



THE EPISTLE

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Advent 2022

Celebrations

On November 6, our Bishop Provisional, the Rt. Rev. Stephen Lane, joined St. Paul's parishioners to celebrate All Saints Sunday in the morning and St. Paul's '125 years on East Avenue' in the afternoon.



See page 4 for more about these celebrations.



A Message from our Rector

November 2022

Dear Friends,

What a wonderful Fall we have had at St. Paul's! It feels so good to be "back to normal." And, I have so enjoyed gathering for worship, social events, and formation with you.

"Back to normal" is an odd phrase. So much is back to what we were used to; yet, we have been changed, for better or worse, by our time in an active pandemic. Much of it, I'd never prefer to do again. However, a lot of good things have come from it, especially around embracing digital ministry and evangelism, finding ways to stay connected, and developing domesticated faith and dispersed church practices – all of this will help us as we look to the church of the future.

Unfortunately, we are seeing in churches across the board that people have developed new practices in regard to how they connect to church – and how often they attend. This is the challenge of this phase of the pandemic: how do we connect / re-connect with our parishioners, how do we welcome new people, and how do we tell our story. This is part of the work going on with our participants in the College of Congregational Development, Vestry, and clergy and staff in the laying the groundwork for a discussion at our Annual Parish Meeting in January.

These are challenging and exciting times. The good news is St. Paul's and the Church has been here before and the Good News is that God in Christ is always with us and at work, in ways sometimes we aren't even aware yet. Thank you for your faithfulness. As always, I remain,

Your friend and Rector,



(The Rev'd) Robert A. Picken



Erin Wright photo



Our clergy and seminarian outside before the "125 years on East Avenue" service on November 6.



Coming for Advent & Christmas



Festival of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, 11 December, at 4:00 p.m.

Featuring the St. Paul's Choir

singing music of Thomas Ravenscroft, Michael Praetorius, Melchior Vulpius, Timothy Rogers, John Rutter, and Eleanor Daley.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Advent Service of Remembrance & Hope

Tuesday, December 6th at 5:30 pm

A quiet meditative service for all who mourn the loss of loved ones, find it difficult to celebrate during this holiday season, or who need a quiet space amidst the December rush

Festival of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 11th at 4:00 pm

Offered by the Choirs of St. Paul's Church

Parish Christmas Dinner

Sunday, December 18th at 5:00 pm

Hosted by the Youth Group

Christmas Eve

Christmas Carol Service at 2:00 pm

Festival Service at 4:00 pm

Candlelight Service at 8:00 pm

Christmas Day

Morning Service at 10:00 am



SUNDAY FORUM

November 27th, December 4th, 11th & 18th

9:00 am - Cadigan Room



What? More Sermons?

Listen to and discuss sermons
by Rabbi David Ingber,
Founder and Senior Pastor
at Romemu, NYC.

Bishop Lane Helps St. Paul's Celebrate

On November 6, the Rt. Rev. Stephen Lane, Bishop Provisional of the Diocese of Rochester, visited St. Paul's to preach at both services on All Saints Sunday, and to help us celebrate our 125 years of ministry on East Avenue.

Pictured at the left during the 10:15 A.M. service are Bishop Lane with the Rev. Rob Picken, Crucifer Wayne Least lighting a memorial candle during the All Saints commemoration, and the choir singing.



Erin Wright photos above; Erin Glanton photos at the right.

St. Paul's was founded in 1827 by some parishioners from St. Luke's Episcopal Church—and moved to its current location on East Avenue in 1897. To celebrate our 125th anniversary in our current house of worship, parishioners gathered at 4:00 P.M. for a service of thanksgiving and celebration followed by a gala reception.

RIGHT: Choir members gathering with Bishop Lane before the service and processing to the sanctuary; Dr. Robert Poovey playing the postlude while several parishioners listen.



BELOW: Some of those who gathered at the reception to enjoy one another's company and reflect on our history in our current location.



Reception photos by Jean Ver Hoeven.

RALLY DAY

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

On September 11, St. Paul's held a Ministry Fair that included a special coffee hour following the 8:00 A.M. service, and a party on the lawn with a food truck following the 10:15 A.M. service. At the same time, representatives of various parish ministries met with other parishioners to describe the mission and activities of their initiatives and to encourage others to join them. As a result of the rally day/ministry fair, more than 50 parishioners volunteered to help with one or more of the ministries represented.



ABOVE: Parishioners involved with St. Paul's many ministries described their missions with others during Rally Day.

BELOW: After the 10:00 A.M. service, parishioners also enjoyed one another's company plus lunch from a food truck.



St. Paul's Missions



ABOVE & RIGHT: Tamara Plummer at the forum between services and with the Rev. Rob Picken.

Episcopal Relief and Development

On October 9, Tamara Plummer, Program Officer, US Disaster Relief at Episcopal Relief and Development, preached at both services and described the work of ERD during a 9:00 A.M. Forum. St. Paul's raised \$7374.50 for ERD Hurricane Relief, including parishioner gifts, monies from the Outreach Council, RDF, and Sunday School.

Rural and Migrant Ministries

On October 16, The Rev. Richard Witt, Executive Director of Rural and Migrant Ministries, was guest preacher at both services. RMM provides education opportunities, support services, and advocacy for rural and migrant workers.

BELOW: The Rev. Richard Witt preaching at the 8:00 service, with the Rev. Rob Picken, and describing the work of RMM at a forum.



If Music Be The Food

On October 23, *If Music be the Food*, the concert series benefitting FOODLINK, opened its 14th season at St. Paul's. The program, partially celebrating the 10th anniversary of restoring our Skinner organ, featured the music performed by pianists Howard Spindler and Gordon Porth, trumpeter Demian Spindler, cellist Mimi Hwang with pianist Seth Knoppp, and our own Dr. Robert Poovey, all of whom are seen at the left.

St. Joseph's House

During this fall and the upcoming holidays, St. Joseph House has still been struggling. St. Paul's volunteers are making somewhere between 80-85 lunches a month, more than usual because the House of Mercy is still closed for now. Due to a lack of volunteers and COVID, there is no housing for men at stay at St. Joseph House. St. Joseph's House used to house about 17-19 men, but since COVID, there has not been anyone staying there at night. The need for clothing like socks, men's underwear, gloves, hats, jackets, long underwear, and men's sneakers/work boots are desperately needed. I am available to shop if you would like to make a monetary donation. The House of Mercy food is not open either.

During the week, bag lunches are provided from the St. Joseph's pantry, and on Fridays, hot meals are provided if provisions are available. We still are not back to cooking our meals inside at St. Joseph House. Some of the homeless have been put up at hotels, but all available rooms are taken this time. To learn more, contact Meredith Halter at mhalter@rochester.rr.com.

ST. JOE'S HOUSE
in **URGENT** need of:

1. Men's Underwear <i>all sizes</i>	
a. boxers b. briefs	
2. Men's Winter Gear <i>all sizes</i>	
a. gloves b. socks c. coats	

St. Paul's Activities

Arbor Society Reception

On September 11, a celebration of the Arbor Society and its founder, Jeanne Hutchins, was held. Gretchen and Al Zenner, Co-Chairs of the Arbor Society, welcomed guests. Patty Murphy and Kathy Welling, daughters of Jeanne Hutchins, spoke about their mother's commitment to St. Paul's. Kitty MacDowell offered a tribute to Jeanne Hutchins who established the Arbor Society in 2002 to help support St. Paul's through planned giving (bequests, life income gifts, and gifts of property, life insurance, and unused retirement funds). To learn more about the Arbor Society, contact Albert and Gretchen Zenner (585-243-1965) or our rector.



Kindness Kits

During Coffee Hour after the 10:15 service on October 2, parishioners assembled kindness kits for those in need. Bags included bottles of water, a snack, small toiletries and other essentials that parishioners can share with others. The kit building process can be seen in the photo below at the right.



Potluck Supper

Thirty parishioners attended a Potluck Supper on October 5 in the Parish Hall, sharing fellowship over a delicious buffet meal which was made up from dishes provided by some of the participants. The suppers will continue on the first Wednesday of the month during the program year. Some of the participants are seen above.



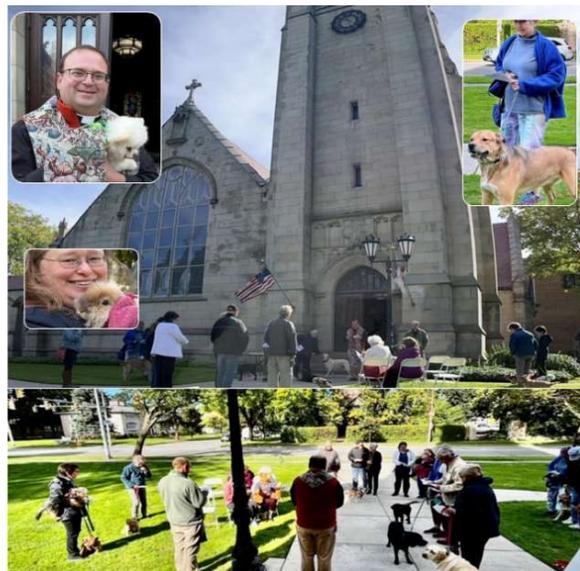
Our choir, as always, enhances worship. Seen at the left is Augustine Sobeng, Organ Scholar, conducting the choir during an anthem on October 16. Facing the camera are members of the bass and tenor sections.

Photo by Erin Glanton

Worship & Learning Opportunities this Fall



Annual Pet Blessing
 Seen at the right on October 2, are parishioners who brought animal friends for blessings on St. Francis of Assisi's Day.



Last Sundays on Thursdays Eucharist for 2022

The summer Mass on the Grass was celebrated each Thursday from June through September 1. Seen above at the September 1 outdoor service, the last of the year, are the Rev. Rob Picken and the Rev. Sue Oulette who led the service as well as some of the parishioners who attended.

Adult formation opportunities

Parishioners participated in a number of learning sessions this fall.

- * On September 18 and 25, Nancy Gear led discussions of the characteristics of Episcopalians.
- * On October 2, John Hazzard reviewed St. Paul's comments on human sexuality.
- * On October 16, 23, and 30, the topic was the "Other Epistles" (of James, Peter, and John). Discussion of the letters was led by John Hazzard, Nancy Gear, and the Rev. Rob Picken.
- * On October 25, visiting (via Zoom) scholar, the Rev. Tony Lewis, Professor Emeritus of New Testament, Virginia Theological Seminary, presented an overview entitled "Matthew Who?" about the Gospel writer whose account we will be using starting in Advent this year.
- * On November 13 and 20, Nancy Gear described the St. Augustine's Prayer Book, its creation, and use by the Order of the Holy Cross.



ABOVE: Adult formation presenters Nancy Gear, John Hazzard, and the Rev. Rob Picken, as well as some of those who participated.

BELOW: The Rev. Dr. Tony Lewis with members of St. Paul's Parish who attended his review of the Gospel writer St. Matthew via Zoom.



Book Groups Meet

Participants met online this fall under the leadership of Nancy Gear to read and discuss *Constantine's Sword* by James Carroll. In addition, other parishioners met in person with Nancy to read and discuss *Sacred Earth Sacred Soul* by John Philip Newell. Pictured are those who are discussing *Constantine's Sword*.



Work of the Parish

Vestry Fall workday begins fall parish project

On Saturday, September 17, the Vestry held their annual fall workday led by the Rev. Paul Frolick, Director of the College of Congregational Development (Rochester region). Discussion was held around financial planning, as well as beginning a conversation about St Paul's Church: who we are, why we are here, and who are our neighbors. Continuing the discussion begun that day, the Vestry engaged in one-on-one conversations with parishioners in the weeks following, and our clergy and CCD participants led discussions with those involved in ministry areas. The data gathered will be shared at the Annual Parish Meeting.

LEFT: Participants at September 17, Vestry work day.



ABOVE: Led by the Rev. Rob Picken, participants discussing adult formation on October 1 (left) and worship service ministries on October 22 (right).

BELOW: During the November 12 session on parish outreach efforts, the Rev. Jay Burkhart opened the meeting while Erin Glanton and Nancy Gear led the discussion.



Altar Guild holds organizational meeting

On September 18, Altar Guild members, under the leadership of Jackie Barnes, met to plan their activities for the year. Seen are members Mary Gulick, Ann Refermat, Maureen Chepiga, Jackie Barnes, Janet Juneau, Carey Wilcox, Judy McGrath, and Gary Scott.



Moving our Altar in 1986 after almost 90 years against the wall

When St. Paul's sanctuary was built in 1897, the altar was attached to the reredos wall according to liturgical practice at that time. In the 1970s, the National Episcopal Church voted to encourage parishes to move their altars from walls so clergy could face congregations during the Eucharist. Leaders at St. Paul's discussed and researched options for many years—since the beauty and integrity of the sanctuary were essential and the process involved would be a major time-consuming and expensive effort. The challenge provided by parish leadership was, “We want to be able to sit in the first pew of the nave and see the altar look exactly the way it does now, but with enough room to celebrate the Eucharist from behind it.”

In 1985, a delegation from St. Paul's visited the Diocese of Western New York's St. Paul's Cathedral in Buffalo and were impressed by its free-standing altar which had been moved by the DeSpirt Mosaic and Marble Company. DeSpirt's proposal to move the St. Paul's altar was approved unanimously by the Vestry on February 10, 1986. Work began during the last two weeks of May and was completed during the first week of June that year. It was a major project that involved -

- * Removing the front part of the altar away from the wall and re-setting it;
- * Placing a marble floor where the altar originally rested;
- * Furnishing and installing marble on the exposed front opening left by moving the altar;
- * Furnishing and installing marble on the back of the newly placed altar;
- * Moving forward the top two stair treads to increase the space behind the newly placed altar;
- * And all necessary cutting, furnishing of trim pieces, etc. to make for a complete and finished project.

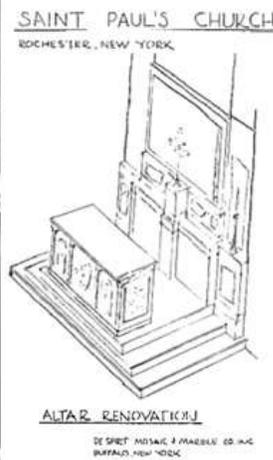
The quoted cost for this process was \$7,492.00. There was no provision for the move in the annual budget, so funds were raised separately, primarily through memorial donations. It was noted during the April 1986 Vestry meeting that “the last time our altar was moved was in 1897 when it was moved approximately three miles. This time it will only be moved three feet.”

Vestryman Frank Grosso, who also served as the parish's architect, referred to the moving of the altar as a ‘particularly “hairy” project.’ He noted that ‘Everybody was afraid of this one...It was very fussy, detailed work; seeing just at what line and molding the altar could be pulled away from its backdrop. The final product was more successful than any of us could have dreamed.’

RIGHT:
Worshippers receiving communion at altar prior to the altar's move in 1956.

Altar move drawing provided by DeSpirt in 1986.

Altar after move, May 1, 2022, showing steps closeup (note added strips in two top levels).



Sources:
Letter to the Rev. Robert Wainwright from William K. Buscaglia, Jr., DeSpirt Mosaic & Marble (of Buffalo), dated January 17, 1986
RM Wainwright. “Altar Alterations.” *St. Paul's Newsletter*. March 1986, page 9
RM Wainwright. “Altar Alterations Update.” *St. Paul's Newsletter*. May 1986, page 2
Letter to Arthur Neumer (Vestry Facilities Chair) from Frank S. Grosso (Architect & Vestry Member), dated January 31, 1995, page 2

Agnes Dei Banner

On November 1, 2008, the Agnes Dei (Lamb of God) banner, which was handcrafted by parishioners, was dedicated. It was a thank offering designed by Altar Guild Member Francis Speer, championed by Altar Guild Director Mary Critikos, and stitched by Gail Bush, Gwen Cheney, Joan Flint, Jean French, Susan Hyde, the Rev. Tom McCart, Carol Panzer, Donna Suchy, Barbara Warner, and Nancy Wolcott. The banner's support pole was designed and built by Joe Willard.

RIGHT: Seen with the Agnes Dei banner before its dedication are Gwen Cheney, Barbara Warner, Carol Panzer, and Susan Hyde.



Tips for Year-end Giving

To be eligible for a tax-deductible charitable donation, all contributions to St. Paul's Church must be received in the office or postmarked by December 31. Charitable donations of non-cash items, such as stock, may be made electronically by December 31. Please contact Judy McGrath at 585-271-2240 x211, or jmcgrath@stpaulsec.org for information about routing and account numbers. We ask that all stock donors also provide a letter or email correspondence reporting the gift and the number of shares donated to St. Paul's. You may prepay your 2023 pledge by December 31, so that your contribution may qualify as a charitable deduction on your 2022 tax return. If your gift includes a prepaid 2023 pledge, please let our financial office know, so that St. Paul's can properly record your gift. For more information, please call Judy McGrath at 585-271-2240 x211.



ASL SERVICES

AT ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**ASL INTERPRETATION available:
Every Sunday Service
at 10:15 am**

Contact The Rev. Suzanne Johnston,
Deacon for Diocesan Ministry to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing,
at sejohnston1959@gmail.com for more information.

SERVICES, MEETINGS

Parish opportunities for worship and learning are provided in person and electronically. Check your email daily for updates.

12-STEP GROUPS

Some of the 12-step groups which normally meet at St. Paul's have resumed meeting. Some may be available online. Contact Alcoholics Anonymous at RochesterAA.org. For other 12-step groups, please check with your local or national office.

Merciful God,

we entrust to your never-failing care and love

**William Balderston, III, Nancy Lyke,
Marie "Mimi" Whitbeck, and Joseph Willard**

Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord;
And let light perpetual shine upon them.

May their souls, and the souls of all the departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

RMM Celebrated at St. Paul's, Asbury



The Rural and Migrant Ministries (RMM) held a two-part event on November 3 to inform the community about its activities. A reception held at St. Paul's Church was followed by dinner and a program at Asbury First United Methodist Church.

ABOVE: During the reception at St. Paul's, Stuart Mitchell, Executive Director of PathStone Foundation and retired President/CEO of PathStone Corporation, presented the PathStone Arc of Justice Award to the Rev. Richard Witt, RMM Executive Director, in recognition of RMM's many activities promoting justice for farm workers.

BELOW: Following dinner at Asbury, members of RMM's JOY (Justice Organization of Youth) presented a justice-themed poem they had created.



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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585-271-2240 • Email: info@stpaulsec.org
Web Site: www.stpaulsec.org

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Our Vision

We pray that all who enter St. Paul's experience God's presence in this community of faith, a community that through Christ strives to be loving, joyous, inclusive, transforming and filled with God's Grace.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Office is open Monday - Thursday
10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

For emergency pastoral needs after hours,
call 585-483-0472.

Follow St. Paul's on Facebook, Instagram,
and email to receive messages.

Clergy and staff closely monitor mail, phone calls, and e-mail.
For urgent pastoral concerns, call 585-483-0472.

To contribute information for *The Epistle*,
contact Judy Wadsworth, Editor.

View the full church calendar at:

www.stpaulsec.org

- Visit us on Facebook



St. Paul's Ministry Staff

Rector The Rev. Robert A. Picken	Assistant Rector The Rev. Jay P. Burkardt
The Rev. Sue Ouellette, Ph.D., Deacon Lydia Arnts, Seminarian	

Director of Music
Dr. Robert Poovey

Organ Scholar
Augustine Sobeng

Director, Adult Faith Formation
Nancy Grear

Director, Children and Youth
Faith Formation
Amy Welker

Sunday Child Care
Dorothea (Dorrie) Champlin
Candace Hoffman-Hussain

Wedding & Funeral Coordinator
Judy Loveland

Director of Communications
& Digital Ministry
Sonja Slother

Parish Office Administrator
Natosche Holt

Parish Accountant
Judy McGrath

Accounting Assistant
Lisa Werner

Property Manager
Bob Potter

Maintenance Associates
Dave McEntee
Jim D'Angelo