ST. PAUL’S CHAPEL

250 YEARS

The Parish of TRINITY CHURCH
Wall Street

MEDIA BRIEFING

St. Paul’s 250th Anniversary
Sunday, October 30, 2016
SPC250.org
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Opened in 1766, St. Paul’s Chapel at Broadway and Fulton Street was built as a “chapel-of-ease” for congregants of Trinity Church at Broadway and Wall Street who had moved “uptown” as the British outpost of New York continued to grow. The Episcopal parish dates back to 1697.

Almost 25 years after the chapel’s dedication, the new nation’s first president and both houses of Congress prayed at St. Paul’s after the inauguration at Federal Hall, a few blocks away on Wall Street.

St. Paul’s is the oldest church building in Manhattan and the only remaining colonial church building in Manhattan. It is often called the “little chapel that stood.” It survived the Great Fire of New York in 1776, and the burning of nearby Park Theater (twice) and the Barnum Museum. In recent history, it’s most well-known as the chapel across the street from the World Trade Center that survived the falling Twin Towers on September 11, 2001. Days after the attacks relief workers began to use the chapel as a place to rest, and for nine months thereafter the chapel housed an extraordinary volunteer effort and served as a refuge for Ground Zero’s rescue and recovery workers.

Today St. Paul’s Chapel is an active house of worship. At 8am Sundays, there is a 40-minute service with a homily and Eucharist for those who want a simple worship time. At 9:15am, families with children are the focus of a relaxed, joyful, and engaging 45-minute service with music. At 8pm, those who prefer a more intimate setting enjoy Compline by Candlelight, a chant-based evening prayer service.

ABOUT ST. PAUL

Born Saul of Tarsus in the first years of the first century, St. Paul’s unlikely evolution took him from fiery animosity toward the earliest followers of Jesus Christ to absolute dedication to the Gospel. After a life of ministry, Christian tradition tells us he was martyred in Rome in or near to the year 67.

In this sanctuary, we remember St. Paul as a consummate pastor – as someone who lived out Christ’s call to love one another as he loved us. This is a place where people of good will gather to praise God, nourish their spirits, and make connections before going out into the world to serve and seek reconciliation.

This chapel is for all. You are very welcome here.
MOMENTS IN HISTORY

- April 5, 1763: Committee forms to locate and construct St. Paul’s Chapel.
- May 14, 1764: Cornerstone is laid.
- October 30, 1766: First worship service is held and the building is dedicated. The Rev. Samuel Auchmuty, rector of the parish, preaches the first sermon.
- April 30, 1789: George Washington, John Adams, and both houses of Congress (which included future president James Madison and future vice president Elbridge Gerry) attend a prayer service at St. Paul’s following their inauguration. Washington continues to attend St. Paul’s and Trinity Church while the government seat is in New York.
- 1824: General Lafayette attends grand oratorio concert by New York Choral Society.
- 1831: Funeral service is held for President James Monroe.
- 1832: Consecration of four bishops at St. Paul’s during the General Convention. It is the first time that many bishops are consecrated at once.
- April 30, 1889: President Benjamin Harrison, Vice President Levi P. Morton, and former presidents Rutherford B. Hayes and Grover Cleveland attend a service commemorating the Washington Inauguration Centennial.
- 1904: St. Paul’s begins holding services for night workers, like those in the nearby print shops on Park Row, at 2:30am on Sunday mornings.
- April 30, 1989: President George H.W. Bush and First Lady Barbara Bush attend a service marking the 200th anniversary of Washington’s inauguration.
- December 27, 2001: Mayor Rudy Giuliani gives his farewell address from St. Paul’s.
ARCHITECTURAL HIGHLIGHTS

- **Montgomery Monument**: The east porch of St. Paul’s, facing Broadway, is dominated by an impressive memorial to General Richard Montgomery, a distinguished Revolutionary War officer who died in 1775 while fighting in Quebec. Montgomery is buried beneath the monument. The memorial, believed to be the first Revolutionary War monument commissioned by the Continental Congress, is the work of the French sculptor Jean Jaques Caffieri and is made of marble from the Pyrenees.

- **Glory Altarpiece**: Because the monument honoring General Montgomery created a shadowy outline in the altar window as seen from the nave, a design for the interior of the window was made by Pierre Charles L’Enfant, the French architect who created the master plan for the city of Washington, DC. The design, executed by a woodcarver, represents God’s glory on Mount Sinai and the giving of the Ten Commandments to the Israelites, from Exodus 24.

- **Pulpit and Altar Rail**: No direct evidence, but probably original. It’s often cited that the Prince of Wales feathers are atop the pulpit, but there are six feathers here, not three, making it unlikely.

- **Bells**: One bell was made in 1797 by Thomas Mears of London and installed in 1834. The other bell was made in 1866 by Meneely.

- **Great Seal of the United States of America**: The painting, commissioned by the vestry of Trinity Church in 1785, depicts the seal adopted by Congress in 1782, with a bird (some think it’s a turkey), holding in one talon an olive branch and in the other, a cluster of arrows. On a banner above the bird is written E Pluribus Unum, “Out of Many, One.” This is one of the earliest known depictions of the seal.
ST. PAUL’S 250TH ANNIVERSARY

- General Richard Montgomery, Revolutionary War hero buried beneath the east porch of St. Paul’s.
- Hon. Thomas Addis Emmet, Attorney General of New York State, 1812, and Irish patriot. The obelisk erected in his memory (he is buried in Ireland) on the south side of St. Paul’s bears the latitude and longitude of its location on the earth’s surface (40 degrees 42’ 40” 74 degrees 03’ 21”). Recent restoration, and a check of the monument’s location using GPS technology, has determined the original latitude/longitude to be off by one minute.
- John Bailey, who forged the George Washington battle sword in Fishkill, NY, while the Continental Army was encamped there. The sword is preserved in the Smithsonian Institution.
- Dr. Philip Turner, Surgeon General during the Revolution. He later was in charge of the government hospital in New York.
- Dr. William James MacNeven, Irish patriot who came to the United States in 1805. Known as the “Father of American Chemistry,” he is buried on the Riker Farm in the Astoria section of Queens, NY. His monument is located in the north churchyard.
- Major John Lucas and Major Job Sumner, two of the original members of the Society of the Cincinnati who served under General Washington. Both died of yellow fever in 1789.
- George Frederick Cooke, renowned British character actor. He played Richard III at the Park Lane Theatre to an audience of 2,000 on November 21, 1810.
- Lt. Col. Etienne Marie Bechet Sieur de Rochfontaine, who served under General Rochambeau and was one of the original members of the Society of the Cincinnati on General Washington’s staff. He later commanded Corps School of Artillerists and Engineers at West Point Academy.
- Dr. John Francis Vacher, one of the original Society of the Cincinnati members who served on General Washington’s staff.
- George Eacker, a New York lawyer, who mortally wounded Alexander Hamilton’s son Philip in duel.
In addition to extensive landscaping, steeple repair, the installation of air conditioning, and the installation of production room to facilitate webcasting, St. Paul’s recent restoration efforts can be seen in two very visible ways:

**Painting**
Conservators took postage-stamp sized paint samples from all across St. Paul’s Chapel and analyzed them to determine the earliest paint colors. Samples seem to go no further back that the early 1800s. It was determined that 18th-century paints were water based, and removed from walls before a fresh layer was added. After looking at other Georgian churches, a palette of historically appropriate whites and creams were chosen, including:

- Natural cream—walls, steam pipe covers (eggshell)
- White dove—columns, trims, doors, chancel arches and columns (pearl); ceiling under balcony (flat); window surround (semi-gloss)
- White—upper ceiling (flat)
- Deep caviar—balcony face and trim (semi-gloss)

**Statue of St. Paul**
On October 4, 2016, after more than a year away, the original St. Paul statue that for more than 225 years lived in a niche on the Broadway side of the church, was returned to the church after restoration. The 7’10”, 500-pound tulip poplar sculpture, thought to be one of the earliest examples of North American sculpture, now lives inside the church to avoid further damage. A resin replica, weighing about 200 lb., now resides in the typanum.

**9/11 Chapel of Remembrance**
The Chapel of Remembrance at St. Paul’s Chapel honors the house of worship’s 250-year-old ministry of healing and reconciliation and its service for nine months after 9/11 as a place of renewal and hope for Ground Zero’s physically and spiritually weary rescue and recovery workers.

Installed within the Chapel of Remembrance is a pew from the main sanctuary that was used for respite during the volunteer effort. The pew dates back to the 1960s. Other pews have been donated to the 9/11 Memorial and Museum and museums and firehouses across the country. Also installed is an altar from the main sanctuary with a Cross of Nails upon it. This cross was made with nails taken from the ruins of Coventry Cathedral in England, which was bombed in World War II. After the war, Coventry partnered with German cities to begin a worldwide movement for peace—the Community of the Cross of Nails, of which St. Paul’s Chapel is a part, and for which this cross is a symbol. The chasuble displayed is covered in patches from emergency crews from around the world. Members of the clergy wore the patch-covered vestment, a symbol of shared bonds, during services in the months following 9/11.

The wall case includes items left on the memorial altar and the Chapel’s wrought-iron fence as tributes, as well as original works of art, and kitchen utensils used to cook for rescue workers and volunteers during the St. Paul’s emergency 9/11 ministry. Among the other objects displayed here are origami cranes—symbols of peace—that children and adults throughout Japan made and sent to the ministry. The teddy bears on view were collected by Sue Lucarelli, a New York City school teacher and a St. Paul’s Chapel ministry volunteer. Ms. Lucarelli had intended to give the bears to children, but they were ultimately distributed on the cots set up in St. Paul’s Chapel for rescue workers.
EVENTS SCHEDULED TO CELEBRATE ST. PAUL’S 250TH CELEBRATION

250th Anniversary Historical Outdoor Exhibit
Opening October 2016
A new look at 250 years of history and current mission and ministry along the fence of the chapel.

The 9/11 Chapel of Remembrance
Opening October 2016
A place of reflection and a permanent display of special artifacts from the chapel’s ministry serving Ground Zero rescue and recovery workers in the nine months following the September 11 attacks.

Neighborhood Movie Nights: Ghosts of Gotham Past
October 2016–March 2017
Movie screenings featuring a New York history theme. Learn more at trinitywallstreet.org/movies

Archives Week
October 21, 6–8pm
250th celebratory reception, talk, and display of artifacts.

Historical Lantern-Light Tour of St. Paul’s Chapel & Churchyard
October 27 & 28 at 6, 7, and 8pm

Birthday Party for St. Paul’s
October 30, 2016, 10am
Join other families for a festive birthday celebration which includes “Pin the Steeple on St. Paul’s,” birthday card making for Trinity Cares, and a fun photo booth opportunity.

St. Paul’s, 1766: A Walking Tour of Revolutionary New York
October 30, 2016, 1pm
Join historian Barnet Schecter and stroll the length of the colonial city, using a map published in the year St. Paul’s Chapel was built.

Commemorative Prayer Service
October 30, 2016, 3pm
This service will be held exactly 250 years after St. Paul’s opened in 1766. The prayer service will include invitees from Lower Manhattan’s 1766 faith communities as well as local dignitaries and special music from NOVUS NY. In addition, an original print of the first sermon preached on October 30, 1766, will be on display.

Compline by Candlelight
October 30, 2016, 8pm
A special Compline service, an ancient half-hour candlelit service featuring the The Choir of Trinity Wall Street.

Historical Lecture Series
October 30, 4:15pm: Dr. Kenneth Jackson, Jacques Barzun Professor of History and the Social Sciences at Columbia University. “A City and a Church: The Remarkable History of St. Paul’s Chapel and the Streets Beyond the Doors.”
March 8, 6pm: Tom Mellins, Architectural Historian, Author, and Exhibition Curator. “St. Paul’s Landmark Building: Change and Continuity.”
April 26, 6pm: Lisa Keller, Professor of History at SUNY Purchase. “Raucous New York: Popular Protest on the Streets Around and Beyond St. Paul’s.”
First Thursdays: St. Paul’s Chapel
Pop-Up Exhibits
Beginning in November 2016 and Ongoing
Items from Trinity Church Wall Street’s archives will be on display in St. Paul’s Chapel on the first Thursday of every month from 11am-1pm, highlighting various ministries and events from 250 years of St. Paul’s Chapel’s history. This month’s exhibit, on November 3, includes archival items from St. Paul’s Chapel’s previous anniversary celebrations. Free and open to the public.

St. Paul’s Fall Children’s Fair
November 5, Noon–4pm
Fun-filled afternoon with Colonial America-themed arts and crafts, games, folk music, storytelling, food, and more. Open to all.

Time’s Arrow: American Music Festival
January 2-12, 2017
This festival exemplifies Trinity’s signature juxtaposition of early and modern music. The programming celebrates the anniversary of St. Paul’s Chapel and spans three centuries. Works range from those foundational to American music to world premieres and commissions from leading American composers.

New Thematic Tours
February 2017
A new “Parish Black History” docent tour and a web tour of the “Hidden St. Paul’s.”

250 Acts of Service
Staff members of Trinity Church Wall Street will volunteer their time to support Trinity’s mission beyond the scope of their job responsibilities through 250 acts of service, working with Trinity’s senior ministry team.