



# THE EPISTLE

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

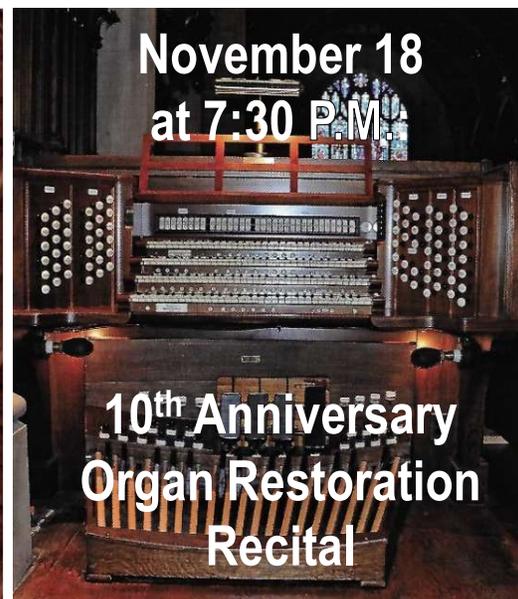
September 2022

## *Plan to attend these celebrations*



September 11  
after both services:  
Rally Day

Joel Krenis photo



November 18  
at 7:30 P.M.

10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Organ Restoration  
Recital

November 6 at 4:00 P.M.: Festival Service & Reception  
for St. Paul's 125 years on East Avenue

In this photo from Easter 1927, note the organ pipes in the ambulatory at the left. These pipes served the original organ that was replaced by our Skinner organ later that year.

See pages 3 - 5 for more about these events.

# A Message from our Rector

September 2022

Dear Friends,

Greetings in the Name of Christ. I hope you have had a relaxing and refreshing summer.

I am so glad to be entering into the 2022-23 program year full-speed-ahead. COVID isn't completely behind us, obviously, but with sensible precautions and responsible individual actions to protect the community, we can move into the Fall at St. Paul's with more enthusiasm than we have over the last two years.



This edition of *The Epistle* includes a lot of information about upcoming events. Please mark your calendars. Also, keep an eye out for other opportunities, such as the return of the monthly Potluck Suppers and other chances for fellowship and community building.

I look forward to seeing you all on Rally Sunday on September 11<sup>th</sup>. As always, I remain,

Your friend and Rector,

(The Rev'd) Robert A. Picken

**Rob shares reflections  
on his sabbatical  
on pages 6-7.**



## Welcome Seminarian Lydia Arnts

Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School (CRCDS) seminarian Lydia Arnts has joined us for a school year to learn about all areas of parish life: liturgical, pastoral, and administrative.

Lydia recently graduated from Ithaca Collage where she earned a Bachelor of Music degree, and will pursue a Master of Divinity during the upcoming academic year.

As part of her education program, she will be with us about ten hours a week until next May.



LEFT: Lydia is seen on August 21, her first day at St. Paul's, with the Rev. Rob Picken and the Rev. Sue Ouellette between the Sunday Eucharist services.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

# RALLY DAY

Kick-Off the 2022-23 program year!  
Sunday, September 11, 2022

**Ministry Fair all morning! Special coffee hour following the 8:00 A.M. service, and a party on the lawn with a food truck following the 10:15 A.M. service.**

Learn more about our parish ministries from some of the volunteers who are already involved and waiting for you in the Parish Hall waiting to visit with you. Come meet with representatives who can tell you about –

- Our ministries to others through our Outreach Committee, the St. Paul's Child Care Center, Family Promise of Greater Rochester, and St. Joseph's House of Hospitality;
- Our ministries within our parish: Altar Guild, Layreaders, Choirs, Adult Formation, Children's Formation/Sunday School, Ushers, Greeters, Flower Delivery, Lay Weeders, Knitting/Prayer Shawls, and Archives.



## Arbor Society Reception

*Held in memory and honor of Jeanne Hutchins*



All are welcome to attend!  
September 11, 2022 at 4:00 pm  
in the Parish Hall



RSVP by 9/6/22 to: [office@stpaulsec.org](mailto:office@stpaulsec.org) or 585-271-2240.

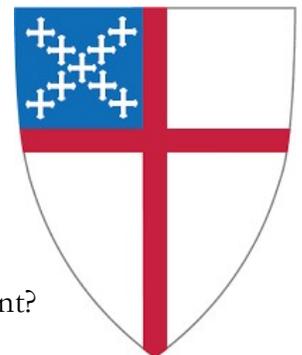


## September Learning Opportunity:

### *A People Called Episcopalians*

September 18 and 25 9:00 A.M. between services

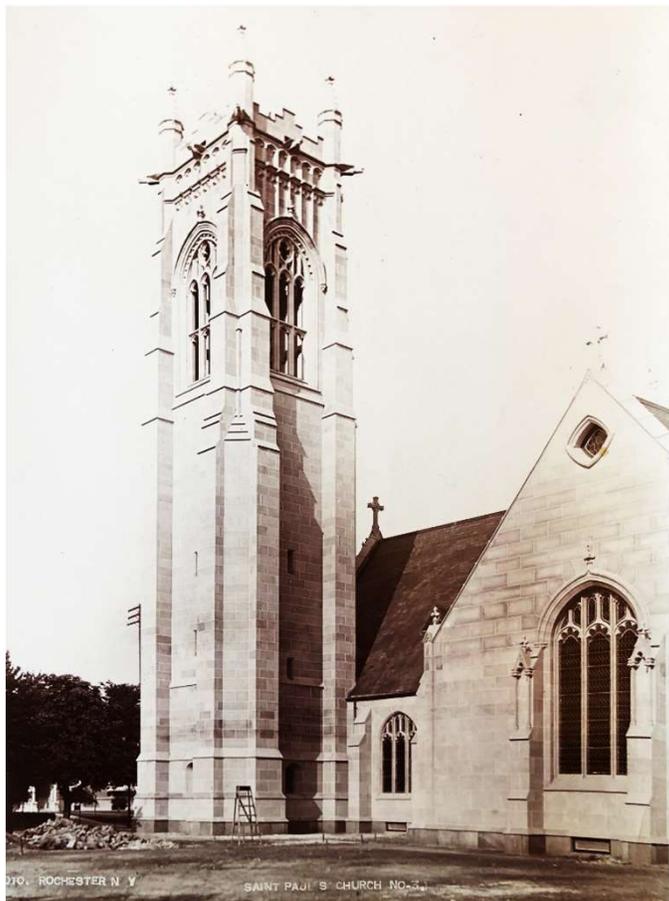
As our program year begins, it is time to look at what it means that we are Episcopalians. What is our identity, authority, spirituality, polity and temperament? Please join us in the Cadigan Room for a discussion of our faith tradition.



# Coming: Celebrating St. Paul's in its Current Home for 125 Years

**November 6, 2022**  
**4:00 P.M.**  
**Festival Service**  
**& Reception**

The building in which we gather to worship is the third edifice to house the St. Paul's congregation. In 1897, St. Paul's moved from its former home in downtown Rochester to its present location on East Avenue.



ABOVE: Our current St. Paul's Church building as it neared completion in 1897.

BELOW: Items from the original St. Paul's that were moved to our new sanctuary on East Avenue include our marble Baptismal Font; our High Altar; the St. Paul and St. John window and Jesus window in the ambulatory; and the parish bell.

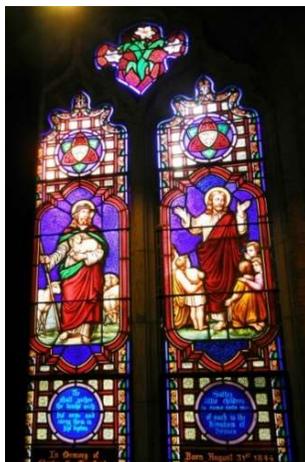
SOURCES: "St. Paul's Episcopal Church Rochester, N.Y." The Foss-Soule Press, 1927; and Vincent S. Jones, editor. "A History of the First 150 Years", St. Paul's Church, 1927; Betsy Brayer (noted local historian), "The Rise of St. Paul's on East Avenue." (publication unlabeled and undated—copy in St. Paul's archives).

St. Paul's was founded in 1827 by parishioners of St. Luke's Episcopal Church who lived east of the Genesee River. The first St. Paul's building was consecrated on August 30, 1830, and was located on Market/St. Paul Street. Population growth, the changing environment of St. Paul Street, and the need for more space led St. Paul's to move. In June 1895, The vestry resolved to sell the St. Paul Street property and erect a new church on East Avenue. The sum realized from the sale of the old church in 1896 formed the beginning of the church building fund, to which were added many substantial subscriptions.

Heins and LaFarge, New York architects, who designed the Cathedral of St. John the Devine and several subway stations in New York City, as well as University of Rochester buildings on University Avenue and Prince Street in Rochester, designed the new edifice. In 1896, the foundations of the church were laid, and during construction services were held in Christ Church on East Avenue. The Rt. Rev. William David Walker, Bishop of Western New York, led the first service at the new site on June 6, 1897. Heins and LaFarge also designed the reredos, which was installed in 1904

The congregation brought many items from the former St. Paul's building with them to the new sanctuary, including our marble Baptismal Font, our main Altar, the two stained glass windows in the western ambulatory, and the bell in the tower.

Historical records indicate that the congregation began a period of rapid growth with its change in location.



# Coming: Recital Celebrating 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Organ Restoration

We will celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the restoration of our Skinner organ on November 18 with a concert by noted organist Bradley Welch. Organ virtuoso Bradley Hunter Welch is in strong demand as a recitalist, concerto soloist, and collaborative artist. His performances have been praised for their "visceral excitement, welcome naturalness, and effortless grace." A native of Knoxville, TN, Bradley holds the Doctor of Musical Arts, Master of Musical Arts, Master of Music degrees, and the Artist Diploma from Yale University. He also holds the Bachelor of Music degree *magna cum laude* from Baylor University. He is a gifted teacher who emphasizes the expressive capabilities of any instrument; collaboration with choirs, instruments, and ensembles; and a coordinated approach to technique that maximizes organ pedal and manual technique.

**November 18, 2022**  
**7:30 P.M.**  
**Organ Recital**  
**with Bradley Welch**

## **Our Skinner organ has been an important part of our worship since 1927.**

Pipe organs are extremely complex musical instruments that take a long time to create and set in place. The history of St. Paul's Skinner organ began with decisions made by our Vestry in 1926 – 1927. During its December 6, 1926 meeting, approved the purchase of a new organ and the establishment of a fund-raising effort to be held early in 1927 to "express the thanksgiving of the parish at the celebration of its centennial."

In May 1927, the Vestry approved the purchase of a Skinner organ to be installed in a new chamber located above the former chamber. In June 1927, the Vestry contracted with the Skinner Company for the organ, and approved funds to create a new organ chamber and other needed structural changes. The creation of the new organ and the space in which to house the organ pipes took several years. In the former pipes chamber, the Norton Chapel was established.



TOP ROW: Restored organ console.

BOTTOM ROW: Views of the organ restoration process in 2012.

### SOURCES:

December 6, 1926 Vestry minutes, page 2 (page 291 of minutes book);  
April 14, 1927 Vestry minutes, page 5 (page 315 of minutes book);  
May 2, 1927 Vestry minutes, page 2 (page 319 of minutes book);  
May 8, 1927 Vestry minutes, page 1 (page 323 of minutes book);  
June 6, 1927 Vestry minutes, page 2 (page 327 of minutes book).

# From Our Rector: Some Sabbatical Reflections

A few weeks before I left on sabbatical, a good friend and colleague advised, “you won’t know what you need from your sabbatical until you’re on it; don’t overschedule yourself.” I truly came to understand this over the weeks that I was away and what follows is a barebones attempt at offering some highlights and a reflection.

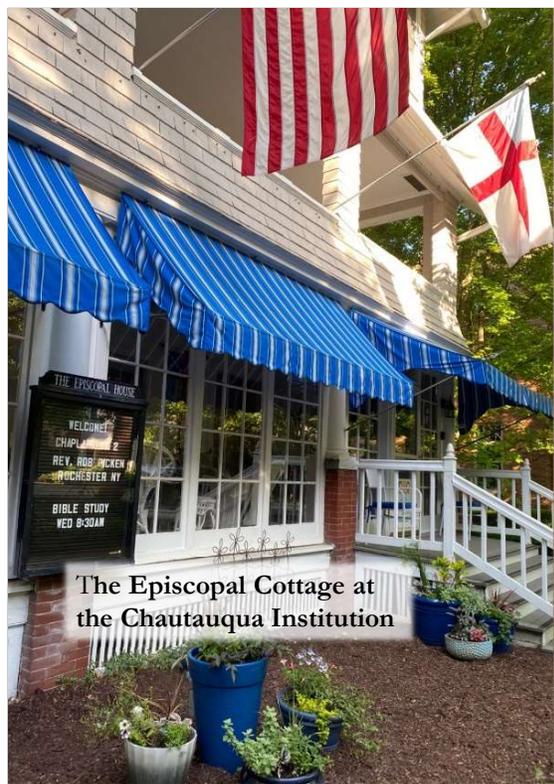
The first weeks of my two months of sabbatical was scheduled to be on retreat as well as visiting a friend and colleague in France and at Sarum College (UK) for study. I was forced to postpone this to next year because of a back injury that prevented long-distance travel. At first, I was pretty disappointed and worried I wouldn’t know how to fill the time; I came to realize later what a gift it was to not rush from one activity to the next.

I spent some time on Seneca Lake and at home disconnecting from my usual routine (and accomplishing some projects around the house) before heading off to the Chautauqua Institution to serve as the guest Episcopal Chaplain. As the guest chaplain, I stayed the Episcopal Cottage (ECOC) and led Sunday and daily Eucharist in the Episcopal Chapel of the Good Shepherd. Having heard from so many in our parish about the joys of Chautauqua (CHQ), I was glad finally to make a visit – and, I look forward to returning. It was my time here that set the tone for the rest of my sabbatical.

The CHQ Chaplain of the Week was The Rev. Dr. Randall Bush, a Presbyterian minister from Maryland. Randy is a kind and intelligent man, and a fine preacher. Trained first as a musician, his sermons used musical terminology as a starting point. For example, in his sermon *The Minor 2<sup>nd</sup>: A Necessary Dissonance*, Dr. Bush challenged us to see dissonance as diversity and a chance to build harmony amidst difference. In *Resolutions Today: Minor 7<sup>th</sup>*, Bush told us that our faith is longing to go somewhere, “you can’t hold that pose (chord)... Faith is counter-cultural: it call us to justice, to welcome, to speak up; it call us to hope in despair.” Bush told us that the *Perfect 4<sup>th</sup>* exhibits a righteousness given to us in Christ and the *Tri-tone* (or, *Devil’s Tone*) challenges us to Christ-like action in the midst the socio-political challenges around us. Finally, in *Expanding What’s Possible: The Major 7<sup>th</sup>*, Dr. Bush reminded us that “any faith congregation that is only inward focused is doomed. There is either growth or decline; there is no holding steady.” He added that people of faith are called to expand what’s possible today, saying: “we can love now even though there’s a day when we will love perfectly; we can act justly now because there’s a day when God’s kingdom will be brought to perfection.”

In addition to the fine preaching and outstanding music – St. Paul’s own Lara Sipols and Payton Dziekan played in the orchestras – the guest speakers for the week were impressive. From the Hon. Bob Ingliss, Executive Director of RepublicEN.org, a conservative climate action organization, to Oren Lyons of the Onondagan Nation, who asked us to consider the seventh generation following us, to Dr. Kelsey Leonard of the Shinnecock Nation and authors Terry Tempest Williams and John Philip Newell, there was no shortage of opportunities to learn and engage challenging topics and ideas. Two speakers stood out for me. (Continued on p7.)

BELOW: Rob joins the ushers and crucifer in welcoming worshippers to the Episcopal Chapel of the Good Shepherd at Chautauqua for their Independence Day Service.



# From Our Rector: Some Sabbatical Reflections (continued)

The first is Sophronia Scott, author of *The Seeker of the Monk: Everyday Conversations with Thomas Merton*. An Episcopalian herself, Sophronia came to my little study program at the Cottage on the “Imagination of St. Benedict.” After asking me why I chose the word “imagination” in my title--she’s a creative writing professor, after all – we had a fascinating chat about her latest book and upcoming lecture. (She’s looking forward to a return visit to CHQ as a guest and a visit then to preach at St. Paul’s.) During her talk, she read in part from her book, “Merton found somehow beneath the branches, on the sides of the hills, in the nature a sense of transcendence. I’m guessing that being doused in words for so many years, suddenly he could be in this expansive, silent space with God and just listen.” This is not necessarily prayer, which people usually understand to be about talking to God. This was about reaching out. This was about feeling.” As Chaplain, I was assigned the week “Re-connecting with the Wild” and, as luck (or the Holy Spirit) would have it, it gave me the chance to reflect on how important the wonder of nature, particularly water, is to my own spiritual life – something I’ve never really focused much on but is painfully obvious upon reflection.

The second speaker to highlight is Brandon Stanton, the founder of the photography project *Humans of New York (HONY)*. By his own acknowledgement an amateur photographer at best, he one day snapped a quick photo of two boys with their moms on a subway in Chicago and a project was born. It has turned into a massive global enterprise of connecting with individuals and listening to their stories using portrait photography. (Look up his work; I’ve been following *HONY* for many years!) He encouraged us to build connections and listen to the stories of others in an effort to help heal divisions, real or perceived. What struck me most was a line from his own story: “you are what you think about all day.”

I’ve joked that I guess I’m a martini or a pizza; in truth, I’ve come to realize it is much deeper than that and it connected for me with what I read on my first weekend on sabbatical, that I’ll share again. In his book *Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal, and Delight in our Busy Lives*, Wayne Muller writes: “[Sabbath is] a time consecrated with our attention, our mindfulness, honoring the quiet forces of grace or spirit that sustain and heal us.”

This time of rest and renewal taught me how important it is to focus on the people, things, ideas, practices, etc. that I value deeply and that sustain me. I am thankful to the time spent with family and friends and the unique opportunity to disconnect to the daily schedule of the parish. Very little else in the last two decades of ministry (including seminary) has compared with this opportunity for reflection on and learning about my vocation -- and for that I am grateful.



## Summer Learning Activities Summer Bible Study

Participants met between services each Sunday from June 19 - August 7 to discuss each Sunday’s scripture lessons in the Vestry Room.

Discussions were led by Nancy Grear and John Hazzard; and participants included the Rev. Jay Burkardt, the Rev. Sue Ouellette, Tim Dewart, Erin Glanton, Ruth Hazzard, Lindsay Korth, Suzie Spencer, and Judy Wadsworth.

## Summer Book Group

Participants met online weekly in July 11 and August to discuss the last Rachel Held Evans book, *Wholehearted Faith*, which explores how one might find a path forward in Christianity. Pictured are those who met on August 1.



# Summer at St. Paul's



## Sundays on Thursdays

A casual, brief Service of Evening Prayer with Communion was offered on Thursday evenings at 5:30 P.M., outside in Paul's Cross on sunny days and inside on not-so-sunny days. The readings for each service were those to be used during worship on the following Sundays.

Seen are worshippers with the Rev. Rob Picken on June 9 (top and middle left), the Rev. Jay Burkardt on June 23 (top and middle right), and the Rev. Sue Ouelette on July 14 (bottom). Most services included Holy Eucharist. The July 14 service was Ante-Communion.



ABOVE: Nancy Gear with other participants in Chautauqua Institution's "Guild of the Seven Seals" on their way to be honored for their achievement.

## Nancy Gear Graduates from Chautauqua Program

Successful participants in Chautauqua Institution's "Guild of the Seven Seals" program who read 26 books from the program's reading list were honored for their achievement. Each year a "class" of people are inducted into the program to read and discuss 12 assigned books. The program is a multi-year activity. There are six higher levels in all, with a total of 201 books to read.

## Baptism

On July 10 at the 10:15 A.M. service, we welcomed Nybol Malual Awak Thongjang into the household of God through Holy Baptism.

Pictures by Nancy Andrus and Erin Glanton



# Ministries Update

## St. Paul's Outreach Committee

The mission of the Outreach Committee of St. Paul's Church is to seek out and provide monetary gifts in support of philanthropic and humanitarian organizations in the local and wider community, especially those that exemplify our values of Supporting Youth, Feeding the Hungry, and Providing Housing for All. Each year, the committee distributes over \$20,000 in gifts to organizations in our community and beyond that build on those values to serve those in need.

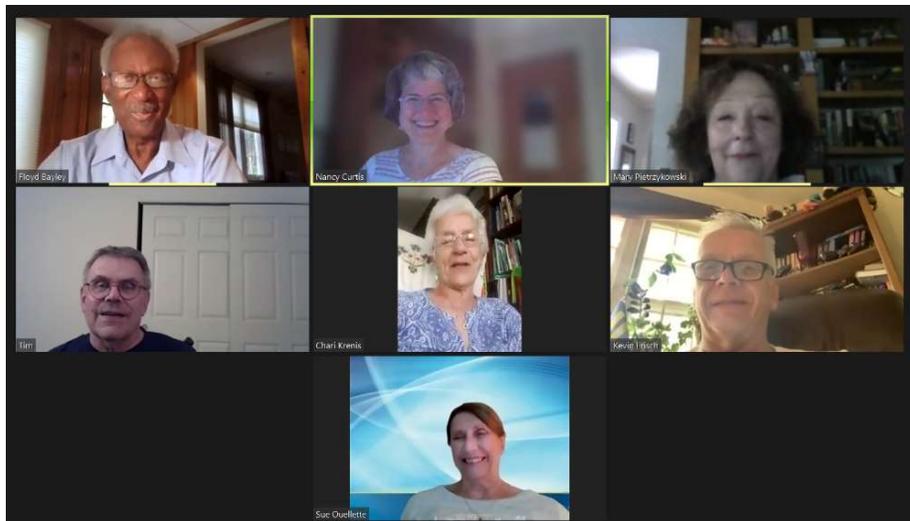
The council meets monthly to review gift requests, as well as to discuss opportunities to partner with like-minded institutions on larger projects. So far in 2022, we have provided gifts to the Boys and Girls Club of Rochester, the City Roots Community Land Trust, the Eastern Service Workers Association, Meals on Wheels of Monroe County,

Mothers in Need of Others, Person Centered Housing Options, Rural & Migrant Ministries, and the Absolom Jones Fund at "Two Saints" Church.

We look forward to doing even more both this year and beyond! To learn more about the Outreach Committee, contact Floyd Bayley, Chair ([fbayley42@gmail.com](mailto:fbayley42@gmail.com)).

LEFT: Outreach Council members at their August meeting via Zoom.

Text and photo provided by Nancy Curtis..



## Update on Needs at St. Joseph's House of Hospitality

This fall we are still going to be serving bag lunches on the first Saturday of each month. Due to the latest COVID variant, not all of the churches that serve St. Joseph House are ready to return to serve home cooked meals, so all supporting groups will continue to help by providing lunches. As a result, starting on the first Saturday of September, we will resume providing 70-75 bag lunches each month.

We are also going to be assisting the St. Joseph pantry. When people come off the street to St. Joseph's House, staff there work to put together a bag of groceries depending on what they have on hand. So, if you are interested in helping out, please contribute cans of tuna fish, containers of Mac 'N Cheese, canned fruit, pasta, pasta sauce, and canned veggies. Please put food donations in the grocery cart at church, or drop them off during the week to St. Paul's.

DONATE TO  
**St Joe's House**

**Pasta ▪ Canned Tuna  
Fruit Cups or Cans  
Mac & Cheese Singles**

**DROP OFF AT ST. PAUL'S**  
Sunday Mornings in the Narthex  
Tuesdays-Thursdays 10:30am to 2:30pm

To learn more or to participate in this ministry, contact Meredith Halter at [mhalter@rochester.rr.com](mailto:mhalter@rochester.rr.com).

# Changes on Our Campus

## Boiler replacement

From June thru August, in the basement and largely unseen, a major change was made to our heating and cooling system. The old 1968 boiler was removed after asbestos abatement work removed the danger of handling the boiler and its pipes. A new more efficient boiler was installed by end of August that should help us control costs.



## Large Copper Beech Tree Removed

The copper birch tree at the northwest corner of our parish property had to be cut down this summer for the safety of our neighbors, parishioners, school children, and our campus. After a year of rehab and anti-insect treatment, the tree did not recover.



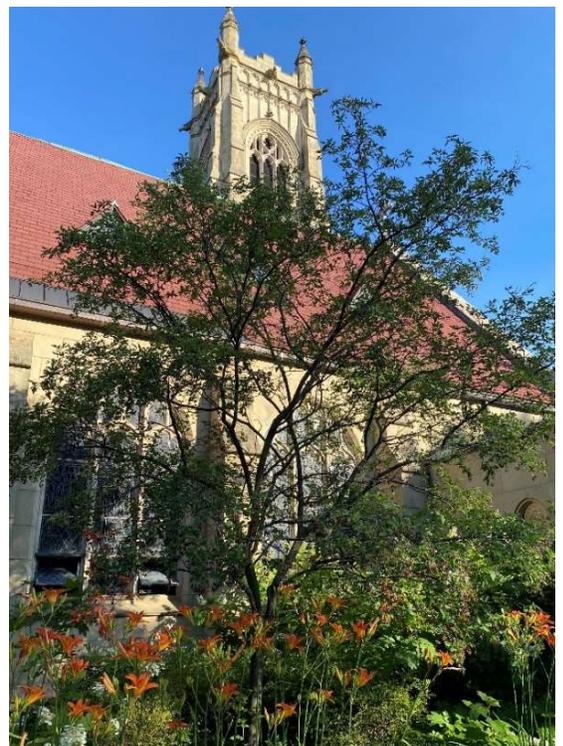
UPPER LEFT: The copper birch is seen when it was much younger at the far right (darker color, seem partially) in the photo at the left which was taken about 1915. Its size in 1915 indicates that it likely existed before the church was built. Copper beech trees have a lifespan of about 100 years in our region, and ours was over 125 years of age. Records in our parish archives indicate that the trees on our campus have been well cared for by professional nurserymen over the years.

ABOVE: Pictures in the bottom row illustrate the extent of the damage to the tree. The close-up of the trunk shows some of the arthropods that helped to destroy the tree. At the right the process of cutting down the tree can be seen.

## Summer Profusion of Color

All summer long, our plantings provided a colorful backdrop to our buildings and outdoor worship.

Thanks to our LayWeeders for keeping our campus beautiful.



# Parish Leaders Attend College of Congregational Development

Three St. Paul's leaders—Warden Erin Glanton, Warden Ingrid Stanlis, and Vestry Member Julie Gedro—attended the diocesan-sponsored College for Congregational Development (CCD) for a week in August. The CCD equips leaders to look at their parish's current reality (Who are we? What are we? Where are we?), discern their future (What is God calling us to be at this time and in this place?), and work on strategies, goals, and actions to get to that future.



Photos by Erin Glanton

The College for Congregational Development seeks to develop healthy, faithful, sustainable congregations able to fulfill their calling to be the body of Christ in a particular place, time, and community. The training includes exploring theory; engaging in applied exercises and experiential learning; and planning, doing, and reflecting on parish-level projects.

ABOVE LEFT: Ingrid Stanlis, Julie Gedro, and Erin Glanton completing the second year of the two-year program.  
ABOVE RIGHT: Julie Gedro facilitating a CCD session.



## Our 2022 St. Paul's Memorial Scholarship Recipients



The following high school graduates have received St. Paul's Memorial scholarships to help support their higher education: Harrison West Davis, Monique Holt, Julia Smith, and Lily Smith.



### 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.

Merciful God,

we entrust to your never-failing care and love

**Ann Salter and Robert Shaddock.**

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.

# Farewell to Day Care Center Director



On July 14, St. Paul's members in leadership roles with the St. Paul's Child Care Center gathered with Michelle Mousseau as she left her position as Executive Director of the Center, to thank her for her 10 years in that role and to wish her well. Seen are Michelle Mousseau (in front), Les Kernan, the Rev. Jay Burkardt, Rita Lancey, Brent Johnson, and Erin Glanton, as well as the farewell cake.

## ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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585-271-2240 • Email: [info@stpaulsec.org](mailto:info@stpaulsec.org)  
Web Site: [www.stpaulsec.org](http://www.stpaulsec.org)

«Label»  
«Address1»  
«Address2»  
«City», «State» «Zip»

### 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.

### 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.

To contribute information for *The Epistle*,  
contact Judy Wadsworth, Editor.

View the full church calendar at:  
[www.stpaulsec.org](http://www.stpaulsec.org)  
• Visit us on Facebook



### St. Paul's Ministry Staff

Rector <b>The Rev. Robert A. Picken</b>	Assistant Rector <b>The Rev. Jay P. Burkardt</b>
<b>The Rev. Sue Ouellette, Ph.D., Deacon</b> Lydia Arnts, Seminarian	
<b>Director of Music</b> Dr. Robert Poovey	<b>Director of Communications &amp; Digital Ministry</b> Sonja Slother
<b>Organ Scholar</b> Augustine Sobeng	<b>Parish Office Administrator</b> Natosche Holt
<b>Director, Adult Faith Formation</b> Nancy Grear	<b>Parish Accountant</b> Judy McGrath
<b>Director, Children and Youth Faith Formation</b> Amy Welker	<b>Accounting Assistant</b> Lisa Werner
<b>Sunday Child Care</b> Dorothea (Dorrie) Champlin Candace Hoffman-Hussain	<b>Property Manager</b> Bob Potter
<b>Wedding &amp; Funeral Coordinator</b> Judy Loveland	<b>Maintenance Associates</b> Dave McEntee Jim D'Angelo