



THE EPISTLE

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

September 2020

St. Paul's Re-Gathering for Worship



On August 30, a limited number of parishioners gathered in the sanctuary for Ante-Communion.
More worship and learning options are described inside.



A Message from our Rector

September 2020

Dear Friends,

Hard to believe it but the smell and chill of autumn is in the air. What is always such a beautiful season here will be filled also with uncertainty and anxiety — both with concerns about the pandemic and the upcoming presidential election.

In our Sunday lectionary, we have been reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans. These chapters present for us a truly remarkable vision for both how we are *to be* the Church and how we are *to live* in the world as followers of Christ. It is summed up in a familiar Anglican blessing:

“Let us go forth into the world in peace;
be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor everyone;
love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit;
and may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
be upon us and remain with us always. Amen.”

This benediction, which appears in the Church of England's *Common Worship*, was proposed to be included in the Confirmation Service in our 1928 BCP; unfortunately, it didn't make the cut. I wish it had; it sums up faithful following of Jesus quite well.

As we move into the weeks and months to come, I hope you will pray this prayer with me and take the words to heart.
I remain,

Yours in Christ,

**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.**

Worshipping at St. Paul's in Person & Online

SUNDAYS at 9:15AM

Registration for In-Person Worship is available via e-mail link sent each Wednesday or on our website. You may also call the Parish Office by Thursday at 4:00pm.

For those without computer access may dial-in for Sunday worship beginning at 9:00 A.M. Dial 1-929-205-6099 and follow the instructions (Meeting ID: 585 271 2240).

Live-Stream Info and Evening Prayer are both emailed and available on our website:
www.stpaulsec.org

St. Paul's first in-house worship service since March

From March 15 - August 23, all worship services at St. Paul's were celebrated online. On August 30, as the first step in re-gathering as a parish, a service of Ante-Communion was offered in the sanctuary at 9:15 A.M. for those wishing to worship with others. For the foreseeable future, the Sunday Ante-Communion service will be offered in-person and live stream, so we can worship together whether or not we enter the sanctuary. Directions for joining in-person and online have been mailed, emailed, and posted online. To help ensure that we do not exceed the maximum number allowed in the sanctuary (60), parishioners are asked to make a reservation using the online form or calling the office.

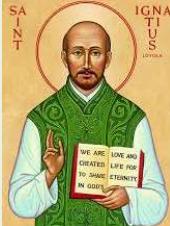
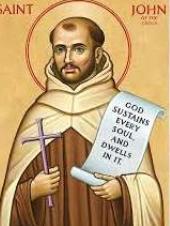
Seen at the right are –

TOP: Deacon Sue Ouellette reading from the Gospel, and some of those who attended the Ante-Communion service in the sanctuary.

BOTTOM: The Rev. Jay Burkhardt (in the Norton Chapel) coordinating the live stream viewing for those who preferred to participate online, Cantor Chris Moore, Lector Gary Scott, and the Rev. Rob Picken.



Fall Adult Education Programs - Wednesdays via Zoom

DATES/TIMES	TOPICS
September 16, 23, 30    7:00 – 8:30 P.M.	Spanish Mystics: Due to requests following our conversations about mystics this past summer, we'll join the Holy Cross Monastery program to look at three mystics from Spain: St. Ignatius, St. Theresa of Avila, and St. John of the Cross. These videos are a bit longer than our usual program, so notice that we plan to end around 8:30.
October 7, 14, 21 	Old Testament in the New Testament: The Synoptic Gospels make frequent reference to the Hebrew Bible. We'll take each Gospel and look at those references to see what ideas the writers were drawing on.
November 4, 11, 18 7:00 – 8:00 P.M. 	Becoming an Armchair Mystic: Now might be the perfect time to build a habit of daily prayer. This 3-part series will look at our many options — contemplative prayer, centering prayer, lectio divina, and others.
December 2, 9, 16    7:00 – 8:00 P.M.	Mary through the Centuries: The view of Mary in our tradition has changed significantly over the centuries. Advent seems like the perfect time to examine these views.

Summer Sunday Morning Prayer

During the summer, a service of Morning Prayer was offered via Zoom and Facebook at 9:15 A.M. Seen below is a composite of participants in the July 12 service, including the Rev. Rob Picken, the Rev. Jay Burkhardt, the Rev. Sue Ouellette, Dr. Robert Poovey, Lectors Nancy Grear and Carol Panzer, and Organ Scholar Dale Nickell.



Seen in cameos are lectors for other summer services –

BACK: Chari Krenis, Cheri Potter, Chris Moore, Gary Scott, Erin Glanton, Susan Dow, and Julie Gedro.

FRONT: Erin Wright, Nancy Curtis, Rita Lancy, Ingrid Stanlis, Kevin Frisch, Angie Jones, and Bill Allison.

Seen at the right are musicians who provided sacred music during summer worship services –

TOP: Vincent Reale, Gordon Porth, and Grace Wong.
MIDDLE: Dr. Robert Poovey, Chris Moore, and Nancy Curtis.

BOTTOM: Carol Rodland.



Summer and Fall Worship Opportunities

Noonday Prayer

All summer long and extending into the fall, St. Paul's worship leaders have offered Noon Day Prayer each Monday – Friday via Facebook. The Service of Noonday Prayer that begins on page 103 of the Book of Common Prayer guides the worship which has been held in a variety of venues, from formal to informal. Participants can offer prayers via the chat function of the Facebook screen.



ABOVE: The Noonday Prayer leaders shown on different days in a variety of locations: The Rev. Rob Picken, the Rev. Jay Burkardt, the Rev. Sue Ouellette, Dr. Robert Poovey, and Nancy Grear.



Summer Opportunity: Private Prayer in the Chantry

This past summer, St. Paul's opened the Chantry for personal prayer and reflection on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Worshippers were asked to enter and exit via the Chantry entrance, use provided hand sanitizer, take their temperature, and sign the guest register as demonstrated by Rob Picken at the left.

Fall Evening Prayer

New on Saturday, August 29 and extending into the fall, is a service of Evening Prayer. This prerecorded service includes more music, including archived recordings by the St. Paul's choir. Each new Evening Prayer service will be uploaded on Saturday afternoons and be available via St. Paul's website or Facebook page all week long.

RIGHT: Seen during the August 29 Evening Prayer service are the Rev. Rob Picken, the Rev. Jay Burkardt, Lectors Carol Panzer and Kitty MacDowell, and Dr. Robert Poovey.



St. Paul's Outreach Update

St. Paul's Responds

In response to the coronavirus pandemic, *St. Paul's Responds* enabled our parish to provide "thank you meals" for essential workers and first responders, and PPE, hand-sanitizer, and financial assistance for area organizations responding to the crisis. Partnering with Episcopal Senior Life Communities and area restaurants, including Jines which donated 125 meals, St. Paul's provided nearly 700 meals to frontline workers at Strong Hospital. A baker's dozen of our parishioners whipped up lots of tasty baked goods for the nurses of the Monroe County Department of Health. The Outreach Council set aside \$10,000 to start and over \$7,000 was raised to supplement the efforts through the generosity of parishioners and friends. More is yet to be done as we see the continued needs of the community. For more information, contact our Rector, who is spearheading the response.



Top Left: Chef and Manager of Branca-Midtown with meals for COVID-ICU nurses.
Top Right: Food Services Manager of Strong Hospital receiving donations.

Bottom Left: Parishioner Andrew Welker with Jay and Rob and the ESLC crew ready to deliver 200 meals.
Bottom Right: Peter Gines and crew from Jines Restaurant.

St. Paul's Outreach Council

Each year, the St. Paul's Outreach Council distributes over \$20,000 in grants to organizations in our community and beyond that share our values and serve those in need. The council meets quarterly to review applications, as well as discuss opportunities to partner with like-minded institutions on larger projects. In the last few years, St. Paul's Church has supported: REACH Housing in Rochester; St. Mark and St. John's Urban Gardens (Rochester); Eastern Service Workers Association; THAII School for Girls (India); the Arnett House for Homeless and Sex-Trafficked LGBTQ Youth (Rochester); Rural and Migrant Ministries (Lyons); and, much more. To learn more about activities funded through the Outreach Council, contact Bob Shaddock, Chairperson (bshaddock@juno.com).

Adopt a Classroom Project at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School #9

Since 1999, St. Paul's **Adopt a Classroom Project** has helped to build literacy skills of kindergarteners and first graders at Rochester's School #9, by training and providing materials for tutors to design weekly sessions. Each year all students receive 10 gift books to support their reading skills. The pandemic put this outreach activity on hold. Recently, parishioners responded to a request from School 9 faculty for school supplies for students to use while learning at home. The supplies were gathered at St. Paul's on September 3 and delivered to the school. There are plans for volunteers to tutor students via Zoom this fall. To learn more, contact Paula Valeri at 585-748-7048 or pvaleri@stpaulsec.org.

RIGHT: Adopt a Classroom Chair Paula Valeri, the Rev. Rob Picken, Ruth Hazzard, and a generous neighbor are seen with some of the supplies contributed on September 3.



St. Paul's Child Care Center

St. Paul's Child Care Center has been part of the St. Paul's Community since 1989. It is an accredited, not-for-profit, non-denominational, child care center providing quality care for infants and young children ages 8 weeks to 5 years. The Center is a community partner with the Rochester City School District offering a Universal Pre-Kindergarten program for four-year-olds. The Center was closed from late March until June 1 when a limited number of children were welcomed back under strict federal, state and local guidelines. Since August 1, all classrooms are open for children whose parents are working. In the coming year, challenges abound for the Child Care Center. The Center has been helped by generous donations from the Child Care Center community as well as the St. Paul's Outreach Council, and individual St. Paul's parishioners. Previously, the Center has welcomed volunteers to read to children or participate in various activities, but this is not possible for now due to the pandemic. If you would like to volunteer by reading to the children via Zoom, please call 244-4527. Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Child Care Center Board of Directors, should contact Rita Lancy at ritalancy1530@gmail.com or 585-281-7507. Michelle Mousseau, Executive Director.

St. Paul's Outreach Update

If Music Be The Food

Each year, St. Paul's hosts two concerts presented by talented musicians, both professional and Eastman School students, to raise funds for Foodlink. Those attending are asked to donate nonperishable food items or cash for Foodlink to provide meals for those needing them. Due to the pandemic, St. Paul's will host the first of these concerts live-streamed on October 25. To learn more, contact Dr. Robert Poovey at 585-271-2240 or robert@stpaulsec.org.

If Music Be The Food Live-Stream Concert

Sunday, October 25 7:30 P.M.

Featuring our Director of Music,
Dr. Robert Poovey,
with Steven Doane,
Rosemary Elliott, and
their son Benjamin
(a family of cellists).

Stay tuned for details!



Paul's Place: RAIHN at St. Paul's

The Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network (RAIHN) provides shelter, meals, and support to families in crisis, as well as aftercare and stabilization support for a year. RAIHN is one of over 200 affiliates of the national Family Promise organization involving more than 2000 faith congregations. St. Paul's is one of 14 host faith communities in our county that normally house families for one week at a time, four times a year. In normal times guest families eat, spend family time, and sleep in St. Paul's rooms, supported by 60+ volunteers. Each morning, guest families would take the RAIHN bus to its Day Center to receive additional services. Due to the pandemic, RAIHN cannot provide services at its Day Center and is sheltering families at a motel. Parishes and partners still provide meals. RAIHN's Prevention and Rehousing program helps families avoid homelessness. In a normal year it helps 48 families, but by August 1 this year it had already helped 47 families. Funding for this effort is being provided by individuals. To learn more, contact Judy McGrath at jpmcgrath@rochester.rr.com, or visit either <http://www.stpaulsec.org> or <http://www.RAIHN.org>.



St. Joseph House of Hospitality

As part of an ecumenical effort, St. Paul's volunteers prepare and serve a hot meal for people who are among the working poor, unemployed and homeless. On the first Sunday of each month, September to June, St. Paul's volunteers normally gather at St. Joseph House of Hospitality on South Avenue to help feed as many as 75 adults and children in a restaurant setting. Due to the pandemic, volunteers now make bag lunches and donate non-perishable groceries to the House. For the foreseeable future, volunteers will donate bag lunches. To learn more, contact Meredith Halter at mhalter@rochester.rr.com.

LEFT: Seen with food collected at St. Paul's for St. Joseph House are Mike Halter, Tim Dewart, Meredith Halter, Karen Capan, and the Rev. Jay Burkardt.

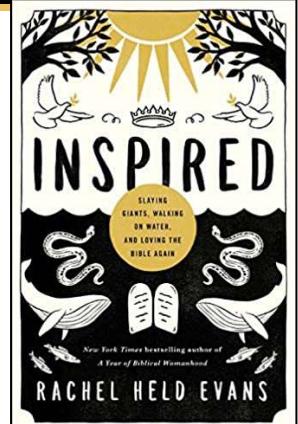
Fall Reading Group: *Inspired* by Rachel Held Evans

Mondays, October 12 - November 9

Time will be set once the group is formed: 2:00 P.M. OR 7:00 P.M.

Rachel Held Evans was an American Christian columnist, blogger and author. She was born in 1981 in Alabama to an evangelical family, and died an Episcopalian in May of 2019. *Inspired* was published a year before her death. In the introduction, Evans states that she's writing for two audiences: * those who share her evangelical background and find themselves navigating the great chasm between Scripture as they learned it and Scripture as what it actually is; and * those who share her affiliation with progressive mainline traditions and want to explore more deeply the background, significance, and relevance of the texts sampled in the liturgy each week."

If you would to read with this group, contact Nancy Grear at 585-305-5727 or nngrear@stpaulsec.org.



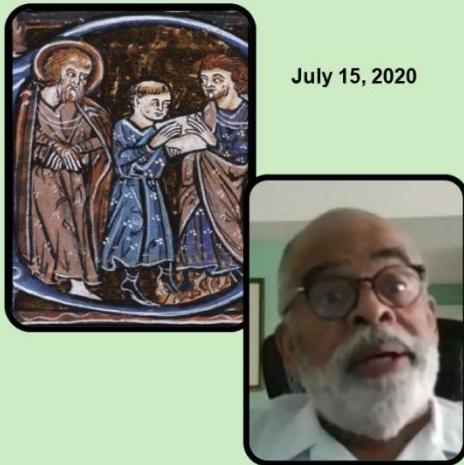
St. Paul's Summer Christian Education Opportunities

What Paul's Letter to Philemon says about slavery

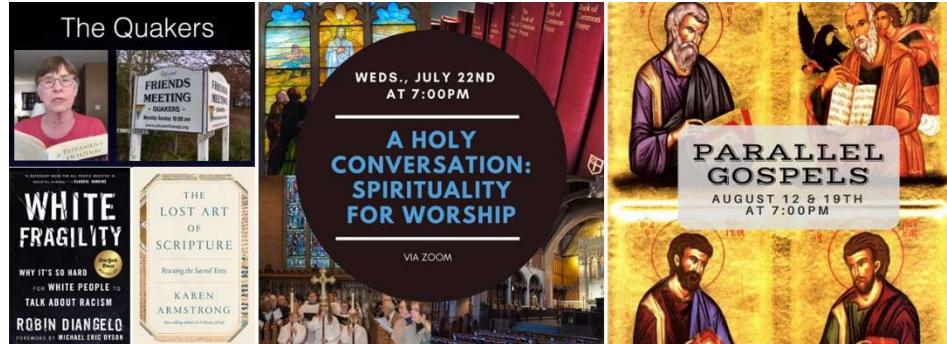
The *Letter to Philemon* is personal correspondence written to one Christian household, and centers on a social issue found in the Roman Empire - how should Philemon (a Christian slave holder) deal with a runaway slave (Onesimus - a recently converted Christian). Paul writes from prison to articulate the power of the gospel to touch human lives and alter the fundamental structures of society. During a meeting held via Zoom on July 15, the Rev. Dr. Lloyd Alexander (Tony Lewis) led participants in a discussion of the issue of slavery in Paul's world and the lessons it provides for us today. Dr. Lewis is Professor of New Testament Emeritus at Virginia Theological Seminary and a priest of the Diocese of Long Island. He is a Canon Theologian in his diocese.

LISTENING TO PAUL'S LETTER TO PHILEMON TODAY

A discussion with the Rev. Tony Lewis, Ph.D.



ABOVE: Dr. Lewis and some of the 60+ participants in the Zoom discussion of The Letter to Philemon.



ABOVE: the topics discussed during Zoom discussions this past summer.

BELLOW: Some of those who participated in one or more of the summer discussions.



Other Christian education programs

St. Paul's provided a number of other options for learning this past summer:

June 24 - Christian spirituality: **Quakers** (the last of four sessions on Christian spirituality, and led by Nancy Grear);

July 22 - Spirituality for Worship (led by the Rev. Rob Picken);

August 12 & 19 – Parallel Gospels (led by Nancy Grear and Rob Picken);

and two book study groups led by Nancy Grear:

July-September – *The Lost Art of Scripture* by Karen Armstrong;

August-September - *White Fragility* by Robin Diangelo.

Other Summer Activities

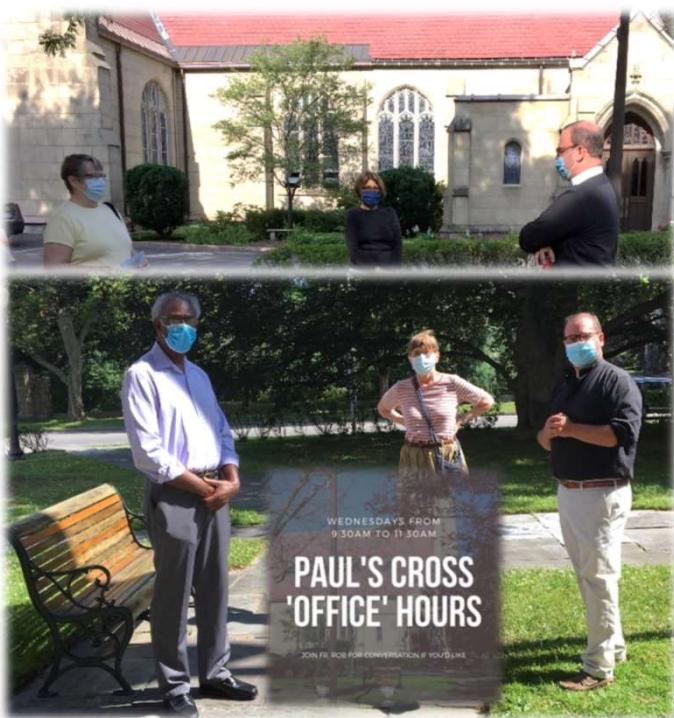
Congratulations to the Rev. Sue Ouellette

Our deacon, the Rev. Sue Ouellette, earned a Masters of Divinity (M. Div.) from Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School. She received her degree on August 17 during a commencement ceremony that had been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Farewell to our Organ Scholar Dale Nickell

Dale Nickell completed his graduate degree at the Eastman School of Music and will be Director of Music at First Presbyterian Church in Columbia, TN. He is bound for success in his vocation and we are glad to have been a part of his formation as a church musician. His last Sunday with us was July 26.



RIGHT: Some of those who participated in one or more of the 10:00 A.M. coffee hour chats on Sundays.

All parishioners are welcomed and encouraged to participate via Zoom as their time allows.

Paul's Cross 'Office' Hours

On Wednesday mornings, Rob Picken worked outside in Paul's Cross (weather permitting) and welcomed parishioners who stopped by to chat. Seen at the left during two of these outdoor office sessions are –

TOP: Cheryl Bero, Linda White, and Rob Picken;

BOTTOM: Floyd Bayley and Nancy Gear with Father Rob.

Sunday Morning Coffee Hour

A popular ongoing event on Sunday mornings is the coffee hour that starts at 10:00 A.M. via Zoom. These sessions have no agenda, and topics covered arise through conversation as they would if we could meet in person.



Other Summer Activities

Lay Weeders tend grounds.

Throughout spring and summer a dedicated group of parishioners planted, weeded, fertilized, and otherwise cared for the plantings around the church building and Wainwright Hall. Seen hard at work (at the right) are Judy McGrath and Maureen Chepiga. Other Lay Weeders included Barbara Fink, Chari Krenis, Bill Moore, and "C-Weeder" Rob Picken.



PHONE-A-FRIEND

Missing that neighbor in your pew? Or curious how a fellow parishioner is doing? Drop a line to your friend -- or send an email or a note. If you've misplaced your directory, or never received one, call or [e-mail](#) the Parish Office and one will be mailed out ASAP.



SERVICES, MEETINGS, EVENTS

Except for the Sunday Ante-Communion Service at 9:15 A.M., parish opportunities for worship and learning are provided electronically. Check your email daily for updates.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

The Parish Office is open by appointment only. Clergy and staff monitor mail, phone calls, and emails. For pastoral needs, call 585-483-0472. Another resource for learning about electronic sessions for worship and learning is our website at <http://stpaulsec.org/>

12-STEP GROUPS ONLINE

The 12-step groups which normally meet at St. Paul's are not meeting at this time. Some may be available online. Contact Alcoholics Anonymous at aa-intergroup.org/. For other 12-step groups, please check with your local or national office.



Bits of History

St. Paul's façade facelift

Sometime in the 1970s, the exterior of St. Paul's Church was changed dramatically. The picture at the left shows the change in mid process. The older building (seen on the top of the tower) sported multi-colored stone features which became all one lighter color due to the treatment (as seen on the lower parts of the building).

Current archivists have not yet discovered mention of the change or the reasons for it. The photo, which is in the archives, has a hand-written label that says only, "sometime between 1970-1977.

Actress Olivia de Havilland visited St Paul's in 1980

Noted actress Olivia de Havilland, who died July 26, 2020, visited Rochester in 1980 as part of an ambitious fund-raising campaign of the National Episcopal Church called Venture in Mission. Ms. de Havilland, a parishioner of the American Cathedral in Paris, and a member of the Episcopal Church's Venture in Mission Campaign Cabinet, traveled to many dioceses as part of the campaign.

On March 22, she participated in a Venture in Mission conference; and on March 23 during St. Paul's Morning Prayer service, she read the lessons and talked about the Venture in Mission initiative. A reception in her honor was held after the service. The George Eastman House took advantage of her visit to give her its annual award for a motion picture star. Ms. de Havilland appeared in 49 feature films and was one of the leading actresses of her time. Her most famous role was that of Melanie in *Gone with the Wind*. Among her many awards were an Oscar, the U.S. National Medal of Arts, the French Knight Legion of Honour, and identification as a British Dame.

UPPER LEFT: At the reception Ms. De Havilland received an "Adventure in Mission" button from Carolyn Parmigiani of the church school's first grade class. The buttons were made by children as part of St. Paul's Lenten Venture in Mission project.

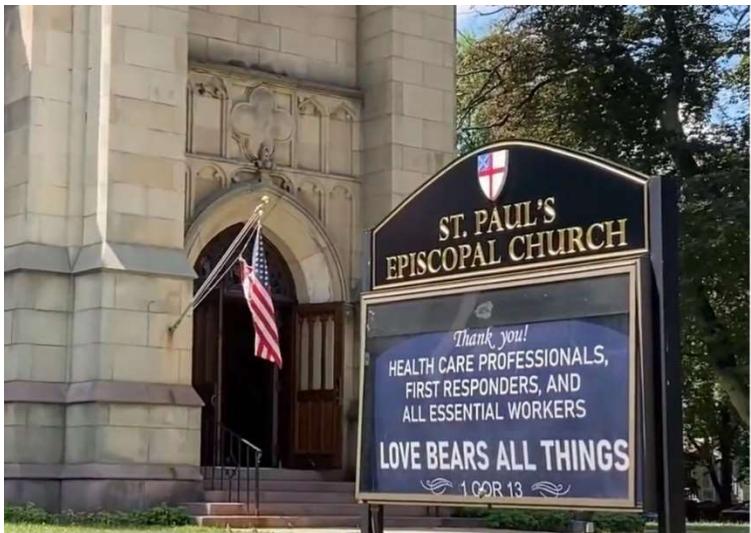
UPPER RIGHT: Ms. de Havilland with the Most Rev. John M. Allin, Presiding Bishop in 1980, on a separate occasion.

LOWER LEFT: At St. Paul's on March 23 – Olivia de Havilland, the Rev. Robert Wainwright, and Peggy Fitter.

LOWER RIGHT: At the reception – Olivia de Havilland with Ted Curtis and Eleanor Kingston.

Three of the photos above appeared in the April 1980 issue of St. Paul's Newsletter.





ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

25 Westminster Rd., Rochester, NY 14607-2223
585-271-2240 • Email: info@stpaulsec.org
Web Site: www.stpaulsec.org

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Schedule of Worship Services

Sunday Ante-Communion in Church & Online

9:15 A.M. live-streamed via YouTube Live.

* The link will be e-mailed and available at www.stpaulsec.org.

* To attend in person, respond to emailed invitation sent each Wednesday or on our website, or call the Parish Office by Thursday at 4:00 P.M.

* The service will be available for replay.

* Beginning at 9:00 A.M., you may join one of the priests in our Zoom Room (ID: 585-271-2240) to both watch the live-stream and share in prayer with others.

* Those without computer access may dial 1-929-205-6099 and follow the instructions to listen to the live-stream.

* Virtual Coffee Hour will follow at 10:00 A.M.

Daily Noonday Prayer Live Mondays through Fridays

[www.facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsec/)

* Join via the St. Paul's Facebook page. Follow along using the Order of Worship for Noonday Prayer beginning on page 103 of the [Book of Common Prayer](#) if you'd like. Facebook allows comments from participants. Watch the video at your convenience.

Saturday Evening Prayer

Uploaded each Saturday Afternoon

* A pre-recorded service of Evening Prayer will be uploaded to our website and shared via e-mail to watch at any time.

* This weekly offering will include lessons, prayers, and hymns and canticles -- both new and archived -- sung by St. Paul's Choir.

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



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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. Burkhardt

The Rev. Sue Ouellette, Ph.D., Deacon

Director of Music
Dr. Robert Poovey

Front Desk Assistant
Natosche Holt

Parish Accountant
Judy McGrath

Director, Adult Faith Formation
Nancy Grear

Accounting & Administrative
Assistant
Lisa Werner

Director, Children, Youth &
Family 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

Director, City School Outreach
Paula Valeri