

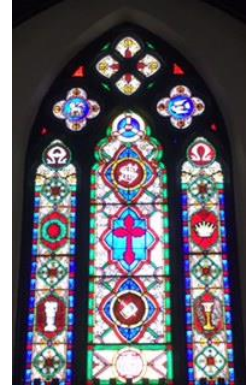
OUR HISTORY



Missionary Bishop of Indiana the Rt. Rev. Jackson Kemper celebrated the first Episcopal service in Richmond in February 1837. St. Paul's was officially organized in 1838, the same year as the Diocese of Indianapolis. We were the seventh parish formed in the diocese and the tenth in Indiana.

Construction of the building began in 1842. It was consecrated by Bishop George Upfold on Dec. 20, 1849. Finding funds to build the church was not easy. To save money, some 250,000 bricks were "fired" on the church property at a cost of \$700. The full cost of the building and grounds was \$8,000. The original church bell is still in use.

In 1866, a large window was placed over the altar in memory of the Rev. George Fiske, our first rector. Stained glass panes for the window were ordered from England and assembled here at a cost of \$1,100. A "catalogue or story window," it displays symbols representing tenets of the Christian faith.



In 1903, St. Paul's most treasured window was added. "The Angel of Resurrection" designed by Louis Comfort Tiffany of New York, was donated by Richard Jackson in memory of his parents.

The 1920s marked the highest point of membership at St. Paul's – 180 communicants and 67 church school students. A visitor from that era would find the nave a familiar space with some new additions, including a three-manual pipe organ installed in 1966 and a 40-niche Columbarium installed in 2001.

Other parts of the church – the tower, the Parish Hall, a former gymnasium and a classroom addition – have seen many changes over the years.



Despite those changes, St. Paul's is a local landmark. In a town and neighborhood steeped in history, St. Paul's stands out as the oldest public building (as opposed to private residence) in Richmond still being used for its original purpose.

