



THE EPISTLE

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

January 2022

St. Paul's Celebrates Advent and Christmas



Advent & Christmas Observances: pages 4 - 5
Annual Meeting information: pages 8 - 10



A Message from our Rector

Dear Friends,


In his poem “The Journey of the Magi,” T.S. Eliot gives voice to the memory of one of the Magi who ‘traversed afar’ to visit the newborn Jesus. This *Magus* recalls returning home – “to [his] old dispensation” – “no longer at ease” with the life he had been living.

We again went to the manger like the shepherds and joined the song of the angels during Christmas. I am grateful to all who made our celebrations possible; what a joy it was to be together in-person this year and to be joined via live-stream with people from Long Island to Nashville to Orlando and beyond. Each Christmas, we are reminded that the Eternal Word, who was “in the beginning,” was

made flesh in Jesus: God incarnate, man Divine. And each year, as I take down my decorations and stop playing my favorite Christmas music, I wonder: what difference has all this made?

Will the giving of gifts make me more generous with those in need all year? Will preaching about the God’s Love being made *real* in Jesus make me more likely to “enflesh” God’s love in my interactions with others? Will hearing of the slaughter of the Holy Innocents by King Herod in an attempt to kill Jesus make me look more compassionately at children who are refugees or in poverty? Will the joy and gratefulness I felt being around parishioners, family, and friends this season carry on? In other words, like T.S. Eliot’s wise man, will my life of faith be emboldened and made new again by this encounter with the Christ Child? ... I hope so.

Blessings to you and your loved ones this Epiphany and in the New Year!


(The Rev’d) Robert A. Picken

Thank you, Bob and Peggy

At the last meeting of the Outreach Committee in 2021, outgoing members Bob Shaddock and Peggy Willard (seen at the right) were presented with tokens of appreciation for their service to the group.

Father Rob greeting parishioners outside in the cold recently (seen at the far right).



Opportunities to Learn and Share

December:

Essentials
for
Christian
Living –

Baptism,
Bible,
Eucharist,
Prayer



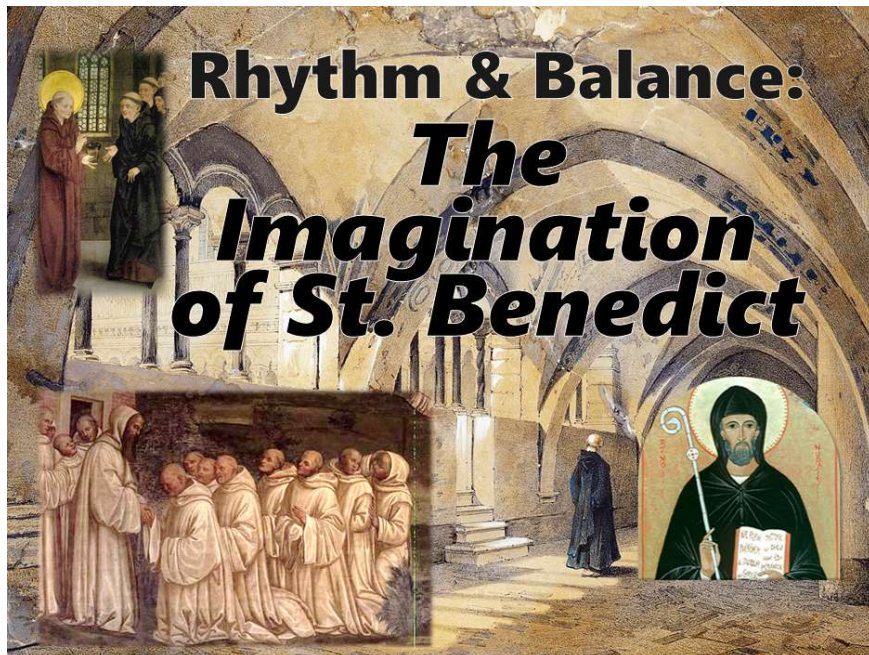
TOP: Discussion leaders – the Rev. Rob. Picken, Nancy Gear, the Rev. Jay Burkardt, and John Hazzard.

BOTTOM: Some of those who attended the sessions in person.

During Advent, parishioners met in person or online between Sunday services about four principles of Christian living:
On Advent 1 – Baptism, led by the Rev. Rob Picken,
On Advent 2 – Bible, led by Nancy Gear,
On Advent 3 – Holy Eucharist, led by the Rev. Jay Burkardt, and
On Advent 4 – Prayer, led by John Hazzard.



Nancy Gear handled the technology to support hybrid meetings for those who preferred to participate from home.



Late January – February: Lenten Old Testament Readings

Beginning on January 30, the topic during 9:00 A.M. sessions on Sundays will be the Old Testament readings during Lent and what they mean in the New Testament story. This program is still in development. Look for an update in the near future.

January:

January 9 & 16, 9:00 A.M.
Parish Hall and on Zoom

We will talk about St. Benedict, the process he created for Christian living, examples of his Rule of Life everywhere, and ways we might apply his Rule to provide Rhythm and Balance in our own lives.

Malachi	Zachariah	Isaiah	Nehemiah	Esther
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Advent

Advent and Kindness Kits

Advent Kits for parish shut-ins and families were created by Sunday School children under the direction of Amy Welker. These were delivered by parish volunteers who also delivered prayer shawls.

Vestry members and others assembled Kindness Kits filled with supplies and snacks for the homeless. To donate goods or money to support this on-going project, please speak with Deacon Sue (souellette@stpaulsec.org).



ABOVE LEFT & CENTER: Advent Kits for parishioners were filled with treats and portable Advent wreaths.
ABOVE RIGHT: Kindness Kits for those in need were filled with supplies and snacks.



Blessing of Christmas stockings

On December 5, children brought their Christmas stockings to be blessed at the end of the 10:15 A.M. service, while they learned about St. Nicholas. They are seen with the Rev. Jay Burkardt (at the left) who led the blessing.

Lessons & Carols

December 19



On December 19 at 4:00 P.M., St. Paul's Choir and Bell offered a Festival of Lessons & Carols for Christmas. Seen above are Choir and Bell Choir members as well as lectors who read the Advent lessons.

Christmas



Christmas was celebrated at St. Paul's: on December 24 at 2:30, 4:30, and 9:30 P.M. and on December 25 at 10:15 A.M. Pictured here are scenes from two of the services held on December 24.

TOP: During the 4:15 P.M. service- The Rev. Rob Picken preaching; The Rev. Jay Burkardt leading Eucharist; Dr. Robert Poovey at the organ. MIDDLE: Trumpeter Herb Smith opening the 4:30 P.M. service; Choir singing during the 2:30 service as the Rev. Jay Burkardt, the Rev. Sue Ouelette, and the Rev. Rob Picken listen.

BOTTOM: During the 4:30 P.M. Service , the lights dimmed for singing Silent Night (left); and the Choir sang the Offertory Anthem (right).

Youth Group Update



Little Free Library

The Youth Group's outdoor Little Free Library was set in place in Paul's Cross next to the playground on October 21. Shown are some of those who erected the outdoor library. The Youth Group is also collecting new books to keep the library filled.

TOP: Natalie digging; Ben digging while Oliver supervises; Charlotte pounding stakes; Leif looking on as Andrew Welker and Sonia work. BOTTOM: Many hands make light work; Bill Moore, Thomas, Sonia, Leif, Norah, and Jay Burkardt with finished library.

Youth Group Pasta-Dinner-To-Go Fundraiser nets close to \$2,000

The Youth Group organized a Pasta-Dinner-To-Go to benefit both its own activities and the youth group of Rural Migrant Ministry in Lyons. The youth cooked with Father Rob and Father Jay on December 18, then parishioners picked up their meals on December 19.

THANK YOU to all who participated in this fun(d)raiser which raised close to \$2000.

The funds will be used to further outfit the youth room in Stone Hall as well as to make a donation to the youth program at Rural Migrant Ministry.

Pictures at the right show the incoming raw materials for creating pasta sauce, the finished product in containers ready to distribute, and the hard-working team that created the transformation using a recipe provided by Father Rob.



Serving Others

Prayer Shawls

St. Paul's knitters meet regularly to create 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.



ABOVE: Knitters creating prayer shawls on November 13.

LEFT: The Rev. Jay Burkardt blessing new prayer shawls during the 10:15 A.M. service on November 14.



Each year St. Paul's parishioners contribute to help primary grade students at Rochester's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. School 9 have a merrier Christmas. Following last year's practice due to the ongoing pandemic, we collected monetary gifts to purchase gift cards of \$25 for students in School 9 primary grades. **Thank you** to all who donated. Gift cards were given to 65 students to help make their holiday a bit brighter. School 9 counselor Ms. Lawton-Greggs sends her thanks to the church community.

Needs continue at St. Joseph's House

On December 18, I delivered some additional coats, gloves, underwear, and two pairs of work boots. One pair of boots was size 9 1/2 for Junior who helps our St. Paul's Group when we help out at St. Joseph's on first Saturdays of the month. His partner passed away last year, but he is always positive. On December 18, Junior and Harry (who runs the shelter on Saturday) helped me unload. I told Junior I found a pair of boots for him and he cried. Harry and I had given Junior a coat and gloves two weeks prior. A second gentleman approached and asked if he could have a pair of boots. When I said that the pair left was a size 12, he showed me how he normally wears an 11, but wears a 12 due to swelling in his left foot. When he saw Harry and me unloading coats, and he asked for a coat which we gave him. He said thank you, and that God has blessed him with what our church is doing. I had also taken 29 pairs of gloves. Harry asked if he could wrap those gloves and give them to the homeless because he wanted them to have a Christmas gift. Thank you for all of your contributions to St. Joseph's House this year.

Meredith Halter mhalter@rochester.rr.com



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

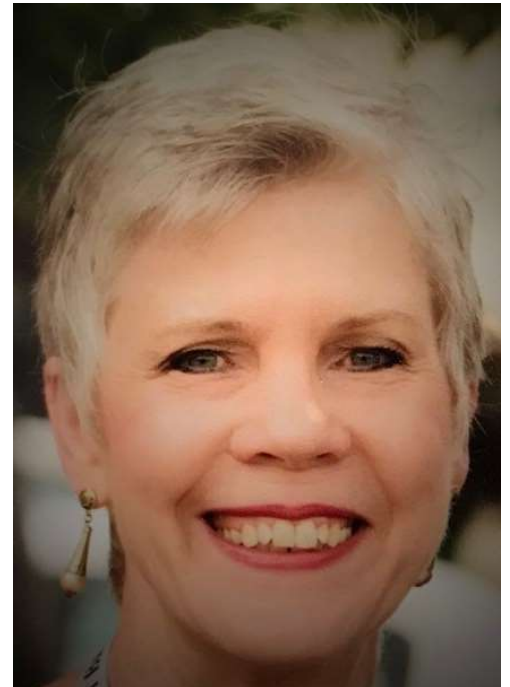
Sunday, January 23 at 9:00 A.M.

Each year, the parish gathers to elect lay leaders, according to New York State Canon (Church) Law. It is also an opportunity for the financial ministry plan, approved by the Vestry, to be presented to the parish. This year, the parish will also be asked to ratify a change to the composition of the Vestry (see page 10).

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following slate of candidates. Additional nominations are accepted; for more information, please contact Ingrid Stanlis, Warden.

CANDIDATE FOR WARDEN (2 year term)

ERIN GLANTON found her spiritual home at St. Paul's and was received here thirty-five years ago. She finds the inclusiveness of the Episcopal Church and specifically of St. Paul's to be central to her faith journey. Erin currently serves on the Vestry and the Human Resources Committee for St. Paul's. Erin completed Education for Ministry (EFM) earlier this year, attended the College for Congregational Development during the summer, and participates in St. Paul's book groups, adult formation, and the prayer shawl ministry. She coordinates the 10:15 lectors and has sung in the Senior Choir at St. Paul's for the last 33 years. Erin and Al, her husband, live in Brighton. She retired three years ago as the Human Resources Director at Coordinated Care Services, Inc. (CCSI), a not-for-profit organization providing services to the behavioral health and human services community. Erin holds a Masters degree in Human Resource Development from St. John Fisher College. Erin serves on the Board of St. Paul's Child Care Center and on the Human Resources Committee for Family Promise of Greater Rochester (formerly RAIHN). She is honored to be nominated for the position of warden.



See next page for Vestry candidates.



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. For other 12-step groups, please check with your local or national office.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Sunday, January 23 at 9:00 A.M.

CANDIDATES FOR VESTRY (3-year terms)



KEVIN FRISCH has attended St. Paul's since April 2010, where he immediately joined the Choir and has been singing in the choir every year since. He has also been a LEM and a Lector for many years, and enjoys doing both. He is a regular volunteer for RAIHN, plus served on the Stewardship committee for 5 years. Kevin worked at Kodak, then transferred to Carestream Health, where he has worked the last 34 years in Information Technology. He is also a member of the LGBT Giving Circle, a philanthropic group with the Rochester Area Community Foundation, and has been the Membership co-chair for the last few years. Kevin has three adult children and five grandchildren. Kevin is honored to be nominated to be a part of the Vestry.



JULIE GEDRO, MBA, SHRM-SCP, Ed.D., is the Dean of the School of Business at SUNY Empire State College. She holds a B.A. in Economics and English from the College of William and Mary, an M.B.A. in Business Information Systems from Kennesaw State University, and a Doctorate of Education in Adult Education and Human Resource Development from the University of Georgia. Dr. Gedro is the author of two books: *Lipstick or Golf Clubs: What Lesbian Leaders Understand About Success* (2014) and *Identity, Meaning and Subjectivity in Career Development* (2017). Her third book project (with Co-Editor Dr. Tonette S. Rocco, Professor at Florida International University) is *the Routledge Handbook of LGBTQ Identity in Organizations and Society* (expected publication late 2023). Julie completed the four-year Education for Ministry Program offered at St. Paul's in May 2021. She has served a first term on our Vestry (Class of 2021). She sings in the Choir, serves on the Human Resources, Finance, and Stewardship Committees. She has completed the first year of the College for Congregational Development in July 2021 at Notre Dame Retreat Center. A former Roman Catholic, she took the formation course to be received in the Episcopal faith at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Atlanta, Georgia on May 3, 1998.



BRENT JOHNSON, his wife Anita, and son Leif, moved to Rochester from Atlanta in 2014 and began attending St. Paul's Episcopal Church in 2016. Brent began singing in the church choir in 2017 and was elected to the Vestry for a 3-year term beginning January 2019. He occasionally served as usher at Sunday morning services and for funerals. In September 2021, he began serving as board president for St. Paul's Childcare Center and was board treasurer the year before. Prior to March 2020, Leif was a regular attendee of St. Paul's Sunday School and he recently returned to Sunday School in September 2021; now, he also attends St. Paul's Youth Group gatherings with Father Jay and friends. Leif sings in the St. Paul's Choristers under Dr. Poovey and has, on occasion, given musical offerings during the worship service. Brent is Professor of Biostatistics and Computational Biology at the University of Rochester. His hobbies include cooking, fishing, bike riding and cross-country skiing.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Sunday, January 23 at 9:00 A.M.

ANNUAL MEETING RATIFICATION SOUGHT

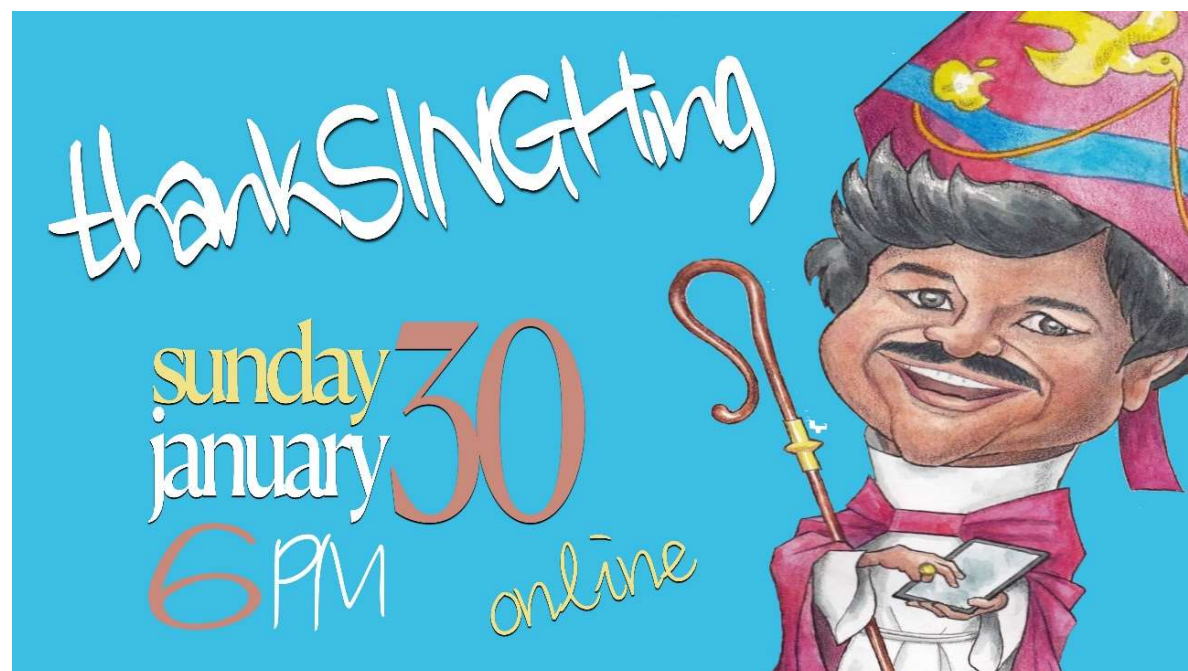
During its December meeting, the Vestry unanimously referred a resolution for ratification to the upcoming Annual Parish Meeting. If adopted, this resolution would reduce the Vestry, in accordance with New York State religious incorporation law, from 12 elected members plus 2 elected wardens, an appointed clerk and treasurer, to 9 members plus 2 wardens, a clerk, and a treasurer.

Regular reviews of governance structure are healthy and appropriate in organizations. Beginning with conversations by the Nominating Committee in November 2020, many discussions have been held about the composition and size of the Vestry. The Vestry has discussed this matter at least three times, including during their Fall workday. The matter was also discussed with this year's Nominating Committee and with some recent past leadership. A review was conducted of parishes similar to ours both within and without our diocese and this change is very much in line with what was learned.

Our Vestry members and Wardens are active in many different facets of the life of this congregation and represent the voice of the congregation quite well. This amendment emphasizes mission over governance. Rather than time spent in business meetings, our parishioners can share their finite gift of time in serving on committees or in ministries where their gifts and talents would be better used.

Lastly, the timing for this change is opportune. There is already a vacancy on the Vestry and a member who is not eligible to run again. With the nomination of a Vestry member to serve as Warden, we are able to reduce by the three members without impacting terms or carrying this change out over a few years.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to the Wardens in advance of the meeting with any questions that you may have.



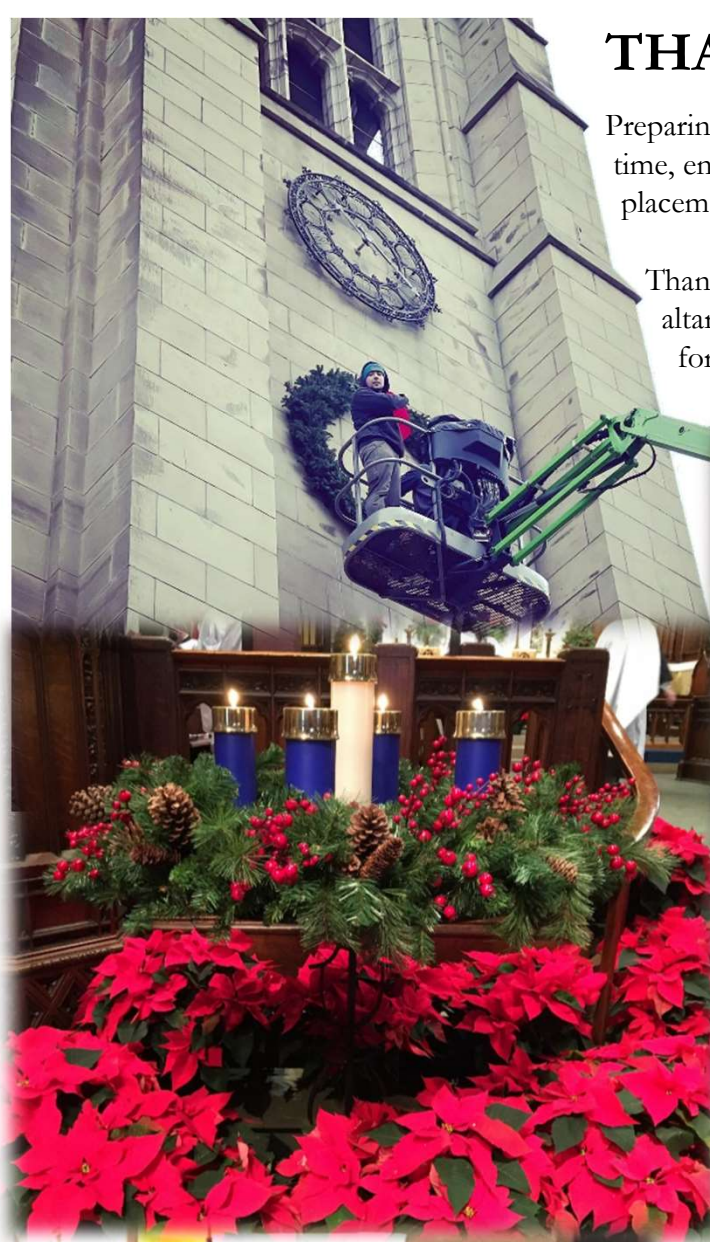
**SAVE THE
DATE !!**

Plan to join the diocesan-wide online celebration of the ministry of retiring Bishop Prince Singh. Look for more information in the near future.

THANK YOU !!!!

Preparing for celebrations and worship during Advent and Christmas takes time, energy, and effort of many participants. Seen at the left is the placement of one of several wreaths on the exterior of the church.

Thanks to all those who helped to decorate the sanctuary, to deliver altar flowers to those who couldn't attend services, to prepare the altar for worship, and to provide the sacred music to enhance our worship.



St. Paul's decorated for Christmas celebrations – 3 views.

A Greening of the Church Thank You

The Christmas celebration seemed even more special this year as we were once again all together, as opposed to last year, to “green” our church.

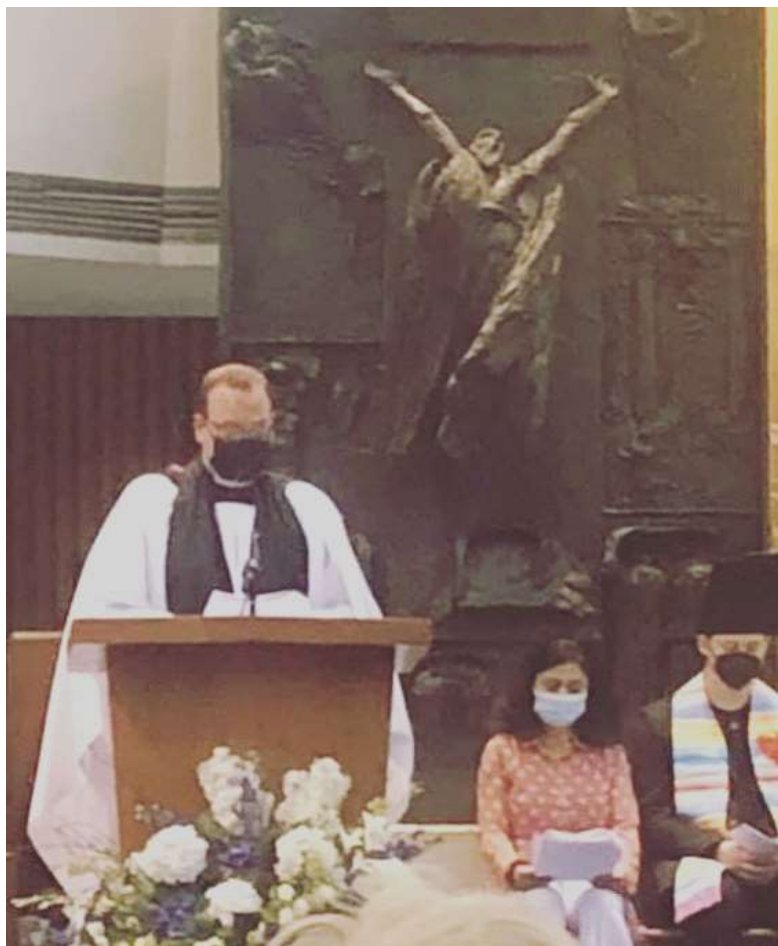
Thanks to the following parishioners who helped plan and decorate our beautiful church this year—Heidi Brodwin, Jane Chapman, Mary Cochran, Mary Gulick, Pat Moran, Lara Sipols, Kate Sturman, Peggy Willard, and Gretchen Zenner.

And, of course, none of this could have happened without Bob Potter, Dave McEntee, Jim D’Angelo, and Matt Koreth from Kittelberger Florist.

Nancy Andrus



Rector participates in Interfaith Thanksgiving Day Service



On November 25, the Rev. Rob Picken participated in the 150th Annual Rochester Interfaith Thanksgiving Day Service which was held at Temple B'rith Kodesh. Started in 1871, this is one of the nation's oldest and longest running interfaith services.

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.

Follow St. Paul's on Facebook, Instagram,
and email to receive messages.

Clergy and staff closely monitor mail, phone calls, and e-mail.
For urgent pastoral concerns, call 585-483-0472.

Contribute information for the Epistle via
publicity@stpaulsec.org. Judy Wadsworth, Editor

View the full church calendar at:

www.stpaulsec.org

- Visit us on Facebook



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