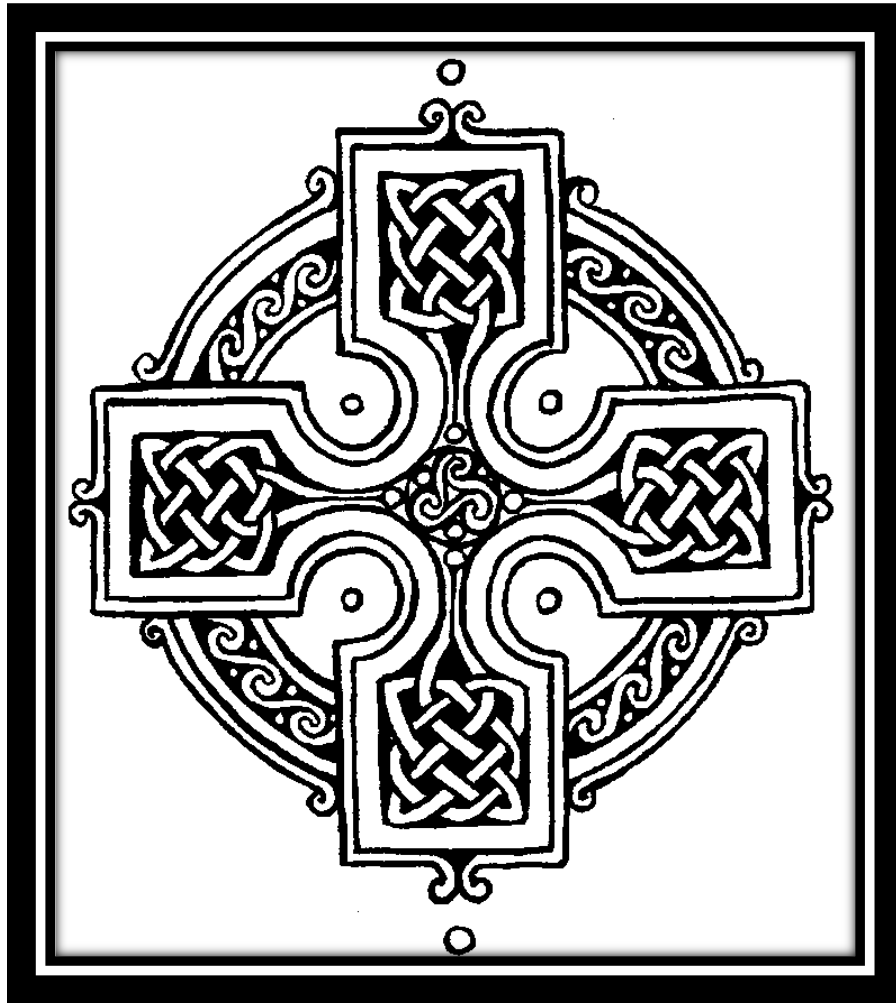


LIFE IN CHRIST

The Spiritual Journey at Saint Paul's Church



Saint Paul's Parish Church

Cardo # 6

San Miguel de Allende, Gto.

Tel: 415-121-3424

Website: www.StPaulSMA.com

"We are called at St. Paul's is to receive and share God's accepting Grace, challenging Wisdom, and transforming Love. Giving attention to the practice of our faith, we strive to honor the people of our larger community, making a useful difference in Christ's Name"

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A student once asked Robert Frost's

advice as to what course of university study would lead to wisdom and understanding. The poet responded, ***"It doesn't make any difference. Take any class you want. You need to just hang around. Take whatever you want to take until the spirit touches you."***



Frost's answer is, in great measure, the best approach to affiliating With St. Paul's parish...just hang around. Get to know folk, the feel of Sunday worship, the rhythm of parish life, and opportunities for fellowship, education and service. Stick around for a cookie and a cup of coffee after the Liturgy. Participate in a study group, social events, or special offerings. Ask God to do a fresh work in your life and trust the Spirit to move you along on the path that you should go as God meets you in unexpected ways.

Christ came to set us free, to quicken our relationship with God, and to integrate us with others on the road to Faith. Nothing would give us greater joy at St. Paul's than to share the pilgrim journey with you. Your presence will enrich us immeasurably, and we are grateful you have chosen to worship in this sacred place. Each of us has been given gifts meant to be shared and enhanced by a cooperative and intentional community of fellow travelers.

"We are called at St. Paul's to receive and share God's accepting Grace, challenging Wisdom, and transforming Love. Giving attention to the practice of our Faith, we strive to honor the people of our larger community, making a useful difference in Christ's Name." Whether in town on a periodic or permanent basis, you are welcome to join our endeavor. At St. Paul's we strive to indwell the mysteries of this bright world, the Words of Scripture, the Tradition of the Church, and the insights offered through science, literature, and millennia of human experience. We want to find God's Way and we want to make a useful difference in San Miguel de Allende and in the Province of Mexico and in the Diocese of Mexico. Assist us toward that end.

This small brochure will help you make your way at St. Paul's parish, as God prompts and inspires your journey. Be generous with your inquiries, and do not hesitate to contact our clergy for any matter in which we might offer pastoral support. Take whatever you want. Give back as you are able

As Robert Frost understood, there is poetry at the core of all journeys, whether as temporary pilgrims in Mexico, or on the path toward discovering a spiritual home and a place of growth and belonging. The Spirit will tell you where you need to be. We take delight if that is here with us at Saint Paul's. May God richly bless your quest and prosper your way.

In Christ's Service and yours,

The Reverend Canon George F. Woodward III+; Rector

IDENTITY

All people of good will are welcome to worship and abide at St. Paul's Church. You may find yourself wanting to know more of our history, stance and identity. Here we share something of the core beliefs and values of this Faith community.

A Brief History of the Parish: In 1959 the Right Reverend José G. Saucedo, the Episcopal / Anglican Bishop of Mexico, sent Arch-Deacon Allen T. Green to San Miguel to hold services for non-Roman Catholic residents. He was followed by the Very Reverend T. Hall Patrick who led us into Mission status, with St. Paul's Mission holding services at Instituto Allende. Construction of the Church and Chapel began in 1965 with Bishop Saucedo consecrating the completed Church and granting parish status on January 30th, 1966. Father John Donovan became the first Rector of the Parish in 1971. The Seventh Rector of St. Paul's, the Reverend Canon George F. Woodward III, arrived from San Marino, California in June of 2018.

Saint Paul's is part of the Anglican Communion: We are one branch of the Church begun by Jesus Christ when He commissioned His apostles to go into all the world carrying the Gospel, empowering them at Pentecost with the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Christianity arrived in the British Isles in the second century, and a flourishing Celtic Church was well established by the time Pope Gregory sent Augustine to become the first Archbishop of Canterbury in 597 A.D. Augustine converted Ethelbert, the pagan king of Kent, who led his people to Christ. Though there were variations in practice between the indigenous Celtic Church and the Roman Church brought by Augustine, the Celtic Church submitted to Roman authority at the Council of Whitby in 664.

This situation prevailed until the break between the Church of England and Rome at the time of the English Reformation; a century long break between medieval Christianity and a Christianity melding ancient Tradition and new thought. The initial break was largely a political affair, but the "new learning," the forces of Humanism and the Enlightenment, and the rise of nationalism all played strong hands in the English Reformation. Anglicanism, as distinct from Roman Catholicism and Protestant extremism, emerged as a "middle way" early in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. One of our primary and influential scholarly priests, Richard Hooker, translated many of the confusing and destructive conflicts of the times into a useful legacy for future generations, a legacy of order, reason, toleration, and compromise—a pragmatic and tolerant middle way between the tempting dogmatisms afoot in England and elsewhere.

The Anglican Church continued the missionary endeavor given by Christ, and soon our distinctive expression of the ancient Faith spread through the world. There are 80 million members

of the Anglican Communion, the third largest Christian Communion (following the Roman and Orthodox churches) in the world, and the largest Christian body in the English-speaking countries.

American Anglicans dropped the name “Anglican” after the Revolutionary War and adopted the name “Episcopalian,” (which derives from the Greek word *episkopos*, meaning “bishop” in reference to one aspect of our system of ecclesiastical government). The Church in Scotland (which is also part of the Anglican Communion) is known as “the Scottish Episcopal Church” for similar reasons. Canadian Anglicans retrained the original nomenclature, as do, of course British Anglicans. Founded by British, Canadians, and Americans, the Mexican component of our parish flourishes.

Each national branch of the Anglican Communion has its own unique name: The Church of South Africa, The Anglican Church of Canada, the Anglican Church of Mexico, the Holy Catholic Church of Japan, and the Scottish Episcopal Church are all part of the one worldwide Anglican Communion in union with Canterbury. An unfortunate schismatic group in the United States had tried to appropriate the name “Anglican,” but they are not in Communion with Canterbury and fly a false flag.

St. Paul’s is part of the Anglican Church of Mexico: The roots of the Anglican Church in Mexico are fascinating, and a more complete history written by the Right Reverend Carlos Touche-Porter, former Primate of Mexico and retired Bishop of the Diocese of Mexico, is available upon request.

In 1859 a group of Roman Catholic clergy and laity who had defended the new Mexican Constitution found themselves excommunicated by the Roman Catholic Church, which at that time sided with Spain. The group was led by Father Manuel Aguilar and were popularly known as the Constitutional Fathers. They organized themselves into an independent religious group... “the Mexican Catholic Apostolic Society”...and adopted the American Book of Common Prayer, translated into Spanish in 1851. Priests were allowed to marry and for all practical purposes the Society adopted the Anglican Tradition.

In 1875 intercommunion was established between the American and Mexican Church, and in 1893 the Church in Mexico adopted a new name, the Mexican Episcopal Church. In 1995 the Church in Mexico became an autonomous Province of the Anglican Communion and adopted a new official name: The Anglican Church of Mexico.

There are five Dioceses within the Anglican Church of Mexico. St. Paul’s is a part of the Diocese of Mexico, which covers the Mexican States of Hidalgo, Guanajuato, Querétaro, and México. Our Cathedral is in Mexico City, and we consecrated the first female bishop in the Province of Mexico, the Right Reverend Alba Sally Sue Hernández García, as our Diocesan bishop in 2022.

Saint Paul’s is a Catholic Church: “Catholic” means that which has been consistently believed and practiced throughout the Christian Tradition. The Apostles’ and Nicene Creeds, and

all the ancient creeds and statements of the undivided Church remain our statements of Faith. We have neither added to nor subtracted from them. The Book of Common Prayer contains the catholic treasure of worship and the means of celebrating the ancient Sacraments. We continue the Apostolic Succession of ministry and the threefold order of Bishops, Priests and Deacons. The Holy Eucharist (also called “the Mass,” “the Divine Liturgy” and “Holy Communion”) is our central act of worship.

Our branch of the Catholic Faith continues to work with the Roman branch to heal our five-hundred-year-old separation, but issues regarding the exercise of authority, the full inclusion of women in ministry, and the application of moral and ethical norms render reunion unlikely for the foreseeable future.

Saint Paul’s is a Reformed Church: The English Reformation was a protest against the Roman exercise of ecclesiastical and political authority, against perceived corruptions in the medieval Church, and, in a time of growing national English identity, resistance to attempts to subordinate that identity to Roman and Spanish authority. Positively stated, the Anglican Church believes the ancient Catholic Faith must be in a constant state of reform in response to new learning and the continued movement of the Holy Spirit leading human beings to deepened understanding and awareness. In this sense we are a “Protestant” church, having protested the Roman unwillingness to reform the medieval mistakes present in much of ecclesiastical life in the sixteenth century. Differences in Church governance, practical moral theology, the role of women, priestly celibacy, the formation of doctrine, and ecclesiastical culture continue to echo our original reasons for division.

Anglicans are committed to the continuing work of reform that we might ever more clearly reflect the high standards and new truths to which we are all summoned by God.

Saint Paul’s is a Scripturally centered Church: We “believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God and to contain all things necessary to salvation.” The Holy Scriptures form and shape us and offer a lens through which we view and evaluate the world and all claims to truth. Like the Roman Catholic and Orthodox Churches, we also draw upon the Apocrypha for wisdom.

Anglicans are not literalist, or fundamentalist, in their reading of Holy Scripture. The Bible was written by human beings inspired by God, and the texts were collected, ordered and approved by human beings. Scripture is not exempt from human frailty and imperfection. St. Paul, in his rousing affirmation of the place of Scripture in the pilgrim life said, “*All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness*” (2 Timothy 3:16). This we wholeheartedly believe and affirm.

Holy Scripture then, is authoritative, not authoritarian and can never be read apart from careful interpretation. It is important to understand the cultural milieu in which Scripture was first written and it remains important to avoid crude and simplistic contemporary applications. Scripture

is a source of great light, the Church's Book created by the Church under the guidance of the Holy Spirit to illumine the path we walk in commitment to God.

Saint Paul's is a Thinking Church: Human beings are made in God's image, and the light of God quickens conscience and intelligence and human will for the shaping of the world in which we live. Anglicans on the whole (recent fundamentalist strands of Anglican practice have emerged, it must sadly be said) applaud humanism and our Enlightenment legacy, with its emphasis on critical and historical thinking, academic rigor, and a commitment to the sciences.

As we continue to grow in our understanding of the origin and evolution of the earth and of the human species, of technology, medical advancement, and scientific insight, so God would have us hone our moral and ethical tools to grapple with issues raised by this deepened knowledge. Pressing awareness of environmental degradation and the new terrain of genetic engineering are emblematic of the pressing need for deepened wisdom as we meet the ethical challenges upon us. Such endeavor is central to our interpretation of the Christian Faith, and we believe a rigorous commitment to the life of the mind is necessary for a vital twenty-first century Faith.

Saint Paul's respects Personal Conscience: Anglicans say that a three-fold stool is required in order to balance oneself in this complex world. One leg of that stool is Holy Scripture, the second is the Tradition of the Church, and the third is the light of Reason.

As we exercise our Reason, we will not always find ourselves in unanimous agreement. This is to be expected. Deepened wisdom often flows from the tension between conflicting ideas which have been arrived at carefully, and which are held with respect for those who differ. The exercise of personal conscience is expected and respected in this parish, just as it is expected that conviction will be exercised thoughtfully, and with kindness and generosity toward one's fellow pilgrims on the Faith journey.

Saint Paul's is an Inclusive Church: Many Christians from a variety of Traditions rightly call St. Paul's "home," and all baptized Christians are welcomed and encouraged to receive the Holy Eucharist at God's Altar and to fully participate in parish life. Those who do not identify as Christians are also very welcome to this house of prayer, and to our common quest to encounter the Divine.

"There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus," wrote St. Paul a long time ago to the Galatian Church (Galatians 3:28); and neither is there distinction between national origin, sexual orientation, racial identity, or income disparity sanctioned in this parish.

We are governed by the constitutions and canons of the Anglican Diocese of Mexico, and through the By-Laws of this parish church, enjoying a fully established and functioning institutional identity legally registered in Mexico. Many sorts of fish may swim and feed within our deep waters, and you are very welcome to these warm currents!

COMMON WORSHIP and SACRAMENTAL RITES

“Lex orandi, lex credendi,” said a former Archbishop of Canterbury, *“the Law of Prayer is the Law of Belief.”* That is to say, the manner in which we pray shapes our belief and understanding about God, the world, and human relationships. *How* we pray is of crucial importance, and great attention has been given to this in the Anglican Communion. The Book of Common Prayer and the King James Bible, original Anglican documents, have had an immeasurable and enduring impact on the English language and English literature, and have reverberated with profound influence as translated into other languages and embodied in non-English speaking cultures.

In Mexico, the Spanish translation of the American Book of Common Prayer came into use in 1851, and the Spanish language translation of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer remains the cornerstone of worship within the Anglican Church of Mexico. Our Spanish language congregation uses this version of the Book of Common Prayer.

Just as the advent of the printing press led to the development of the first Book of Common Prayer in 1549, so new technologies have allowed for greater flexibility in *liturgy*, which means, in Greek, *“the work of the people,”* a structured pattern of worship fully involving the gathered in common prayer.

At St. Paul’s the liturgy is prepared with great care. The Book of Common Prayer remains our foundation, with Eucharistic Prayers drawn from around the Anglican Communion and from supplemental sources. We use the Oxford *New Revised Standard Version* of Holy Scripture.

The appointed readings for each Sunday are from the Revised Common Lectionary with summary explanation drawn from *“Introducing the Lessons of the Church Year”* (Morehouse Press) by Frederick H. Borsch and George F. Woodward III. Liturgical prayers are drawn from the Book of Common Prayer, and from *“The Prayers of the People”* (St. Mark’s Press) by George F. Woodward III.

The panoply of the five senses are evoked through sacred space, colorful vestments, the Word proclaimed, musical variety, and, occasionally, fragrant incense. We bring all that we are, and all that it means to be human, before God in prayer through contemporary iterations of the Divine Office.

The Holy Eucharist is the core of Anglican worship (called also, The Mass, Holy Communion, the Divine Liturgy). We begin our service with the Liturgy of the Word, hearing Scripture proclaimed and expounded, and moving, then, to the Liturgy of the Altar as the elements of bread and wine are consecrated and become for us the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, our Savior Present in our midst offering Himself as sustenance for life’s journey in the Blessed Sacrament. Anglicans believe in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist, though we do not embrace the terminology of Aristotelian philosophy employed by the Roman Catholic Church (“Transubstantiation”). All

baptized Christians should partake of this Gift. Our principal celebrations of the Eucharist are in English at 9am and 10:15am Sunday mornings, and ‘Misa en Español’ Sundays at Noon. A Wednesday Noon Eucharist and liturgies for special occasion are also offered.

Occasions for Worship are not limited to celebrations of the Holy Eucharist. The Prayer Book contains daily offices for Morning Prayer, Noonday Prayer, Evening Prayer and Compline, and also daily devotions for individuals and families. The Stations of the Cross and Holy Days are frequently observed. The Book of Common Prayer was originally compiled by Archbishop of Canterbury Thomas Cranmer to simplify the Latin services of the medieval Church and to produce an English prayer book suitable for priest and people. The first version appeared in 1550, with revisions in 1552, and 1559. The warm cadences of Elizabethan English found in the 1559 Book of Common Prayer are familiar to many and have deeply influenced the development of the English language.

The first American Book of Common Prayer appeared in 1789, owing a debt not only to the English prayer book, but also to the high Scottish Book of Common Prayer. The American prayer book has seen three revisions, the first in 1892, the second in 1928, and the most recent in 1979.

Music is a vital part of our Anglican heritage and plays a prominent role in our life and worship. Traditional hymnody is taken from the 1982 Hymnal of the Episcopal Church, but we draw from other sources periodically and revel in Spanish language *canciones*, reflecting our expansive cultural environment. The Choir is comprised of parish members leading hymns, service music, choral anthems and songs of praise. In addition, St. Paul’s has a (presently in suspension) Bell Choir enhancing our liturgies on special occasions.

SACRAMENTAL RITES

Holy Baptism

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism is “the door to the Church” and the usual method for expressing new found Christian Faith. Anglicans practice adult baptism for adults, and infant baptism for infants and children growing up in observant Christian households. Holy Baptism is available to infants and children whose parents or guardians are active members of the parish, and to adults who regularly attend St. Paul’s. At the Rector’s discretion and for pastoral reasons, Holy Baptism may also be administered from time to time to practicing Christians who are not regular members of St. Paul’s Church and who will be practicing the Christian Faith in another context.

It is usual for parents and guardians of minor children to meet with one of the clergy prior to the administration of the Sacrament. Godparents are also welcome at such meetings.

The tradition of selecting godparents for infants and young children is ancient, with the intention that the young might be given godly examples and guides in Christian Faith and practice. At one time, godparents assumed responsibility for their godchildren when orphaned, though Wills, Trusts and Estates are the contemporary Western method for making such provision.

In our mobile culture, the practical benefits of godparenting are less evident than once, and the bequeathing of such a title is often honorific. If godparents are to be chosen, practicing Anglicans more likely to be healthfully involved in the life of the child are preferred, or practicing Christians in strands of the Faith supportive of Anglican values.

Adults who are entering the Anglican Communion from other Christian denominations who have been baptized in the Name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit are *not* re-baptized.

Holy Baptism for adults, children or infants is scheduled several times a year as part of a Sunday morning celebration of the Holy Eucharist, and for adults, at the Great Vigil of Easter. The service of Holy Baptism may be found in *The Book of Common Prayer* on page 299. Please contact the Parish Office for a Baptismal application.

Thanksgiving for the Birth or Adoption of a Child

A special service is provided on page 439 of *The Book of Common Prayer* for celebrating a birth or adoption. This liturgy is commonly effected during a regularly scheduled Sunday liturgy. Please contact the Parish Office to arrange for this service.

Confirmation or Reception into the Anglican Church

Confirmation is the Sacrament of the Church through which “*we express a mature commitment to Christ and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a Bishop*” (BCP, pg. 860)

At Saint Paul’s, young people are prepared to receive Confirmation at parental discretion. Young people who need to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation will receive timely instruction...please make the Rector aware of interest.

Adults who have never been Confirmed prepare through classes and in consultation with the Rector.

If you have already been Confirmed in a Roman Catholic, Orthodox, or Swedish Lutheran Church, you will not be re-Confirmed. Rather, you will be Received by the Bishop into this branch of Christ’s Holy Catholic Church.

The service of Confirmation may be found on page 413 of *The Book of Common Prayer* and is administered by the Bishop during the Bishop’s annual episcopal visitation to the parish. Please consult the Rector with any questions you may have.

Holy Matrimony

St. Paul’s celebrates and blesses marriages in accordance with civil and Church law, using the services in *The Book of Common Prayer*. As we are in Mexico, and in accord with Mexican law, clergy do not have the authority, as in other countries, to effect a legally binding marriage. Legal marriage must be achieved before a civil authority in Mexico or outside of Mexico, with

documentation presented to the presiding priest prior to the blessing of the marriage. Christian marriage properly occurs in the Church building, though exceptions may be made for pastoral reasons. The marriage rite is found on page 423 of *The Book of Common Prayer*. For complete details, request a copy of the Application for Marriage from the Parish Office.

Reconciliation of a Penitent (Confession)

The Church provides means through which an individual may confess and repent of sins, and receive absolution by a priest. Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, and Good Friday are popular annual dates on which to make confession, or you may make an appointment at any time you feel the need. The liturgy for the Reconciliation of a Penitent is found on page 447 of *The Book of Common Prayer*. “None must, all may, some should” is the somewhat silly phrase describing Confession within Anglicanism. “The General Confession” found in almost all major services is considered sufficient to understand and receive God’s forgiveness in preparation for receiving Holy Communion. Private confession is usually sought by those requiring a deeper reassurance of Christ’s love and full embrace.

Ministration to the Sick

In case of illness, the clergy of the Parish are to be notified. Ancient Christian practice of intercession for the sick includes the laying on of a priest’s hands, and the anointing of the sick with Holy Oil. This service may be found on page 453 of *The Book of Common Prayer*. Lay Eucharistic ministers also carry Holy Communion to the sick and the shut-in.

Private Communion

When illness or disability prevents an individual from attending celebrations of the Holy Eucharist, we are glad to send a priest or Lay Eucharistic Minister to a residence, hospital room, or to convalescent or hospice care to administer Holy Communion. This service is found on page 396 of *The Book of Common Prayer*. Kindly contact the Parish Office to make your need known.

Ministration at the Time of Death

Priests anoint the sick whenever they fall ill. When sickness appears terminal, the service called “Ministration at the Time of Death,” (BCP page 462) is appropriate. This service is perhaps more commonly known as Final Unction, or Last Rites. This commendation of the dying to Almighty God is often a great comfort to the dying, and to their loved ones. Please feel free to request the clergy to administer this Rite.

Funeral and Memorial Services

Christians are customarily buried from the Church as we gather to thank God for the life of the one who has died, to intercede for the departed, asking God’s eternal care and purpose to be fulfilled, and to ask solace for all who mourn. The clergy and other staff will assist you in arranging a liturgy and planning readings and music in accordance with the services in *The Book of Common*

Prayer (see page 469 or 491). There are no restrictions against cremation in the Anglican Communion.

Outreach Endeavors

Pickleball: In collaboration with a local tennis club “*La Capilla*”, St. Paul’s provides free pickleball lessons with semi-professional and amateur coaches each Tuesday and Thursday to 20 girls from a local orphanage (Santa Julia-Don Bosco), and to some of our kinds from St. Paul’s Parish, who like to join to play too. Our companion parish of All Saints’-by-the-Sea Episcopal Church, Santa Barbara, has provided funds for the building of a Pickleball court and skating facility at the orphanage. The girls have so much joy and have mentioned: “*that nothing they do in their lives is more fun than playing pickleball*”.

The program includes: the purchase of balls, racquets, sportswear, and tennis shoes; monthly payment for four memberships allowing all our volunteers access to the club; and everything else the girls need to focus solely on training. (Church expenses: \$6,000.00 pesos monthly to the club for the use of the facilities, and around \$6,000.00 pesos monthly for the supervisor, and \$10,000.00 pesos annually for equipment).



Saint Paul’s Youth Orchestra: Working with the talented and passionate pianist and orchestra director. Maestro Victor Hugo Ramos; St. Paul’s is working to develop the power of Music among local young people to support the personal and social development in our community where most local children and youth do not have access to musical training due to a lack of economic resources. This project seeks to modify that reality and provide instruction and musical competency to a greater number of children in San Miguel de Allende. Our motto is: “We can trade weapons for musical instruments with our kids.”

The ministry includes: The payment of 11 scholarships and our goal is to be able to cover 20 (each scholarship is \$6,000.00 pesos annually). Also, we are looking for instrument donation, or to find resources for St. Paul’s to supplement musical instruments.



St. Paul's Community Outreach Fund: Initiated by Lynn Ramsey and Joe Lopez as a “Despensa Project” during COVID, this serves as the umbrella for a new envision of dignifying the lives of many women who are in disadvantaged situations. Recently, we have begun to collaborate with the “*San Luis Rey*” project run by one of our Mexican parishioners, Lic. Isabela which occurs in a house where many women are trained how to cook, bake, and make bread. We continue to provide despensa (food), clothing, toys and more to many people in our community.

The main intention of this ministry is to dignify the lives of many through love, work and help.



The 12 Disciples English Classes: Intensive classes in English are offered to a dedicated group of 12 youth, with a separate class offering free lessons to adults. The 12 disciples’ class rotates every 6 months with new students. Maestra Sara is committed to guarantee that kids will learn English at the end of the semester. (Cost for semester is \$3,000 USD).

English has become a critical element in the life of the Mexican community of San Miguel de Allende. It is estimated 50% of job good job prospects require knowledge of the English language.



Women Sewing with spirit: A group of adults, primarily from our Mexican community, gather each Monday for instruction in sewing.

We plan to develop this ministry into a 6-month semester course for women who do not have their own sewing machines and to provide instruction in creating items to supplement their income. At the end of each semester, the hope is to present each participant with their own sewing machine. (Prices will be roughly \$1,500 USD for 6 machines).



Cutting Christ's hair: Focuses on improving the self-image of men and women in "Alma" asylum / retirement center and a local rehabilitation clinic (Los Rodriguez for drugs and alcoholism) providing monthly professional haircuts and beard trimming to provide a measure of peace and affection to those in difficult circumstance: a practical expression of God's love.



Alms: Monthly alms are distributed to a disadvantaged group of local people living precarious lives, who suffer a medical condition providing them small amounts of money and the free loan of medical equipment; such as crutches, wheelchairs, portable toilets, etc.

The medical equipment provides great assistance for the general community of San Miguel de Allende. Many people donate equipment to the Church; we handle distribution and monitor return.

DESIGNATED GIFTS: Gifts to St. Paul's for specific parish endeavors are part and parcel of normal parish life. Recent gifts have come in support of Paraments, Church Lighting, Columbarium Care, Gardening, the Medical Closet and the Rector's Discretionary Fund. Designated gifts are distinct from pledge commitments and are welcome ways of furthering general ministry.

ST. PAUL'S COMMUNITY OUTREACH FUND: Gifts through St. Paul's to our designated recipient NGO's underscore our parish social witness. Recent gifts of this nature have been received in support of Patronato, Feed The Hungry, SMA Red Cross, our Despensa Project and youth sports and music offerings.

This is also a vehicle for anonymous giving should that be desired. Civic Initiative Fund gifts are distinct from pledge gifts or designated parish gifts and are directed in their entirety to the organization indicated.

LEADERSHIP AND STAFF

The Reverend Canon George F. Woodward III Rector

Canon Woodward was born in Pennsylvania and grew up in Columbus, Ohio. He graduated from Ohio University, received an M.A. in Theology from Ashland Theological Seminary, and an M.Div. from Seabury-Western Theological Seminary in Chicago.



Following graduation from Seminary in 1983 he was called as Associate Rector to All Saints-by-the-Sea in Montecito, Santa Barbara, serving for five years. He thereafter spent two years in the Republic of Turkey as Assistant to the Archdeacon for the Aegean, working as a civilian chaplain at Incirlik Air Force Base in southeastern Turkey, and at the British Embassy Chapel of St. Nicholas in Ankara. Upon returning to the United States in 1991 he was called as Rector of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Apple Valley, during which time he was also Dean of the Eastern Deanery of the Diocese of Los Angeles.

In 1995 Woodward became the Seventh Rector of St. Edmund's Episcopal Church, San Marino, California (1995 – 2018). For many years he served on the Board of Hillside Home for Children, Pasadena; as Chair of the Diocesan Program Group on Global Partnership; and as the Vice President for Foundation Cristosal, a Human Rights Organization based in El Salvador. He was named a Canon of the Diocese of Los Angeles in 2011, and a Canon of the Diocese of El Salvador in 2014.

In February 2018 Woodward was called as the Seventh Rector of St. Paul's Anglican Church, San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato, México.

Woodward is the co-author with Bishop Frederick H. Borsch of 'Introducing The Lessons of The Church Year' 2009, and the author of 'Prayers of The People' St. Mark's Press, 2016 and other works of poetry and short fiction.

Woodward lives in San Miguel de Allende, enjoys hiking, Latin American art, writing, travel, and the privilege of service as a priest within the Anglican Communion.

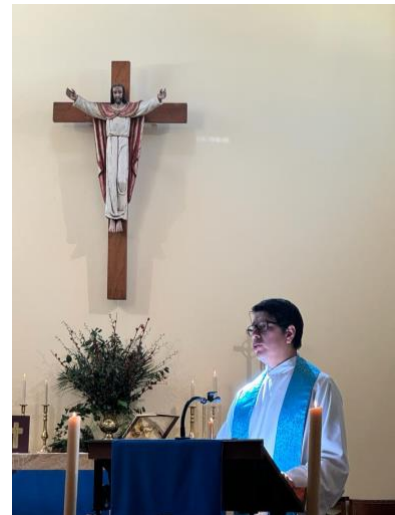
THE VESTRY

According to the Canons of the Anglican Church of Mexico, the Vestry of a parish has managerial responsibility to assist the Rector especially with parish finances and parish buildings. In addition,

the Vestry exercises a broad range of delegated leadership roles within the Parish. At St. Paul's, three members of the parish are elected to the Vestry each year at Annual Meeting, with a total of nine members and the Rector constituting this rotating body. There are two Church Wardens (the Senior Warden, and the Junior Warden) who bear responsibility, together with the Rector, for parish and Vestry leadership. The Senior Warden is appointed by the Rector, and the Junior Warden is elected by the Vestry following each Annual Meeting.

**The Reverend Padre Miguel de Jesús Rangel H.
Assistant Priest**

Originally from San Miguel de Allende, Miguel is the third child of five; he feels so fortunate to live close to them, as his siblings all live in the same city. His parents raised their family with love, respect, and open-mindedness, to the point that Miguel is the only believer, in a predominantly atheistic and agnostic extended family. *(Fortunately, his wife and children are committed Anglicans)*. His extended family have served as acolytes and attended his ordinations, shedding more than one tear during the Sacraments they have shared with Miguel.



Fr. Miguel holds a law degree from the Universidad Continente Americano and a master's degree in Notarial and Registry Law from Lasalle University. Though he does not actively practice law, he is the Legal Representative and Secretary of “Iglesia Anglicana San Pablo en San de Miguel de Allende A.R”., as well as the Civil Association: “Amigos Anglicanos A.C.”

His passion is classical music, so he greatly enjoys playing the piano and teaching his children to play it as well. His hobbies include tennis, cycling, reading, and attending classical music concerts and operas.

In 2009, he married Karina Yáñez. They have an adorable and intelligent 14-year-old son, named Miguel Emiliano and their beloved 10-year-old daughter Sofia, who has a passion for reading and enjoys collecting stones and insects. He and his wife have an excellent relationship, which was confirmed with their religious wedding celebrated by the Reverend Canon George F. Woodward III. In 2022, Karina was diagnosed with ovarian cancer, and thanks to her mental and spiritual strength, and above all, her trust in God, Karina has overcome cancer and now continues to be a great helper to Miguel and the entire church community of San Paul's.

When Fr. Miguel was ordained to the Diaconate, the Holy Spirit guided him down the path of visiting the sick, something he greatly enjoyed and wanted to continue doing, so he suggested remaining as a deacon for a few more years. However, that request was denied due to the need for a Spanish-speaking Priest in the community. Since, with the initiative of the Rector, a solid Spanish-speaking service had been created for the first time at St. Paul Church, and this

demanding for Miguel to be ordained as a Priest as soon as possible. When his ordination took place on July 22, 2023, the feast of St. Mary Magdalene, the Spirit of God (playful as always) guided him to focus his energy on the Sacramental and pastoral aspects, and, in addition, on ministry development, which have flowed like water in their creation and are currently a great testimony to the entire Parish, who labor together for the Kingdom of God.

The Reverend Canon Francis N. Hebert **Assisting Priest**

A native of Connecticut, Frank Hebert was raised in an observant Roman Catholic household and earned a B.A. Music degree in Music Education from Bucknell University. From a young age, he was already in a leadership role in church, serving from age 18 as an organist and later choir director at congregations in CT, PA, and NY. After graduation, he worked at two different private schools, teaching Music, English, drama, and creative writing, running a boy's dormitory, and directing a performing arts summer program. Concurrently, he earned the MALS degree in Literature and Arts from Wesleyan University.



After a move to California, he entered the Church Divinity School of the Pacific (Episcopal) in Berkeley, where his interest in the global Church was sparked. He studied Spanish privately, then at the UC before being awarded a scholarship to language school in Cuernavaca. Upon his return to the US, he worked as a seminary intern at St. Matthew's Church in National City, CA, a bi-lingual and multicultural congregation south of San Diego. Subsequent to his ordination at St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral in San Diego, he was hired as Curate at Christ Church in Coronado, CA where he spent 17 months before a call to the Diocese of New Jersey where he served 23 years, first at Holy Trinity Church in Wenonah, then at St. Peter's Church in Freehold.

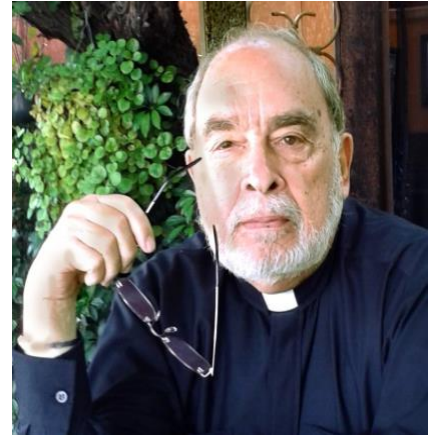
During his tenure at St. Peter's he led a capital campaign that raised over \$1M from public & private sources to restore the church's historic colonial edifice. He continued his interest in the global and multicultural church, taking a sabbatical in the Dominican Republic to study Spanish and assist at an inner-city church in Santiago, after which he started a weekly Spanish language Holy Eucharist for the migrants residing in Freehold. During a mission trip to Africa he was awarded the honorary title of *Canon of the Cathedral Church of the Ascension in Wiawso, Ghana*. In 2012 he was called to be the Rector of Christ Church in Mexico City, where he served for six years before his retirement. In retirement he taught adult classes of English as a foreign language at the Anglo-Mexican Foundation.

Frank is the father of two adult daughters, Anne and Julian. He lives with his partner Ariel Munguia in San Miguel. In his free time he enjoys swimming, cooking, reading, and playing the piano.

CLERGY IN RESIDENCE

The Reverend Dr. Ernie Townsend

A communicant of St. Paul's since 2000, Ernie is involved in the liturgical, administrative and pastoral life of our congregation. Father Townsend established a Pastoral Care Committee at Holy Cross Church, Kingston, NY, where members received training in empathetic listening and pastoral counseling. He was ordained a deacon at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine and as a priest by the Right Reverend Carlos Touch Porter, then Primate of the Mexican Anglican Church. Father Ernie has a Master's degree from Syracuse University's School of Social Work and Doctorate from New York University's School of Public Administration.



The Reverend Keith Anderson

Keith retired as a Lutheran minister after 33 yrs of ordained ministry in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. In addition to earning a MDiv degree, Keith has a MA in Hebrew language and an MS in Community Counseling. Keith moved to SMA in 2022 with his wife, Carmel, an accomplished fine artist. Together they have two daughters, Eliah - finishing a PhD in child psychology, and Ezrie - who has a BS in architecture and loves Design / Build. For fun, Keith plays pickleball whenever and wherever he can, currently heading up the St Paul's PB outreach ministry to the orphanage.



PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

Claudia Rangel

Claudia was born in San Miguel de Allende on April 3, 1981, and grew up in her hometown with her beloved family and her dear partner Jorge Reyes. She is the eldest of two sisters and two brothers. She completed her Bachelor's degree in Psychology in San Miguel de Allende and is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Strategic Management, a significant professional development made possible by the support of Paula Hebert and Jeff Arnold. Currently, she serves as the Administrator of St. Paul's Church. I am profoundly grateful to Father George F. Woodward and Father Miguel for their unconditional support and trust in my work, as well as to all members of the church community whose great human quality has taught me the importance of community in San Miguel de Allende.

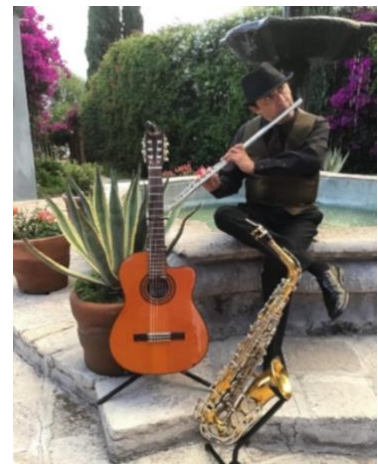


Her other interests and endeavors lie within the interdisciplinary fields of Logotherapy and Thanatology, Neuropsychology, and Psychoanalysis Research undertaken by Conalep and the National Polytechnic Institute. She has worked as a literature teacher, written poetry, and enjoys singing, an activity she has embraced as life therapy (with full appreciation for her teacher, Rosa Guadalupe Balderas, for this guidance). She has also worked as a Real Estate Agent, a role she undertakes when projects arise, supplementing her primary duties at St. Paul's Church.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Xavier Hernández

Originally from San Miguel de Allende, Xavier studied at the School of Music of the University of Guanajuato, at the high school of Liturgy Music and Art "Cardinal Miranda", and at the National School of Music of the UNAM under the guidance of Prof. Alfred Mendoza. He has been a member of groups such as: Octeto Vocal de Mexico; Chamber Choir of Mexico; Vocal Octet "Juan D. Tercero"; "Hermes" Group of ancient music; "Voz en Punto" Ensemble and the Mexicalia Vocal Ensemble, in addition to being invited to collaborate repeatedly with the Ensemble "Voce in Tempore" and Schola Cantorum de México. His development as soloist and member of various choral groups, has led him to perform on various stages in the Mexican Republic and abroad, in the United States, Cuba, Russia, Greece and Germany. He also performs as an arranger, making most of the arrangements for the San Miguel Ensemble and for this reason he was commissioned to make Mexican music arrangements for the New York Choral Society in 2010. In the year 2011 he won, along with his Ensemble San Miguel, the CONACULTA / Guanajuato state scholarship "Stimuli for Artistic Creation and



Development" with the "In Mexico" Show project. He has shared the time of his singing career with the study of transverse flute and guitar, so he has participated in several courses and festivals. He is currently founder and director of "Ensamble San Miguel" (www.ensamblesma.com) next to his wife the pianist Liliana Gutiérrez. He is currently musical director at San Pablo, the Anglican Church in San Miguel de Allende.

ORGANIST

Ramiro

A native of San Miguel de Allende, Ramiro graduated from the School of Music of the University of Guanajuato. As a Professor of piano, he has also taken Organ classes with teachers Francisco Álvarez in Querétaro and John S. Stump. For more than two decades, he has been studying and documenting the origins of the tubular organs in San Miguel de Allende. He has worked on the restoration of the temple organ of Nuestra Señora de la Salud in the same way he is contributing to the restoration of the first stage of the organ of the Oratory.

He is involved in the cleaning and maintenance of the organ of the Santa Casa de Loreto and has made adjustments to the organ of the temple Ermita. He is currently assisting in the restoration of the organ of the Parish of San Miguel Arcángel and in the maintenance of the harmonium of the temple of San Juan de Dios, with the teacher Juan Moisés Orozco Santillán, organist. With his passion and taste for organ music, he has, together with Josué Martínez Morín created the First and Second Tubular Organ Festival in our city, he has taken organ courses with Guy Bovet (Switzerland); in the city of Oaxaca, in the cathedral of Morelia Michoacán with Stephen Thomas Roberts (E.U.A); and in Guanajuato with the teachers Alessandro Saraceni (Italy), Víctor Contreras (Mexico), Josué Gastellou (Mexico), an organ seminar with the teacher Judith Helvia García Martín (Spain). Ramiro is currently an organist in the Parish of San Miguel Arcángel and at St Paul's Anglican Church in San Miguel de Allende. He is director of the Children and Youth Choir of the Public Library in San Miguel.



SEXTON

Hipolito "Pepe" Bustamante

Pepe is our wonderful Sexton who started working for St. Paul's in 2016. He was received into the Anglican Communion in 2023.. Pepe enjoys playing his guitar and he is part of a mariachi band and also plays for many parish events. Originally from Comonfort, he now resides in La Lejona. He has two sons, two daughters-in-law and six grandchildren.



HOUSEKEEPER

Lupita Yañez Ríos

Lupita is our charismatic Housekeeper who has been working with San Pablo Church since March 2022. She and her three children are active in the Church such as acolyte at some Church events, her children have also participated in the Church choir as well as others that are part of the Church's cultural heritage.



MEMBERSHIP

God's Spirit summons the human spirit to worship and draws us to know and love Him with increasing intimacy. All are very welcome to worship God at St. Paul's Church, at whatever stage you may find yourself along the pilgrim path. It is not necessary to be an Anglican/Episcopalian, or to become a member of St. Paul's in order to share our common quest to indwell God's Presence, to commit our cares, intercede for our loved ones, offer our concerns, and to present our many reasons for gratitude. All baptized Christians of whatever strand of the Faith are invited to receive the Sacrament of the Altar.

Membership at St. Paul's is a yet further step. To become a member of this parish entails a choice to follow the Way of Christ as an intentional disciple, and to do so with this particular group of imperfect human beings. Some are here all year around, and some are here for part of the year. Whatever your temporal calendar may entail, should discern that St. Paul's Church is a place where you have been called to express your discipleship, we welcome you to committed membership.

Reasonable membership commitments mean that you will be involved in this parish in an active manner, both when in San Miguel de Allende, and also wherever else your legs may take you through the year. It is not necessary to become an Anglican to join in membership at St. Paul's, though it is probably wise to know yourself in accord with the tenets of Anglican Faith and the main strands of Christianity through the centuries.

The following membership criteria are consistent with The Book of Common Prayer and the Canons of the Anglican Church of Mexico, and are considered normative for members of St. Paul's Church:

1. Holy Baptism: A member of St. Paul's Church will be baptized in the Name of the Trinity. If you have already been baptized in this ancient manner, re-baptism is not permitted, and, if

possible, the date and place of your baptism should be recorded in our Parish Register. Questions about baptism may be directed to the Rector.

2. Letter of Transfer: If previously active in another Anglican or Episcopal Church, a Letter of Transfer should be requested from your previous parish or mission. If you share time with an Anglican or Episcopal Church elsewhere, such Letter of Transfer is not essential, though a Letter of Commendation from your principle Rector or Vicar is always appreciated.
3. Involvement: Regular participation and involvement in parish life is expected of members when present in San Miguel de Allende, and conscientious care for this community is expected wherever one is wending in God's wide world.
4. Financial Support: A commitment to the temporal mission of St. Paul's is expressed through annual gifts, designated gifts, and in Estate planning.
5. Intention and commitment to growth in Christian life and service is understood.
6. If one has not been previously Confirmed or Received into the Anglican Communion by a Bishop in Communion with Canterbury (Anglican/Episcopalian) then consultation with the Rector to prepare for such Reception or Confirmation is encouraged.

STEWARDSHIP

BUILDING THE HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH

Beloveds in Christ,

Humility, gentleness, patience, forbearance...these are the characteristics of those maintaining unity in Christ, establishing the bond of peace. In fraught times with so many enticements to dissension, St. Paul's command to mutual care in Ephesians 4: 1-7 is as relevant as when he first wrote to the Ephesians.

The establishment of the household of Faith at St. Paul's requires work, intention, self-restraint and perseverance. We have much to celebrate as we have worshipped our way through months of challenge brought our way by COVID and the varying responses of individuals to the epidemic. My thanks to each of you as you have deepened in spiritual commitment and determined to prosper God's work in this time and place, and through the circumstances we find ourselves navigating together.

"So then, you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God."

It is pledge season, and, as God inhabits us, building us together as a dwelling place for God and a safe-haven for those seeking after God, I ask your financial commitment for 2022. We have held steady through the disruptions of recent months and are in sound financial position, if not progressing toward a fully-funded pledge-based budget with the speed we once envisioned. Together we press forward.

In addition to annual pledges, Legacy gifts are St. Paul's best hope for establishing a true endowment generating an annual 4% restricted draw (roughly) for parish endeavor. Canadian and U.S. Trusts, Wills and Estate planning mechanisms offer straight-forward methods by which to provide a legacy gift to St. Paul's.

For those in Mexico considering gifts of property, it is important to know that Mexican financial instruments require a gift be directed to Amigos Anglicanos A.C. This, our Asociación Civil, permits property gifts for the use of St. Paul's. Because the Mexican government legally owns the land upon which all churches are built, gifts to St. Paul's Asociación Religiosa is not the way to successfully leave property to the parish, nor is it sufficient to designate the church in Mexican banking documents. Making Amigos Anglicanos A.C. a beneficiary in a Mexican will is the method by which to leave real property within Mexico to St. Paul's Parish.

You will find an electronic pledge card appended to his letter, and also further information regarding Designated Gifts or gifts to local non-profit organizations through St. Paul's Civil Initiative process. E-Mail pledges ought be sent to: StPaulsRectorSMA@gmail.com and hard-copy pledges may be left in the collection plate, dropped at the parish office, or mailed to St. Paul's Church, PMB 141A, 220 N. Zapata Highway #11, Laredo, Texas 78043-4464

May God guard you, body, mind and spirit, though these days of pilgrim journey.

“In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.”

Faithfully yours,

The Reverend Canon George F. Woodward III
Rector