



NOVEMBER 2023

THE EPISTLE

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

"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."

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StPaulsEC.org



A message from the Rector

Save the Date:

Saturday, November 4:

St Joe's Sandwich Makers in the Parish Kitchen at 9:30 am

Sunday, November 5:

In-Gathering Sunday

Sunday, November 5:

Sunday Forum: All Hallowstide- We will look at Halloween, All Saints' & All Souls' Days at 9:00 am in the Cadigan Room

Sunday, November 5:

Evensong: for All Soul's-tide at 4:00 pm

Friday, November 10:

Pipedreams Live at 7:30 pm

Sunday, November 19th:

Bishop Lane will preside and preach at the 8:00 and 10:15 am services.

Dear Friends,

Lately, I have been thinking a lot about the Incarnation – the belief that “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14). It has been a part of my time of prayer and meditation and a theological lens through which I view my/our mission and ministry.

Jesus, who took on our flesh and form and lived among us, is an anchor, a guiding light, and a source of hope. This is what we celebrate during Christmas and in the seasons of Advent and Epiphany that bracket it. I believe that it has significant meaning for us, especially during these times. You will see in this edition of The Epistle lots of information about our celebration and commemoration of the Incarnation.

During the height of the pandemic, we were separated from one another and our communities of faith. Admittedly, I found some of the lock-down time sort of energizing; I enjoyed the challenge of having to be Church in the midst of it. “Post-COVID,” I have been reflecting on the importance of, and how I missed, real connections and their importance for my faith, the parish, and the Church.

And, what a great last few months we have had at St. Paul's. Sunday attendance and participation in programming is up, YouTube connections are widening, potlucks and times of fellowship are growing, financial support is increasing, new people have joined us and some have returned – overall, our life in Christ is abundant and there is a wonderful energy!

I am very pleased at the number of parishioners participating in Sacred Ground – an 11-session program that seeks to help us understand how diverse stories and histories intersect, all viewed through the lens of our Episcopal faith and theology. Sunday School continues to do well, our youth group is developing a deepening sense of community and purpose, and we will have confirmations and baptisms at the upcoming Bishop’s Visit on November 19th. The event welcoming The Rev. Nontombi Naomi Tutu in partnership with the Urban League of Rochester and diocesan parishes was a HUGE success. There have been, and continue to be, lots of opportunities to enjoy excellent music beyond Sunday morning – including Augustine’s first doctoral recital... which now has over 3,300 views on YouTube!! And, so much more.

The last two are just small examples of our many connections with the community beyond the walls of the church, where God is at work too. This reminds me of the alternate transliteration of John 1:14 from The Message: “the Word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood.”

Incarnational theology is a major part of our Episcopal and Anglican identity. As we look to our celebrations in Advent through the Season after the Epiphany, I hope a few questions will resonate with everyone: *How do we make real God’s love to those we meet in our parish? Our neighborhood? Wider community? And, World?*

With my best wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving and a blessed Advent and Christmas, I remain,

Your friend and Rector,



(The Rev’d) Robert A. Picken



St. Paul's Youth Group



On October 5th, St Paul's Youth Group went to St Mark's and St John's to help prepare bags for the food cupboard. The youth prepared 168 bags of food that were then given to 84 families later that week. Thank you to our youth for all their hard work!



Chili Cook Off 2024

Coming up on **Saturday, February 3, 2024**, St Paul's Youth will be hosting the Chili Cook Off as a fundraiser. Mark your calendars now and keep an eye out in the new year for details on how to try and claim the chili title!

Confirmation

Please join in praying for the four candidates who are preparing to be confirmed on November 19th during Bishop Lane's visit with us: Cecil Scott, Josh Scott, Claudette Scott, and Claudtina Scott.



Annual Giving Tree

Keep an eye out for our annual **Giving Tree** we will have for School #9. Details will be announced soon!

The Vestry Vignette

The St. Paul's Vestry meets about nine times per year: two of those meetings are budget sessions; two are devoted to spending a Saturday together for more detailed conversations; and the other meetings are focused on property and finance, mission and ministry, and community engagement. Here are some highlights of actions taken by the Vestry in the last few months:

- In September, the Vestry met for 3.5 hours on Saturday, September 23rd. Our business included the reception of bequests, including one restricted for air-conditioning, and reports from task groups working on next steps from our April Workday. We also spent time in discussion about our three-year financial planning.
- Our facilitator was The Rev. Dr. Katrina Grusel, Interim Rector of Christ Church, Binghamton, and a trainer in the College for Congregational Development. Mother Katrina lead is in a discussion about how people develop their faith in, and relate to, our community. From that time, we spent time in a deep dive on Community Engagement and mapping our neighborhood and connections.
- In October, our meeting began with an update on our ministry to School #9. We then reviewed the third quarter finances and looked at the conditions of a written agreement with the St. Paul's Childcare Center, in keeping with both better business practices of The Episcopal Church and the practices of neighboring churches with similar arrangements and histories.
- In advance of his visitation in November, Bishop Lane joined our meeting and spent time in discussion with the Vestry about both the life of the diocese and the mission and ministry of the parish.
- Our next meeting is scheduled for December when we will review the 2024 budget.



*This section will appear in each issue of **The Epistle** as a way to keep the congregation informed.*

St. Paul's Vestry:
Erin Glanton, Warden
Ingrid Stanlis, Warden
Nan Brown
Chari Krenis
Erin Wright
Kevin Frisch
Julie Gedro
Brent Johnson
Mara Hazzard-Wallingford
Christopher Moore
Maura Surdyka

Fifteenth Anniversary of “If Music Be the Food”

A Brief History of “If Music Be the Food”

by Dr. Robert Poovey, Director of Music

As we kick off the fifteenth season of “If Music Be the Food,” I wanted to share a brief history of this wonderful organization.



Photo by Adam Fenster

In the spring of 2009, Carol Rodland (*Professor of Viola at the Eastman School*) and her sister Catherine (*Organist/Artist-in-Residence, St. Olaf College*) presented a concert at St. Paul’s as a fund-raiser to support the restoration of our Skinner organ. After the concert, a group of us went to Pomodoro

for dinner, and Carol told me of an idea she had about producing a series of three concerts to support a local service organization, and wondered if St. Paul’s might be supportive of and interested in being the venue for the series. I replied that, given its history of innovative outreach, St. Paul’s would surely love to be a part of it.

As the spring and summer months passed, Carol settled on FOODLINK as the benefactor organization. Her vision for the series was to involve established and upcoming professional musicians, along with students, in all the concerts. Also, all musicians, as well as the venues, donate time and space. No one is paid.

So, on November 16, 2009 *“If Music be the Food”* officially launched! For three seasons St. Paul’s was the sole venue for the series. In the fourth season, Third Presbyterian Church joined the series by presenting the winter concert, which it continues to do.

When Carol Rodland joined the viola faculty of The Juilliard School in the fall of 2017, Mimi Hwang assumed the role of Artistic Director and, now in her seventh season, has lovingly built on Carol’s vision.

Countless pounds of food have been collected at these concerts, as have thousands and thousands of monetary contributions. Over the years individuals and organizations have offered challenge grants and gifts; and in this, the series’ fifteenth season, the St. Paul’s Outreach Committee is giving \$1500 for the first and third concerts.



“IMBTF” has expanded internationally to 18 cities in the United States, as well as Vancouver, British Columbia. For more information, please visit www.ifmusicbethethefood.com.





Pipedreams Live! Rochester November 10-12

Three churches, four organs, thousands of pipes and stops, dozens of performers and witty conversation with *Pipedreams* host Michael Barone. Join WXXI and the Eastman School of Music for *Pipedreams Live! Rochester* – a series of concerts with host Michael Barone. Performers include students and faculty of the Eastman School of Music.

- **Friday, November 10 at 7:30 pm** | ST. PAUL'S CHURCH
25 Westminster Rd. (off East Ave.) Rochester
- **Saturday, November 11 at 7:30 pm** | THE UNITED CHURCH
11 W. Gibson St., Canandaigua (Pre-concert meet & greet with Michael Barone, 6:00-7:00pm)
- **Sunday, November 12 at 4:00 pm** | CHRIST CHURCH
141 East Ave., Rochester

--- All concerts are free and open to the public ---

WXXI
Classical

Tune to 91.5FM,
listen on a smart speaker, or
stream at wxxiclassical.org

Listen to Pipedreams
Sundays at 8:00 pm



2023 St. Paul's Child Care Center



Annual Wreath Sale and Fundraiser

Help support St. Paul's Child Care Center by purchasing beautiful, fresh, fragrant, high quality and long lasting, holiday wreathes. All proceeds go to help support Family Participation Activities at STPCC!

These beautiful wreathes are the perfect addition to any décor indoors or out!

Small Wreathes: 8" frame (finished size approximately 12"-14" wide) Perfect for doors!

Large Wreathes: 14" frame (finished size approximately 21"-23" wide) Perfect for mantels, windows, and wide doors!

*Decorated wreathes include fresh pine cones and a weatherproof red velvet bow.

Wreath Sale: October 23rdth through November 6th

Pick up: First week in December, Date TBD

In the Parish Hall (downstairs from STPCC)

Between 12:00pm and 5:30pm



First and Last name Phone number	Small 8" Frame Plain \$12.00	*Small 8" Frame Decorated \$18.00	Large 14" frame Plain \$21.00	*Large 14" frame Decorated \$27.00	Total # of Wreathes	Total Amount Collected
Name Phone #						
Name Phone #						
Name Phone #						
Name Phone #						
Name Phone #						
Name Phone #						
Name Phone #						
Name Phone #						
Name Phone #						
Name Phone #						
Sold by: _____ Email: _____ Phone number: _____					Total # wreathes	Amount enclosed



On Sunday, October 15th, we welcomed back Rev. Richard Witt, Executive Director of Rural and Migrant Ministries.



St. Paul's Choristers sang with the choir on Sunday, October 24th.



On Sunday, September 10th, Helena Lu and Leif Johnson (violins), along with Sophie Gagnier (viola) and Henry Gagnier (cello) offered "Minuet and Allegro" by W.A. Mozart as our opening voluntary.



Rita Lancy and Chari Krenis deliver all the school supplies to School #9 St. Paul's parishioners generously donated.

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 2024 pledge by December 31, so that your contribution may qualify as a charitable deduction on your 2023 tax return. If your gift includes a prepaid 2024 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 or Lisa M. Werner, Accounting & Administrative Assistant 585-271-2240 ext. 213 or lwerner@stpaulsec.org.

St. Paul's Sunday School Program

St. Paul's Sunday school program is off and running for the fall! Our preK- 5th graders are participating in a full range of activities focused on the weekly liturgical lessons readings.

From singing songs, playing games and creating artful crafts, each activity grows our faith with fun!

We love to welcome new friends to our classroom at any time during the year. If you have a child that may be interested, please contact me at awelker@stpaulsec.org.

And if your little one isn't quite ready for Sunday school, our nursery is available for babies and toddlers every Sunday during the 10:15 am service.



Save the Date!

For our Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 17th during the 10:15 service.



All children and youth are highly encouraged to participate!

OUR CLASSROOM & NURSERY ARE IN NEED OF HELPFUL VOLUNTEERS FROM OUR CHURCH MEMBERS.

If you think this is a ministry you could assist with, please reach out to Amy Welker at awelker@stpaulsec.org





St. Paul's had the great honor of hosting the Reverend Nontombi Naomi Tutu, the daughter of the late Archbishop Desmond Tutu on September 19th.

Reverend Tutu united the faith-based community at the "Interfaith Celebration, an Evening with Reverend Tutu," at St. Paul's Church. The event was sponsored by St. Thomas and St. Paul's Episcopal Church. A light catered dinner and drinks were served along with fellowship with Rev. Tutu ended the evening.



The Rev. Leslie Burkardt, rector of St. Thomas Episcopal Church, The Rev. Naomi Tutu and the Rev. Robert Picken.

White Oak Tree Dedication

On Sunday, September 10th, St. Paul's dedicated a white oak tree on our grounds. Warden, Ingrid Stanlis read this dedication:

Good morning. We are gathered to express our thanksgiving for Rob's ministry at St. Paul's.

Rob, God has blessed us with your presence here for almost ten years. We are grateful for all you have done in accepting the diverse and challenging roles and responsibilities of Rector — with purpose, humor and wisdom — and for unfailingly demonstrating graciousness to all. Our entire parish dedicates this fine white oak sapling with love, in recognition of your tenure of service to our community.

And Mary, we are very grateful also for your generosity in donating this beautiful tree. Thank you!



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"St Paul's EC"

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ST. PAUL'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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The Rev. Sue Ouellette, Ph.D.
Deacon

Dr. Robert Poovey
Director of Music

Augustine Sobeng
Organ Scholar

Amy Welker
*Director of Children &
Youth Faith Formation*

Dorrie Champlin
Candance Hoffman-Hussain
Sunday Child Care

Sonja Slother
*Director of Communications
& Digital Ministry*

Natosche Holt
Parish Office Administrator

Judy McGrath
Parish Accountant

Lisa Werner
Accounting Assistant

Bob Potter
Property Manager

Dave McEntee
Jim D'Angelo
Maintenance Associates

REST IN PEACE

*Merciful God, we entrust
to your never-failing
care and love*

Helen Valenza

William Martin

Russell Ives

Ann Townson

*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.*