



# THE EPISTLE

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

November 2021

## Bishop Singh at St. Paul's



More  
on page 3

ABOVE: Confirmands Oliver C., Sonya W., and August Z. with the Rev. Jay Burkardt, and the Rt. Rev. Prince Singh on October 17.

LEFT: The Rev. Sue Ouellette, the Rev. Rob Picken, the Rev. Jay Burkardt, and the Rt. Rev. Prince Singh.





## A Message from our Rector

Dear Friends,

As I write this, there are 39.2 daily COVID cases per 100K with a positivity rate of 7.7% in Monroe County -- among the highest rates in the state. Like you, I had hope that this would be behind us by now. Unfortunately, the pandemic is not yet over and, as has been our practice from the very beginning, we will continue to follow the guidance provided by the CDC, County, and Diocese.

However, my spirit is not completely dampened by this “temporary affliction,” to borrow a phrase from St. Paul. It has been a joy to be with you in worship, to hear our choirs “live” again, and to see our Sunday School children back in class and in church.

And, I am hopeful that the return of in-person formation, coffee hours and social events, and more mustn't be too far off.

As we look back at, and give thanks for, the early part of the Fall at St. Paul's, please note the calendar of upcoming services and events. With my best wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving and Blessed Advent season, I remain,  
Your friend and Rector,

(The Rev'd) Robert A. Picken

## Vestry Meeting: Episcopal Senior Life Communities & Kindness Kits

During their October 16 meeting, members of the St. Paul's Vestry met with leaders of the Episcopal Life Communities: Loren Ranaletta, CEO & President; Courtney McGuiness, VP for Community Engagement; and Lisa Marcello, Executive

VP to discuss ESLC initiatives. The focus of this Vestry meeting was Outreach: reports were received from outreach ministries, and members created Kindness Kits under the direction of Deacon Sue Ouellette. These kits are available in the Narthex (back of the church) for use by parishioners to share with someone in need.



TOP: Courtney McGuiness speaking to Vestry; Members attending the meeting via Zoom.

BOTTOM: Kindness Kit, one of many created by Vestry members at the meeting; ESLC President Loren Ranaletta.



# Bishop Singh visits St. Paul's



TOP : Scenes from the 10:15 A.M. service include Bishop Singh leading the Eucharist, Gary Scott reading the lesson, the Rev. Sue Oulette reading the Gospel, and Bishop Singh preaching.  
ABOVE: Offertory anthem offered by our choir and other musicians; Bishop Singh baptizing new Christians; and St. Paul's youth being confirmed by the Bishop.

The Rt. Rev. Prince Singh visited St. Paul's on October 17. He preached, celebrated Communion at both services, and at the 10:15 service celebrated the rites of Baptism and Confirmation. St Paul's presented five youth for Confirmation: Oliver Carr, Sonia Welker, and August Zenner. Norah Burkardt was also confirmed during the Bishop's visit to St. Thomas Church on October 10. In addition, Bishop Singh baptized Corwin and Reina Scott.

BELOW: Bishop Singh and St. Paul's clergy greeting parishioners after the 8:00 A.M. service.





# Youth Group Update



TOP: In front of the unfinished library are Leo C., Oliver C., Bill M., Thomas W., Leif J., Sonya W., Charlotte L., and Natalie L.

BOTTOM: Gathering in the new Youth Group meeting room are (clockwise from bottom): Leif J., Charlotte L., Natalie L., Thomas W., Sonya W., and Leo C. (Not pictured Oliver C.).

RIGHT: Scenes from the Sunday School Halloween party held in the Parish Hall basement gym on October 31.

**Little Free Library:** Just after the Youth Group decided to create a Little Free Library, COVID stopped in-person meetings, so the work had to be done via Zoom and by families taking turns! Father Jay drove the library pieces from one home to another so individual members could participate. The final touches were made on October 3 as the group met in person, fulfilling the original hope of creating the library together. Bill Moore, who provided the project's needed carpentry, attended that meeting to review how the library would be assembled and installed. The Library was blessed by Bishop Singh during his October 17 visit. It will be installed next to the playground for easy neighborhood access. We are now collecting NEW books for the Little Free Library! To donate a book, go to [St Paul's Youth Little Free Library](#) and fill out the form. Please bring your book donation to Father Jay so the Youth Group can stamp it and place it in the library.

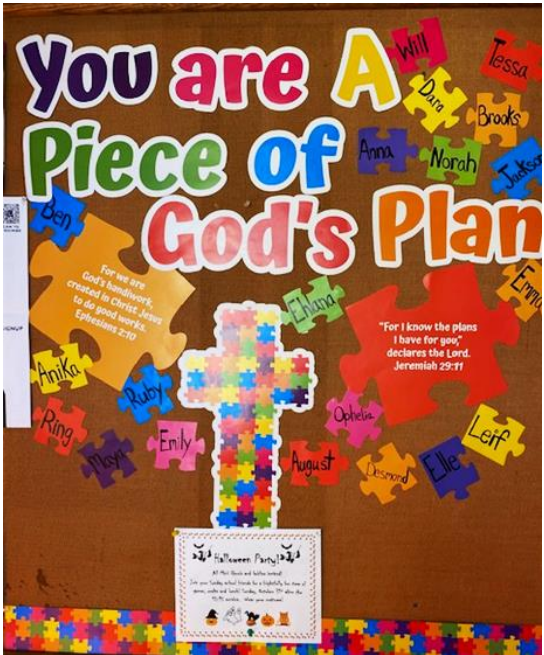
**Other news:** Youth group members assisted with games and refreshments during the Halloween party on October 31. Youth Group members are enjoying their new meeting room in Stone Hall and using it for projects, games, and planning. The group meets on the first and third Sundays from 6:00 – 7:30 P.M. Snacks and drinks are provided! All youth grades 6-12 are welcome! *To learn more, contact the Rev. Jay Burkardt.*



# Sunday School News

Welcome back to all our new and returning PreK-6<sup>th</sup> graders! It's been fantastic to welcome the children into our classrooms again. We've started the year with lessons focused on what it means to be a good neighbor and the story of the Good Samaritan. The children are learning how to be the best neighbor they can be in God's eyes! We've made "Thank You" cards for our local hospital workers, helped "bandage" our classmates to better health, and played get-to-know-you-better games (it's been a while since we've been together!). With songs, crafts and prayers, our class time is full and FUN!

Our class is for ANY PreK-6<sup>th</sup> grader, and kids are welcome to bring a friend. We meet Sunday mornings at 10:00 A.M. in the Children's Chapel upstairs near the nursery. Weekly email updates are sent; if you'd like to be added to that group, contact Amy Welker at [AWelker@stpaulsec.org](mailto:AWelker@stpaulsec.org). The children's ministry program is in need of help throughout the year (Sunday School class, special events, etc.). Attending Sunday School and its church service is one of the most positive and rewarding experiences you can give to children to help their faith grow. A big THANK YOU to all our families for coming! It's going to be a great year!!





# Coming Opportunities

## THANKSGIVING & ADVENT

November 21: Sunday before Thanksgiving  
4:00 P.M. Hymns & Graces for Thanksgiving (with live stream) ➡

December 5: Second Sunday of Advent  
10:15 A.M.: Blessing of Children's Christmas Stockings

December 19: Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Following 10:15 A.M. Service – Children's Christmas Party  
4:00 P.M. – Festival of Lessons and Carols (with live-stream) ➡

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

December 24:  
2:30 P.M., 4:30 P.M. (with live-stream), 9:30 P.M.

December 25: 10:15 A.M.

December 26: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas Day  
8:00 A.M. & 10:15 A.M.: Holy Communion

December 31: New Year's Eve  
5:30 P.M.: Holy Communion





# Worship Services



## Blessing Animal Friends

In commemoration of St. Francis' Day on October 2, parishioners brought pets to St. Paul's to have them blessed. Seen here are -Rob Picken blessing Suzy Spencer's Samantha (top), Jay blessing Vicki Harrison's Tori (lower right), and Tori meeting with Darlene Aiken's Robbie (inset).

## Holy Eucharist

The service of Holy Eucharist is offered in person each Sunday at 8:00 A.M. and is offered both in person and live streamed at 10:15 A.M. Seen at the middle left is the Rev. Laurence Wainwright-Maks, Diocesan Missioner to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Episcopal Chaplain to RIT/NTID presiding at the 10:15 A.M. Eucharist on October 3.

## Remembering the Faithful Departed

Our annual All Saints-tide remembrance of our loved ones was held during our Sunday Services on November 7. During both services, parishioners lit remembrance candles for loved ones during a reading of the necrology. In addition, the St. Paul's Choir offered an All Saints-tide Choral Evensong at 4:00 P.M.



LEFT: As the Eucharist was distributed during the 10:15 All Saints-tide service on November 7, some parishioners lit candles in memory of loved ones while the Necrology was read. Tables of candles were placed at either end of the transept. Seen are the candles lit on the table in front of the lectern. (Photo by Bob Potter)

BELOW: The St. Paul's Choir sang an All Saints-tide Choral Evensong at 4:00 P.M. on November 7, under the direction of Dr. Robert Poovey, Director of Music, and accompanied by Luke Brennan, Assisting Organist.





# Serving Others

## American Friends of the Episcopal Church of the Sudans (AFRECS)

Ambassador Dane F. Smith, Jr., Executive Director of the American Friends of the Episcopal Church of the Sudans (AFRECS), was guest preacher during the October 31 services, and led a forum on the work of AFRECS between the services.

Ambassador Smith is a consultant on international peace building, adjunct professor in American University's School of International Service, and a senior fellow at the Joint Forces Staff College. He has served as Ambassador to Guinea and Senegal, and as a Special Presidential Envoy for Liberia. He has also served as President of the National Peace Corps Association (former Peace Corps alumni). He was named Executive Director of AFRECS (American Friends of the Episcopal Church of the Sudans) in June 2020.



LEFT ABOVE: Seen between services on October 31 are the Rev. Rob Picken and Ambassador Dane Smith.  
TOP RIGHT: Dane Smith describing the work of AFRECS during forum held between services.  
LOWER RIGHT: Dane Smith with St. Paul's Nancy Frank, who was the first Executive Director of AFRECS.



### Prayer Shawls

**St. Paul's knitters** are hard at work making beautiful prayer shawls to be shared with people who are hospitalized, in nursing homes, have new babies, are isolated, have lost a family member, etc. If you know someone who could benefit from being wrapped in love and prayers, consider taking a prayer shawl to them. Prayer shawls are not only for members of St. Paul's but for all who are in need of knowing that others care about them. Please e-mail or see [Deacon Sue](#) if you would like to pick one out and deliver it.

LEFT: The Rev. Jay Burkardt blessing a prayer shawl during a recent service.



# Serving Others

## Rural & Migrant Ministry celebrates 40 years

Rural & Migrant Ministry, Inc. has worked with rural and farm-working communities statewide since 1981. RMM acts to overcome the prejudices and poverty that degrade and debilitate rural people by building communities that celebrate diversity and seek dignity and opportunity for all. RMM accompanies rural workers seeking to improve working and living conditions, operates a statewide Justice for Farmworkers Legislative Campaign, offers education programs (including the Liturgia Rural Worker Education Center in Lyons), and empowers rural children to create opportunities for themselves.



RIGHT: The 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Rural & Migrant Ministries (RMM) was celebrated at its home at Cornwall-on-Hudson on October 9-10 with panels, workshops, music, the arts, and a visit by Presiding Bishop, the Most Reverend Dr. Michael Curry. Seen are our Presiding Bishop; and RMM Executive Director, the Rev. Richard Witt with The Rev. Rob Picken, who serves on the RMM Board, at the gala; also seen is the Rev. Richard Witt at St. Paul's on October 24 to offer a reflection on our mission partnership with RMM.



Thank you! Over \$3,000 was sent in the name of St. Paul's Church to ERD for earthquake and hurricane relief. This doesn't include those who sent directly to ERD. Thank you for your generosity!



During the first If Music Be The Food (IMBTF) concert of this program year, held at St. Paul's on October 24, the audience heard music performed by The Amenda Quartet (David Brickman, Mimi Hwang, Melissa Matson, and Patricia Sunwoo) as well as Mark Kellogg with Christopher Azzara and Jeff Campbell.

Those attending are asked to donate money or non-perishable food items. All proceeds benefit Foodlink. The musicians donate their talents to support the cause



# Serving Others

## St. Joseph House of House of Hospitality

For over 25 years, St. Paul's has served hot lunches at St. Joseph House of Hospitality. The first Saturday of each month from September through June, volunteers from St. Paul's arrive at St. Joseph House of Hospitality to prepare a hot lunch for 75 people or more. St. Joseph's is a soup kitchen, food pantry, and temporary shelter which is run by the Catholic Worker organization to minister to Rochester's needy. On Saturdays, members of different area churches relieve the staff by preparing lunch.

Then COVID hit, and so much has changed. Many of the local shelters came together, and put the homeless up at a local hotel. Each of the homeless shelters take turns making a meal during the week to make sure that all of the homeless are fed at this local hotel. Bag lunches are given out daily. St. Paul's volunteers make 75 lunches on the first Saturday of each month. The demand and the number of lunches has increased. We had hoped to go back to cooking in September, but now we are hoping to be back in December. Many of the homeless have been vaccinated, but some have not. We also continue to collect food via St. Paul's food cart, and take the donated items to St. Joseph House. Due to COVID, no overnight stays are allowed in the shelter. The need is great during the upcoming months for items such as socks, men's underwear, gloves, and coats, to name a few. The Saturday lunches mean a lot to our homeless who look forward to these lunches weekly.

Meredith Halter



St. Paul's rotational sheltering of temporarily homeless families remains suspended due to COVID. In lieu of opening "Paul's Place" for a week each quarter, we have provided grocery gift cards and lunch/snack groceries to the families housed in FPOGROC's apartments. Two of our support parishes, St. Thomas' and UCC Webster, have also given financial support.

Due to the shortage of decent, affordable housing in Rochester, there has been little turnover in FPOGROC's **Shelter Program**, which continues to house six families (7 adults and 18 children). In October, an apartment over the Day Center was added. Program leaders are grateful for the space at 142 Webster Avenue and to Orlando Ortiz, who rents the other four apartments to the group. Family Promise continues to circumvent homelessness via its **Prevention, Diversion, & Rehousing Program**. And the work continues distributing federal ERAP funds (Emergency Rental Assistance Program) for those impacted by COVID or whose income has decreased in the last few months.

Last but not least, the **Aftercare & Stabilization Program** is, in many ways, the key to our success. By providing case management and support to families for about one year after services, we can ensure they're able to meet their financial, emotional, employment, and other needs independently before separation.

Prevention by the numbers ...

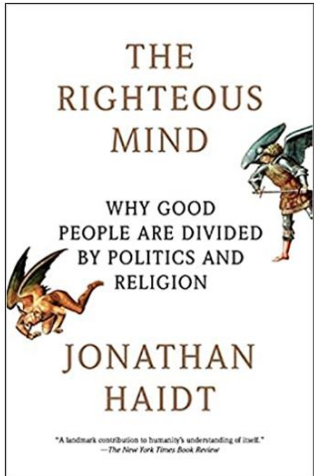
Year-to-date in 2021, FPGROC has served 240 households through the Prevention, Diversion, and Rehousing Program. More specifically, YTD:

- Over 1,350 families have called for assistance (Each call is answered and each person spoken with, even if we aren't able to provide services. For many calls, we make referrals or suggestions for other programs.)
  - 79 families have been assisted through the in-house Prevention, Diversion, & Rehousing Program
  - 28 families have been assisted through external EPPI 1.0 Programs (end of rollover 2020 federal funding)
- 247 families have been assisted through ERAP federal funding, for a total of **\$1,274,535**.

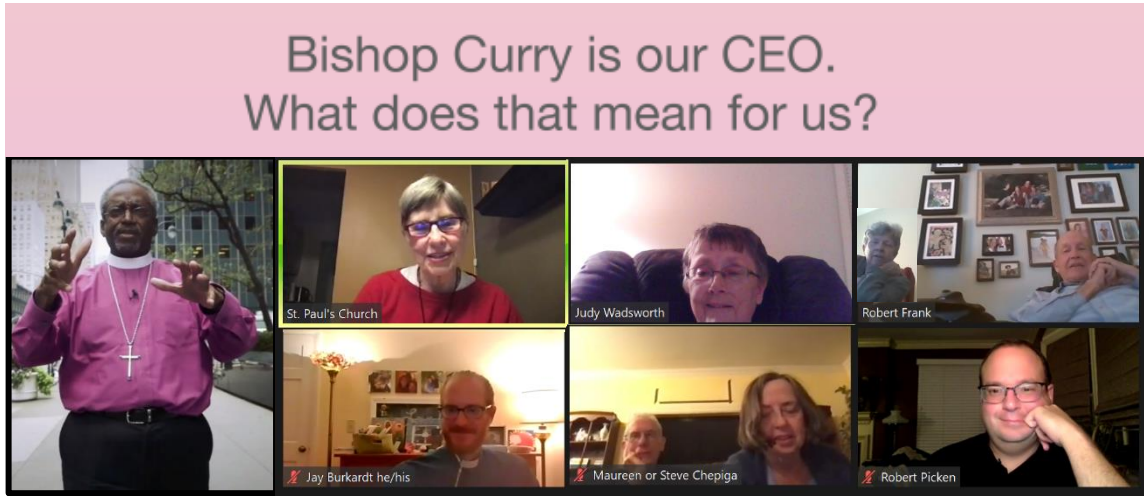


# Opportunities to Learn and Share

For four consecutive Tuesday evenings, parishioners met via Zoom to consider how Paul related to the world in which he lived – the social structure, attitudes toward women, and the Jewish faith from which he came. During the last session, the Rev. Tony Lewis, Professor Emeritus of New Testament, led a discussion of Paul as a pastor. That session attracted a number of participants from parishes other than St. Paul's. Leading the other three meetings were the Rev. Rob Picken, the Rev. Jay Burkardt, and Nancy Gear.



For six consecutive Monday evenings, a group of parishioners met via Zoom to discuss *The Righteous Mind* by Jonathan Haidt, which presents reasons for the political and religious differences that exist in the United States (and everywhere else).



Our Presiding Bishop, the Most Reverend Dr. Michael Curry, has referred to himself as our CEO—Chief Evangelism Officer. On November 2 and 9 via Zoom, Nancy Gear led a discussion of how we as Episcopalians can follow Jesus in evangelizing.



## 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](mailto: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 2022 pledge by December 31, so that your contribution may qualify as a charitable deduction on your 2021 tax return. If your gift includes a prepaid 2022 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.

Lisa M. Werner,  
Accounting & Administrative Assistant  
585-271-2240 ext. 213 or [lwerner@stpaulsec.org](mailto:lwerner@stpaulsec.org)

## Phantom of the Opera at St. Paul's



As seen above, on October 30, St. Paul's hosted a screening of the silent film, Phantom of the Opera, accompanied by David Baskeyfield on the organ who improvised a soundtrack for the 1925 film.

## 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 [Rochester-NY-AA.org](http://Rochester-NY-AA.org). For other 12-step groups, please check with your local or national office.

### 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.

## THANK YOU!!

To my St. Paul's Family –  
Thank you very much for the cake served on October 17 to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my heart attack. I was very surprised and moved. You all make St. Paul's a very special and warm church and I feel privileged to be a member. God bless you.

Fondly, *Gary Scott*

Merciful God,

we entrust to your never-failing care and love

**Mason Carr William Hosley Jeanne Hutchins**

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.



# COMMEMORATING 9/11



On September 11, joining with Houses of Worship across the nation on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11/01, our Tower Bell tolled at 8:46, 9:03, 9:37, and 10:07 A.M. Thank you to Bob Potter for making this happen.

Also as part of our September 11 observance, the Rev. Rob Picken led an online service of remembrance.

Contribute information for the Epistle via [publicity@stpaulsec.org](mailto:publicity@stpaulsec.org). Judy Wadsworth, Editor

## ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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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.

### 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	
Director of Music Dr. Robert Poovey	Front Desk Assistant Natosche Holt
Organ Scholar Augustine Sobeng	Parish Accountant Judy McGrath
Director, Adult Faith Formation Nancy Grear	Accounting & Administrative Assistant Lisa Werner
Director, Children and Youth Faith Formation Amy Welker	Property Manager Bob Potter
Sunday Child Care Dorothea (Dorrie) Champlin Candace Hoffman-Hussain	Maintenance Associates Dave McEntee Jim D'Angelo
Wedding & Funeral Coordinator Judy Loveland	Director, Child Care Center Michelle Mousseau

View the full church calendar at:

[www.stpaulsec.org](http://www.stpaulsec.org)

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