



SEPTEMBER 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, September 2:

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

Wednesday, September 6:

Potluck Dinner in the Parish Hall at 6:00 pm

Sunday, September 10:

Rally Day Sunday: Kick-off the 2023-24 Program Year! Ministry Fair and Picnic on the lawn after the services.

Tuesday, September 12:

Augustine Sobeng Organ recital at 7:00 pm

Tuesday, September 17 & 24:

Sunday Forum: Bridges to Contemplative Living in the Cadigan Room at 9:00 am

Dear Friends in Christ,

Greetings in the Name of Christ. I hope you have had a relaxing and refreshing summer.

Samuel Wells and Marcia Owen in *Living without Enemies* wrote, "Receiving God's love, is like breathing in. Responding to the suffering of others is like breathing out. If I do the first without doing the second, I will pass out." I have regularly been amazed at the ways in which St. Paul's shares God's love, in large and seemingly small ways. The Vestry will be spending the bulk of our time during our Fall Workday discussing community engagement and connecting with our neighborhood. I look forward to sharing with you the fruits of that conversation.

There are many ways God's love is received and shared at St. Paul's. This edition of *The Epistle* includes a lot of information about this and upcoming events. Please mark your calendars. Also, keep an eye out for the return of the monthly Potluck Suppers and other chances for fellowship and community building, as well as ways for you to get involved in our parish community and beyond.

I look forward to seeing you all at Rally Sunday, and for our Ministry Fair, on Sunday, September 10th.

As always, I remain,

Your friend and Rector,

(The Rev'd) Robert A. Picken

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 June, the Vestry, in conjunction with the Outreach Council, approved a donation of \$50,000 to be paid over four years to Family Promise of Greater Rochester (*formerly RAIHN*) for Family Homelessness Prevention and Diversion programming. The gift, taken from funds restricted to outreach and mission, will assist multiple families each year who are on the verge of homelessness. Representatives from FPGROC will be at St. Paul's in November to discuss this and other programs.

- Also in June, the Vestry approved the Sanctuary Lighting Project that will replace bulbs (many of which are out already) with LED lights. We have changed the bulbs every 3-4 years on average; these new LED bulbs have a life-expectancy of 30+ years. We will also replace the dimmer system, which is failing, with a newer, user-friendly system. This project is funded by the long-term capital reserve fund, which was established by the Investment Policy Committee and Vestry in 2019 for larger projects such as these. Use of this fund does not impact the yearly operating budget.

- Lastly in June, we reviewed the annual audit done by Heveron & Company, CPAS – clean with no deficiencies! – and discussed the 2023 financials and 3-year budget projections.

- In May, the Vestry's focus was outreach and we met with representatives from Family Promise and received a report from the St. Paul's Outreach Council (information from that hard-working group appears in this edition, as well).

- April saw the Vestry spending a Saturday morning together with The Rev. Paul Frolick, Director of the College for Congregational Development, who facilitated our discussions around mission and vision. From that, a few working groups were established and more information from those groups will be shared after the September workday.

- And, finally, in March, the Vestry was joined by the ministry staff for a meal and a lively conversation about the programmatic life of the congregation.

*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

St. Paul's Outreach Council

Thanks to the generosity of St. Paul's members, our Outreach Council has provided monetary gifts this year to several organizations working to improve the lives of people in our community. We contributed funds to *Crossroads of Caring* which trains people of any faith tradition to be a compassionate listener, and to *Mary's Place*, which, among other services, provides emotional support and literacy education for a diverse population of refugees. *Agape Haven* provides developmental programming for youth ages 6-21, as well as job training and summer youth paid employment opportunities for ages 14-21. We contributed to *Isaiah House*, a hospice offering end of life care to homeless persons.

Food insecurity is a major issue. We provided funds for *Meals On Wheels* for the expansion of a program which will double the number of veterans receiving meals.

This year marks the 15th anniversary of *If Music Be The Food*, the wonderful concert program which supports *Foodlink*. Our Outreach Council has pledged to contribute \$1500 in matching funds for each of the two concerts this church year.



We've received lovely thank you notes, including one from a program coordinator who wrote "Your generosity inspires me." A good reminder that there are many levels of involvement and each one counts.

Last, together with our vestry, we will continue to support the work of *Family Promise of Greater Rochester* (formerly RAIHN).

Submitted by:
Mary Pietrzykowski, *Outreach Council Chair*

A Note from the Treasurer, Rick Harrison

Thank you, On behalf of the Wardens and Vestry, to the parishioners and friends who responded to our special summer appeal. As of August 15th, over 70 stewards responded with gifts totaling nearly \$30,000. This unique stewardship opportunity provided the leadership of St. Paul's with the resources to reduce our projected deficit and maintain the mission and ministry that is the heart of St. Paul's. Thank you to all who support the mission and ministry of St. Paul's every day – your generosity is appreciated!



Many Thanks to St. Paul's

Several weeks ago, we were deeply touched by Isaiah House's heartfelt video and thank you card. St. Paul's truly embodies the spirit of Jesus' teachings, actively reaching out to "help the least of these." It was important for us to share with everyone the profound impact your contributions have had on these extraordinary individuals during their last moments on Earth. St. Paul's has wholeheartedly embraced Jesus' teachings, extending compassionate aid to those who are most vulnerable.

Dear Friends,

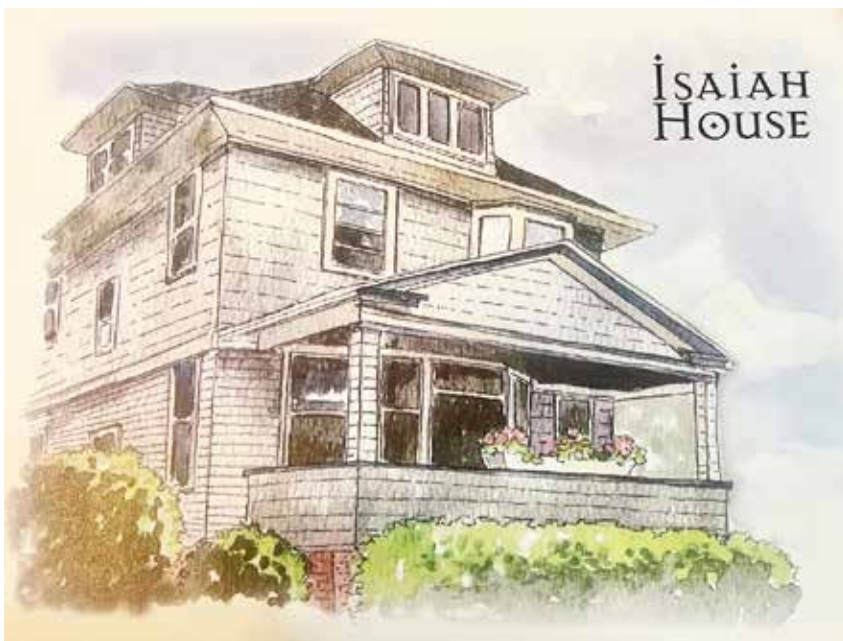
On behalf of all at the Isaiah House, I want to thank St. Paul's Episcopal Church for donating to our home. We are the city of Rochester's only home for the dying. We are known for accepting people who because of life, addiction, mental illness, and circumstance, have no other options.

I've been asked by residents, "Why me?" I grab the painting at our door and show them the image of Jesus holding a stranger. I have seen people weep the moment they see the painting. So many of those we welcome into our home believe that everyone has given up on them. Your generous donation enables us to meet people where they are, love them like God wants us to, and serve. Thank you for helping us to care for our patients overnight by contributing to the overnight caregiver fund.

Gratefully,

Kristen Kildea, Director

To watch the touching video, go to: bit.ly/isaiahhouse



Who am I?

Attention! The St. Paul's Archive Team is seeking your assistance! As part of their important work, they are tasked with identifying individuals in historical photographs. While the team is usually successful in this endeavor, they have encountered a few photos that have left them puzzled. To aid their efforts, Sonja, Director of Communications & Digital Ministry, has enlarged these photos. Each person in the photo has been assigned a number, and a corresponding numbered list. We kindly ask you to email Sonja at sonja@stpaulsec.org with anyone you can identify. Together, we can solve these mysteries!



1. Kay Thomas 2. _____ 3. Steve Thomas



1. _____



1. _____



1. _____



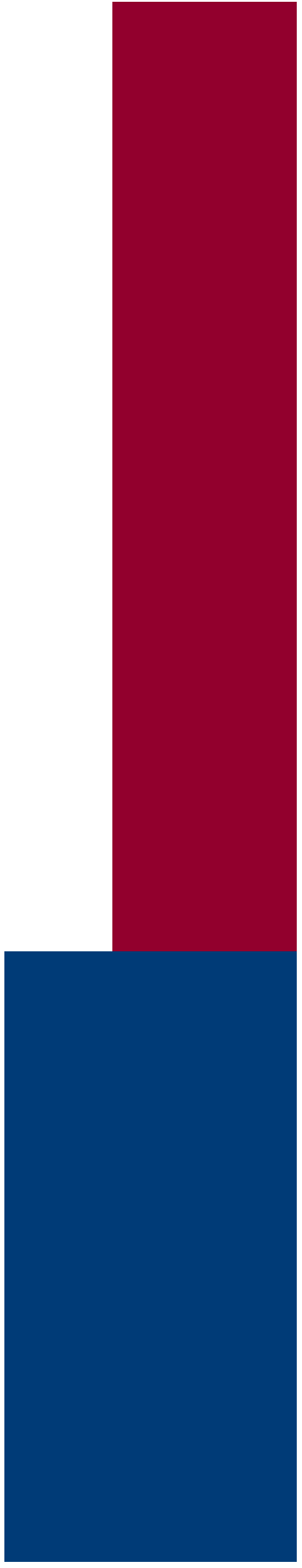
Photo E

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|----------|--------------------|
| 1. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 6. Albert Snell |
| 3. _____ | 7. Stephen Andrews |
| 4. _____ | |



Photo F

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 10. Brian Juneau |
| 3. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 4. Jonathan Andrews | 12. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 13. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 14. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 15. _____ |
| 8. Doug Willard | |



Book Distribution at School #9

Several St. Paul's members helped to facilitate an end of the school year book distribution at School #9 for the kindergarteners and first graders. Using books that had been ordered during the 2019-20 school year for the Adopt-a-Classroom Program, Rita Lancy, Carey Wilcox, Mary Gulick and Laura Hayden sorted the books, and after selecting four books for each student, they were tied with colorful ribbon and presented to the students at the end of the school year. Also included was a bookmark designed by Sonja Slother, Director of Communications

& Digital Ministry, which could be personalized and colored by each student, indicating that the books were a gift from St Paul's. Literacy initiatives are a critical component of learning. Principal Sharon Jackson, as well as the kindergarten and first grade teachers, expressed their gratitude to the St. Paul's community for offering continued support to their students and families.



Carey Wilcox, Mary Gulick and Laura Hayden preparing books for distribution to the kindergarteners at School #9

Sacred Ground Conversation

Beginning this Fall, we will engage in Sacred Ground conversations. Sacred Ground is part of Becoming Beloved Community, The Episcopal Church's long-term commitment to racial healing, reconciliation, and justice in our personal lives, our ministries, and our society.

The 11-part series is built around a powerful online curriculum of documentary films and readings that focus on the intersection of European American, Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian/Pacific American histories. Open to all, participants are invited to peel away the layers that have contributed to the challenges and divides of the

present day – all while grounded in our call to faith, hope and love.

Our Rector, Rob Picken, will facilitate these in-person sessions that will be held on Monday evenings beginning in October, with final times determined by the group. Please let Rob know if you are interested in this important conversation.



PathStone Presents: Just Action:

How to Challenge Segregation enacted under the Color of Law

On Monday, June 5th, Rochester community members, St. Paul's parishioners among them, participated in the event titled "PathStone Presents: Just Action: How to Challenge Segregation enacted under the Color of Law." St. Paul's was one of the sponsors. During the event, Richard and Leah Rothstein, distinguished keynote speakers, delved into the economic impact of segregation. They emphasized how this phenomenon has impeded opportunities for marginalized communities, widened wealth disparities, and restricted both local and national economic progress.



SANDWICH MAKING

FOR ST. JOSEPH'S HOUSE OF HOSPITALITY

FIRST/NEXT MEETING:
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2ND
9:30 AM IN THE PARISH HALL KITCHEN



HELP PREPARE BAGGED LUNCHES
FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH

All are welcome to help!



Lots of Fun, Family & Food at St. Paul's!

Parish Picnic and June Potluck Dinner



Mara Hazzard-Wallingford and Brent Johnson



Will Surdyke grilling and wearing a "manly apron."



Yai Ring, Abuk Mabut, Hillary Steever & Rebecca



Our seminarian, Lydia Arnts and her family



Rick Harrison, Nancy Frank & Kitty MacDowell at the June Potluck



Master griller, Bob Potter



Gary Scott at the June Potluck

Autumn Music Schedule

Tuesday, September 12, 7:00 pm:

Augustine Sobeng Organ recital. This will be his first recital in fulfillment of the degree Doctor of Musical Arts, which he is pursuing at Eastman.

Sunday, October 29, 4:00 pm:

“If Music Be The Food...” This will be the first concert of this season’s series.

Sunday, November 5, 4:00 pm:

Evening Worship for All Souls-tide, featuring the St. Paul’s Choir.



Nancy Curtis sings “Meditation on Psalm 23 by David Fetler at the June 18th service.



Augustine Sobeng



Leif Johnson plays “Allegro brillante, Op. 19” by Willem Ten Have on the violin as the beginning Voluntary for the June 11th service.



In June, the choir holds a joyous celebration following their dedicated choral season.

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St. Paul’s on Facebook, Instagram and our YouTube Channel

“St Paul’s EC”

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ST. PAUL'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Assistant Rector

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*

Kirk R. Couch
Marjorie Badger
Dave Vilas
David Harre
Nancy Kurtz
Robert Freligh
Mack Roy Davis

*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.*