



Photo credit: Bob Potter

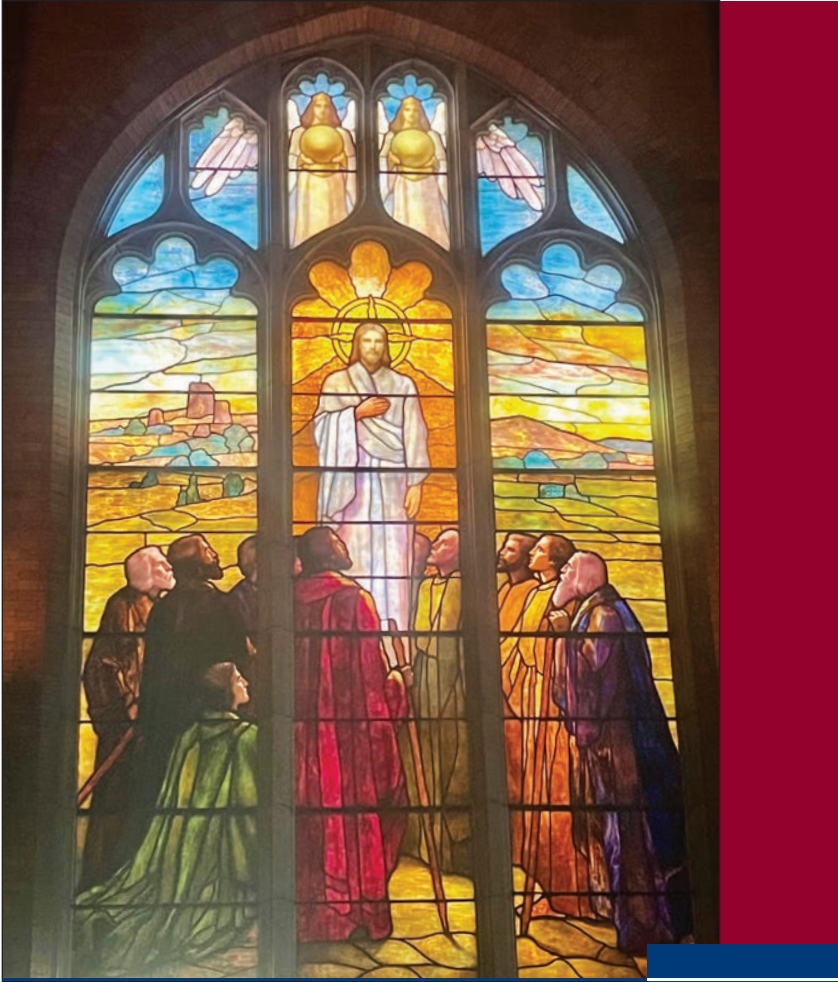
MAY 2023

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."

25 Westminster Road, Rochester, NY 14607
585.271.2240 • info@StPaulsEC.org
StPaulsEC.org



A message from the Rector

Save the Date:

Wednesday, June 7:

Potluck Dinner in the Parish Hall at 6:00 pm

Sunday, June 11:

Annual Parish Picnic on the lawn at 11:30 am

Starting Thursday, June 15:

“Sunday on Thursdays” service at Paul’s Cross at 5:30 pm (Service moves inside if inclement weather)

Starting Sunday, June 25:

Summer Bible Study in Vestry Room at 9:00 am

Jesus said, “You are witnesses of these things.... so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.” (Luke 24:48-49)

Dear Friends in Christ,

Taken from the Gospel lesson read on Ascension Day -- the day when the Church remembers Jesus’ return to heaven (illustrated by our beautiful Ascension window in the Chantry) – we see in this quote Jesus’ command to the disciples to bear witness to the love of God seen firsthand. This imperative to witness in deed and word has been passed down through the generations to us.

In 1891, The Rev. Louis Washburn, then-Rector, argued passionately for our church, then on St. Paul’s Street (named thusly for our parish), to stay in the city. During his tenure, begun in 1888, the troublesome debt was mostly paid off, a chapel was added, and a deaconesses’ house was opened for mission and ministry in the neighborhood. Discussion had begun many years earlier about rebuilding, selling and moving out, or merging with Christ Church to form a cathedral for Western New York. Washburn believed that, though the demographics of the neighborhood had changed, St. Paul’s had well-established traditions of worship and service and could be a beacon of hope in the growing city. In 1895, the parish decided to rid itself of its aging buildings and move within a few years “beyond Goodman Street,” then outside the city.

We have no intention of selling our buildings and moving away today. However, I think it's good to look back at Washburn's passionate plea to "stay in the city" and serve those around us. Other than our people, our greatest resource for ministry is this campus. Already used in some ways to serve our neighbors, I am excited that the Vestry has set as a priority the opening of our doors to more community programming and the development of more partnerships with other like-minded organizations -- strengthening our presence in this city as a beacon of hope and light. I look forward to sharing with you updates as this progresses.



With my prayers and best wishes for safe and happy summer, I remain,

Your friend and Rector,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Picken".

(The Rev'd) Robert A. Picken



Photo: Joan Flint

If Music be the Food Concert



The 14th season of "If Music Be The Food" ended in grand style, on April 23rd, with the largest attendance for several years. The concert featured the Antara Winds and the internationally-acclaimed Ying Quartet.

St. Paul's Annual Chili Cook-off!



Photos: Judy Wadsworth & Rob Picken



People's Choice winner: Mary Critikos; Judge's Choice winner: Rob Picken



Henry reads a "Chili Poem"



Chili Cook-off Judges: Will Surdyka, Brent Johnson and Cheri Potter



Maura Surdyka and Erin Wright

for the month of june:

St. Paul's will collect: toothbrushes, toothpaste, body wash & deodorant for men and women. Please place all of your donations in the basket in the back of the church.

Summer Pledge Payments

For those of you traveling this summer, remember you can use your pledge envelopes to mail your donation to the Office. Your continued payments help maintain our cash flow during the summer months. Thank you in advance.

Submitted by: Lisa M. Werner, Accounting Assistant

Thank You to Easter Volunteers!

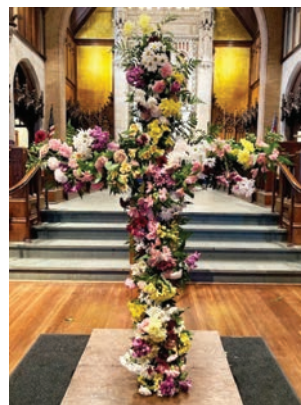


Kudos to my Easter Planning Committee for decorating our church and watering the beautiful plants between Easter Sunday and the Cross of Flowers Sunday. Thank you Jane Chapman, Margaret Cochran, Mary Gulick, Pat Moran, Kate Sturman, Peggy Willard, and Gretchen Zenner. Many thanks to Bob Potter, Dave McEntee and Jim D'Angelo for their help behind the scenes.

Cross of Flowers Sunday

Iwould like to thank Cynthia Miller and Pat Moran who volunteered to prep the pro bono flowers this year provided by Kittelberger Florist. The Cross of Flowers Sunday has been a beloved tradition of “flowering” the wooden cross on the Second Sunday of Easter and raising it up singing the hymn ‘Lift High the Cross.’

Submitted by: Nancy Andrus, *Altar Flower Coordinator*



A Special Thank You...

Last month, Cheri Potter restored, refinished, and repainted the Altar in the Norton Chapel. Thank you, Cheri, for your good work and faithful ministry!



Sacred Ground Conversation

This Fall, St. Paul's will participate 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.

The Rector, Rob Picken, will facilitate the sessions. Scheduling will be determined based on the group. Please let Rob know if you are interested in this important conversation.



Sacred Sites Open House 2023

St. Paul's Episcopal Church participated in the New York Landmarks Conservancy's 50th anniversary by taking part in the Annual Sacred Sites Open House. The open house was Saturday, May 20th and Sunday, May 21st.

Our congregation had the opportunity to showcase our building and history to the public, as well as highlight cultural and social service programs we offer to our community throughout the year.

We had twenty-one St. Paul's representatives sign up to volunteer to be friendly faces and direct the public to our many displays, literature and picture slide show.

Dr. Robert Poovey, Director of Music, played our historic organ at various times throughout the event.



Photos: Rob Picken



St. Paul's Youth Group



Photos: Sonja Slother



The Youth Group playing a competitive game of "Spoons"

St. Paul's Sunday School

Sunday School 'Summer Recess' will begin after the Annual Parish Picnic on Sunday, June 11th at 11:30 am. Sunday School will resume in September. Childcare in the nursery is year-round.



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

"St Paul's Rochester"

OFFICE HOURS:

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10:00 am - 4:00 pm

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ST. PAUL'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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The Rev. Robert Picken
Rector

The Rev. Jay Burkardt
Assistant Rector

The Rev. Sue Ouellette, Ph.D.
Deacon

Lydia Arnts
Seminarian

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*

**The Rev. Sandy Arrington
Joan Atwater
Nancy Blackmun
Dr. David Fetler
Robert Hendricks
Beth McCoy
Nancy Middleton**

*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.*