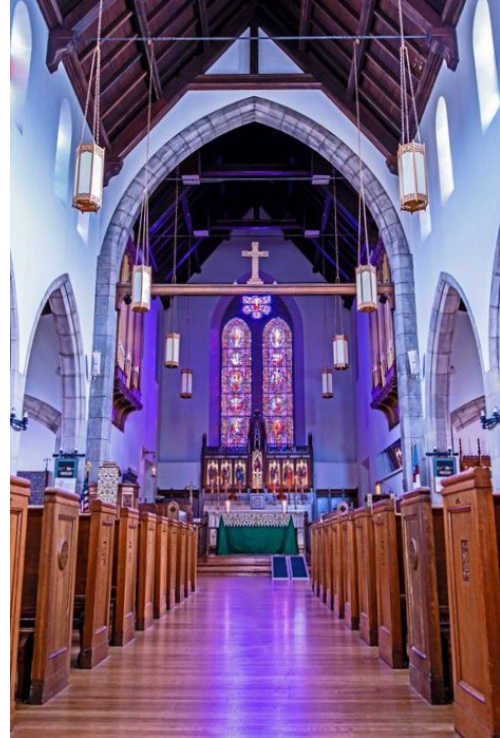


A brief history of St. Paul's Episcopal Church

A staunch Episcopalian, Bezaleel Wells, founded Canton in 1805, and Episcopal services were held here as early as 1817. But it was a nomadic existence for more than 50 years, until a wooden sanctuary took root in 1869 on Cleveland Avenue SW. But the second half of the 19th Century wasn't much more stable than the first. Three priests were removed, including Fr. Thomas Howard MacQueary, whose espousal of evolution and social justice led to the first trial for heresy in the American Episcopal Church. (His parishioners loved him, by the way; it was the church hierarchy that had issues.)



By the 20th Century, St. Paul's hit a period of growth, helping to lead home-front efforts during World War I and transforming its parish house into an orphanage for children whose parents died of the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic. The new stone sanctuary was dedicated in 1923 and over the decades, St. Paul's established what's believed to be the first daycare, consignment shop and programs for people with mental illness in the city.



The call for community involvement and social justice has continued into the 21st Century. Today, St. Paul's is a founding partner in Courageous Conversations on Race Relations to try to solve what is arguably America's most crippling problem, racism. We embrace interfaith efforts that strengthen our determination to heed

God's call, to show mercy and love our neighbors.