



MARCH 2024

THE EPISTLE

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*St. Paul's Church builds bridges — to God, to one another,
to our community and beyond.*

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



A message from the Rector

I love the dark hours of my being.
My mind deepens into them.
There I can find,
as in old letters,
the days of my life,
already lived,
and held like a legend,
and understood.
Then the knowing comes:
I can open to another life that's wide and timeless.
So I am sometimes
like a tree rustling over a gravesite
and making real the dream
of the one its living roots embrace:
a dream once lost among sorrows and songs.

Ich liebe meines Wesens Dunkelstunden
(I Love the Dark Hours of My Being)
by Rainer Maria Rilke
(translation by Anita Barrows & Joanna Macy)

Dear Friends,

Here we are in the midst of our Lenten journey. The Church has bid to us to another season of prayer, fasting, self-denial, and reading and meditating on God's Holy Word.

I remember two elderly ladies in my first parish. As Lent began, one proclaimed, "I have nothing to change, I've been through this same routine so many times." And, then, sitting at the same table, another lady about the same age said, "Oh, I love Lent. It gives me a chance to work on the things I still long to get right and let go of those things I need to."

Lent is only a gift to our spiritual lives if we are willing to accept it for the period of introspection and reflection that it is. If taken honestly and seriously, it can be a time of profound individual spiritual growth.

Rilke, the famous Austrian poet, calls our minds to that in this poem. In this "dark" season of Lent, we can reflect on our lives of faith and look deep within our souls to see ourselves for who we truly are --beloved children of God. Then, we can die to our "old ways of sin," that keep us from fully knowing the love of God and we can embrace the new life of Easter that is eternal, that is "wide and timeless."

May you have a Holy Lent.

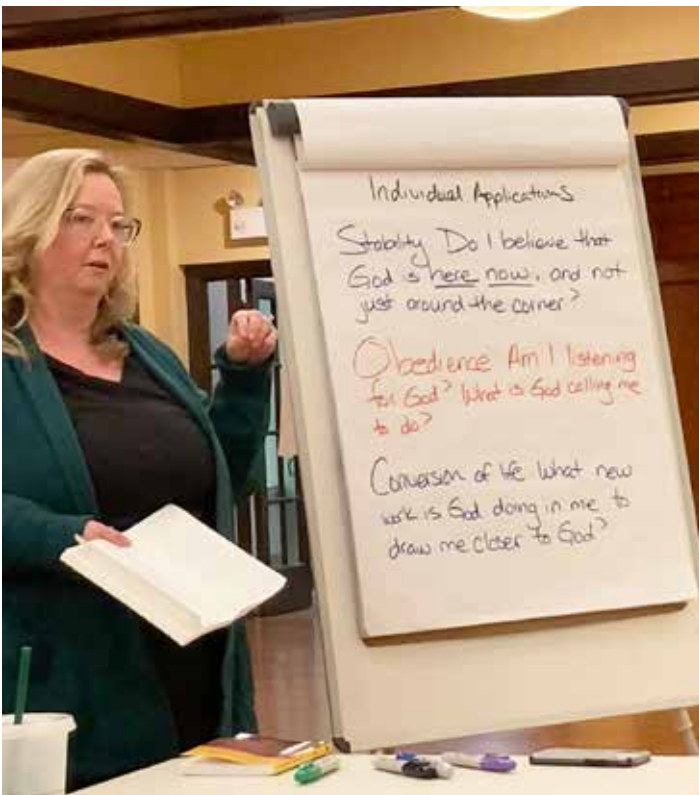
Yours in Christ,

(The Rev'd) Robert A. Picken

The Vestry Vignette

The St. Paul's Vestry meets about eight times per year: two of those meetings are budget sessions; two are devoted to spending a Saturday together for more in-depth conversations; and the other meetings are focused on property and finance, mission and ministry, and community engagement. Here are some updates:

- In January, the Vestry approved 2024 budget, and tended to some organizational matters and discussed the Annual Parish Meeting.
- The Vestry elected Doug Kelley, Stan Refermat, and Julie Gedro to serve as delegates and Maureen Chepiga as an alternate delegate to the Diocesan Convention in October.
- In continued preparation for our Mutual Ministry Review in April, the Vestry learned the Benedictine Life model from CCD as a lens to view our congregation.
- In February, the Vestry met for an optional orientation session to discuss roles, governance structure, and finance. Our next meeting is scheduled for March 19th.



Vestry member Mara Hazzard-Wallingford taught the Benedictine model from CCD at the January Vestry meeting.

*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
Kevin Frisch
Julie Gedro
Brent Johnson
Swing Harre
Mara Hazzard-Wallingford
Christopher Moore
Floyd Bayley
Laura Carr
Chari Krenis

The Very Rev. Kara Wagner Sherer

Called to be the next Bishop of Rochester

Baptized in the Episcopal Church, my life and faith have been shaped by many communities. From an early age I have been blessed by a deep and abiding sense of God's love for me. My Christian life is rooted in my belief that nothing can separate anyone from the love of God. I am strengthened by my family, my spouse John, and daughters Madeleine and Elsie. My education and first vocation, teaching, shaped my commitment to the formation of our whole selves made in God's image. My call to the priesthood began as a teenage preacher in a small church. As the rector of St. John's in Chicago for the last eighteen years, I have shepherded the growing and deepening community life that can come of a long pastorate. My greatest joy as a priest is witnessing the Holy Spirit breaking down barriers that keep us from knowing and loving God and each other.

I have always heard Jesus' call to "come and follow" through my communities. In your profile I hear your call for a strong leader to support and challenge you to grow in love, generosity, and hope. You are richly blessed with the gifts and resources necessary to respond to God's call. Your geographic, economic, racial, and political diversity positions you to reach out to all your neighbors. It would be my joy to support and encourage a shared vision, to draw into the heart of God all who long for love.

Please pray for the Bishop-elect:

Almighty God, the giver of all good gifts, in your divine providence you have appointed various orders in your Church: Give your grace, we humbly pray, to Kara who is now called to

the office of Bishop of Rochester; and so fill her with the truth of your doctrine and clothe her with holiness of life, that she may faithfully serve before you, to the glory of your great Name and for the benefit of your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



The ordination and consecration of our new bishop is scheduled for Saturday, July 13, 2024, at Asbury First United Methodist Church in Rochester.

Bishop Sherer will visit St. Paul's on All Saints' Sunday, November 3, 2024.

Visit thedioceseofrochesterbishopsearch.org for more information.





Thank you to our delegation, Stan Refermat, Jay Burkardt, Rob Picken, Sue Ouellette, Julie Gedro and Kevin Frisch for their participation in the Electing Convention for the next Bishop of Rochester.





fundraiser benefiting

Family Promise 

of Greater Rochester
(formerly RAIHN)

Wednesday, April 17
11:30am - 9pm

Benucci's will donate 20% of the entire day's proceeds to support **families at risk of or experiencing homelessness.**

Pittsford Plaza location. Take-out included.
Reservations for dine-in are recommended. Call 264-1300.




New energy-efficient LED lights and a digital dimming system are being installed in the church. Also pictured, rewiring the new dimmer system in the basement. The dimming project will be completed on March 11 when the system is programmed.



We welcomed Amelia Elizabeth Spaker into the household of God through Holy Baptism.

Youth Group's Chili Cook-off, February 3rd



2024 People's Choice Champion:
Mary Critikos



This year's Chili Cook-off judges: Leif Johnson, Jay Burkardt & Emma Wallingford



2024 Judge's Choice Champion:
Judy McGrath

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the first annual St Paul's Youth Group Chili Cook Off! It was a great night and with your generosity, we raised over \$400 for the St Paul's Youth Group. We'll be meeting soon to choose a local non-profit ministry to donate a portion of those funds to and will put the rest to good use supporting our youth ministry.

A special congratulations to Judy McGrath for earning honors as Judge's Choice Champion and to Mary Critikos as the People's Choice Champion! With nine entries for the night, we had chili's that were mild and spicy, traditional and creative, and everybody had a great time enjoying all the variety!



Latest News from Sunday School

We've been having so much fun in Sunday school this year! The children bring their energy, laughter and smiles to class each week, and for that I am thankful. Our season of epiphany was filled with wonderful stories of Jesus, allowing us to celebrate His life and better understand His work in sharing the good news. As we go through the season of Lent and into Easter, families are given the opportunity to strengthen their faith at home. Each family will receive Lent Family Devotional cards which are short family devotions for each week of Lent. It's an opportunity to choose 2 nights/week throughout the season to gather around the dinner table and talk about Jesus!

Children and family reminders: our Sunday school class meets weekly at 10:00 am in the Children's Chapel, and all children (preK-5th grade) are welcome. Candace and Susan look forward to welcoming our babies and toddlers in the nursery down

the hall. Family parking spots are reserved for you and your children in the back parking lot. Children's service bulletins and coloring pages are in the sanctuary each Sunday for the service, and emailed program updates are sent out each week for families. Not on our list? Email AWelker@stpaulsec.org to be added or for any more information about our children's programs here at St. Paul's.



Deacon Sue and the children getting ready to use American Sign Language (ASL) to dismiss the service.



St. Paul's Choir sang the music of Smith, Norris, Stanford and Neswick during the Choral Evensong for the Last Sunday after the Epiphany on February 10th.

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

"St Paul's EC"

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Thursday
10:00 am - 4:00 pm

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For urgent pastoral needs after hours:
call 585-438-0472

Send all *Epistle* submissions to:
solja@stpaulsec.org

A Personal Letter to St. Paul's from ERD President, Robert W. Radtke



Episcopal
Relief & Development
Working Together for Lasting Change

Robert W. Radtke
President & CEO

February 22, 2024

The Reverend Canon Robert A. Picken
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
25 Westminster Road
Rochester, NY 14618

Dear Canon Picken,

Thank you for the extraordinary support from St. Paul's Episcopal Church over the last year.

In 2023, the war in Ukraine, the fires in Hawai'i, the Israel-Hamas war, and other disasters and crises called for urgent, bold, and inclusive humanitarian action. These crises exacerbated the ongoing struggles in too many communities across the world that face injustice, poverty, disaster and climate change.

At Episcopal Relief & Development we believe systemic change requires collaborative, just, and reconciling leadership. Moreover, we believe the present state of the world does not fulfill the dream God intends either for us or the most vulnerable.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church's generosity and partnership enable us to bring these beliefs to life and demonstrate that by *Working Together for Lasting Change*, we can make the world more just and humane. Your leadership in encouraging that generosity means more to me than I can express.

May you have a blessed and peaceful Lent.

Faithfully,

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HOLY WEEK & EASTER

SUNDAY, MARCH 24TH • PALM SUNDAY

8:00 am — Holy Eucharist with Palm Liturgy

10:15 am — Palm Procession and Holy Eucharist*

HOLY MONDAY – HOLY WEDNESDAY

Noon — Holy Eucharist (Chantry)

MARCH 28TH – 30TH • TRIDUUM LITURGIES

Maundy Thursday Service -- 7:00 pm*

Good Friday Service – Noon*

Good Friday Evening Prayer – 5:30 pm

Great Vigil of Easter – Saturday at 7:00 pm*

SUNDAY, MARCH 31ST • EASTER DAY

8:00 am — Holy Eucharist with the Choir

10:15 am — Festival Eucharist with the Choir & Brass*

SUNDAY, APRIL 7TH • EASTER 2

8:00 am — Holy Eucharist (Chantry)

10:15 am — Holy Eucharist with
Cross of Flowers*

** INDICATES LIVE-STREAM*





ST. PAUL'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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STAFF

The Rev. Robert Picken
Rector

The Rev. Jay Burkardt
Assistant Rector

The Rev. Sue Ouellette, Ph.D.
Deacon

Peter DuBois
Interim Organist & Choirmaster

Augustine Sobeng
Organ Scholar

Amy Welker
*Director of Children &
Youth Faith Formation*

Candance Hoffman-Hussain
Sue Hall
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*

Paul Smith

*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.*