing Club, Suamico boat launch, NEW Zoo & Adventure Park, and Brown County Reforestation Camp, offering miles of hiking, biking, and nature trails.



OUR PRAYER THROUGH THIS JOURNEY

Our Prayer Through this Journey

O God, you know us better than we know ourselves. Guide us throughout our time of transition. Empower each one of us to use our unique gifts in ministry to share openly and honestly our thoughts, respect the opinions of others, and to encourage humility, patience and joy. Instill in us a vision of the Church's family; that, guided by your Holy Spirit, we will be united in love and joyfully accomplish this mission, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional Information

USEFUL LINKS

St. Paul's Episcopal Church	http://stpaulsuamicowi.com
Diocese of Fond du Lac	www.diofdl.org
Ecumenical Partnership for Housing	www.ephgb.org
Howard-Suamico School District	www.hssd.k12.wi.us
Village of Suamico	www.suamico.org
Vickery Village	www.vickeryvillage.net
Brown County, WI	www.co.brown.wi.us
Greater Green Bay Visitors Bureau	www.greenbay.com
Greater Green Bay Chamber	www.greatergbc.org
Green Bay Packers	www.packers.com
Bay Area Community Council	http://bayareacommunitycouncil.org
Northeast Wisconsin	www.travelwisconsin.com/article/history-heritage/7-man-made-wonders-of-northeast-wisconsin

CONTACTS

THE REV. MEREDYTH ALBRIGHT
TRANSITION MINISTRIES OFFICER
DIOCESE OF FOND DU LAC



Church: 715.420.0066 Mobile: 262.309.3880
meredythalbright@gmail.com

THE RT. REV. MATTHEW GUNTER
BISHOP
DIOCESE OF FOND DU LAC



920.830.8866
mgunter@diofdl.org

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

2809 Flintville Road, P.O. Box 225
Suamico, WI 54313
920.434.2247
<http://stpaulsuamicowi.com>

