



JANUARY 2024

# 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."*

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Dear Friends,

Christmas and Epiphany Greetings! Together, 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!

During January, I will be on a month's study leave as the last month of my sabbatical from 2022. I am grateful to the Wardens for their encouragement (read: *insistence*) that I take this time. While I will enjoy some time with family and friends, the focus of my time will be spent on working on a project for Church Publishing that is due in the Spring. More on that later this year! I am thankful to all of you for giving me this opportunity to have an extended period of time off, especially during the program year. And, I look forward to returning for the **Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, January 28!**

## A message from the Rector

### Save the Date:

**Wednesday, January 3rd:**

Parish Potluck Dinner in the Parish Hall at 6:00 pm

**Saturday, January 6th:**

St Joe's Sandwich Makers in the Parish Kitchen at 9:30 am

**Sunday, January 14th:**

Sunday Forum: Works of Rachel Held Evans in the Cadigan Room at 9:00 am

**Sunday, January 21st:**

Sunday Forum: Works of Rachel Held Evans in the Cadigan Room at 9:00 am

**Sunday, January 21st:**

Altar Guild meeting in the Vestry Room at 9:00 am

**Sunday, January 28th:**

Annual Parish Meeting following the 10:15 am service

After the success of last year's Annual Meeting discussions, we will again be focused on material from the College for Congregational Development in addition to the usual business. This year, we will have table conversations with the CCD team members on how we invite, greet, orient, and incorporate parishioners – new and seasoned – into a community of faith transformed by God's grace.

Wishing you and your loved ones a happy and healthy new year, I remain,

Your friend and Rector,

(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:

- At our December meeting, we welcomed nominees who participated as observers. Our discussion focused on a report from the property committee, shared expenses and a formal space use agreement with the independent St. Paul's Childcare Center, and other governance matters.

- We learned Schein's Levels of Organizational Culture as a College for Congregational Development model for looking at the life of St. Paul's.

- Finally, we elected delegates to the special electing convention for our next bishop to be held in February: Kevin Frisch, Julie Gedro, and Stan Refermat. These were our delegates to the previous diocesan convention and it is customary to send the same to a special one held during the period between conventions.

- Our January meeting will focus on the final review of the 2024 budget, some organizational matters, the Annual Parish Meeting, and we will elect delegates to the diocesan convention in October.

- In January, we will also continue our preparations for our Mutual Ministry Review in April by using the Benedictine Life model from CCD as a lens to view our congregation.



*Remembrance candles from St. Paul's "All Saints Service."*

*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  
Nan Brown  
Chari Krenis  
Erin Wright  
Kevin Frisch  
Julie Gedro  
Brent Johnson  
Mara Hazzard-Wallingford  
Christopher Moore

# Annual Meeting: Sunday, January 28th

## Nominations for Warden & Vestry Members

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present this slate of candidates for election at the Annual Parish Meeting to be held on Sunday, January 28, 2024.

- \* Candidate for Warden (2-year term): Erin Glanton
- \* Candidates for Vestry (3-year term): Floyd Bayley, Laura Carr, Chari Krenis
- \* Candidate for Vestry (2-year term): Swing Harre

Erin has completed her first term as Warden and is eligible for another two terms. Likewise, Chari has completed her first term on the Vestry and is eligible for another term. Floyd and Laura are both nominated for their first term on the Vestry, and Swing is 2-year unexpired term.

The Nominating Committee is tasked with presenting a slate of candidates with one person nominated for each open position. Additional nominations are allowed and can be made at, or prior to, the Annual Meeting. Nominations made prior to January 24th allow for candidates to have their biographical information included in materials prepared for the Annual Meeting. A write-in nomination must be made by a parishioner in good standing and be seconded by 10 additional parishioners in good standing; the nominee must also meet the requirements for the office and agree to stand for office. For questions, additional information, or to make a nomination prior to the Annual Meeting, please contact Ingrid at [istanlis@gmail.com](mailto:istanlis@gmail.com).

The members of the Nominating Committee this year include: Ingrid Stanlis (Chair, with no vote, except in a tie), Jane Chapman, John Hazzard, Mara Hazzard-Wallingford, Ed Rubel, Erin Wright, and The Rev'd Rob Picken (Ex-Officio and non-voting).

Respectfully Submitted on behalf of the Nominating Committee,  
Ingrid Stanlis



### **Erin Glanton**

Erin Glanton found her spiritual home at St. Paul's and was received here thirty-six 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), graduated from the College for Congregational Development, and participates in St. Paul's Sacred Ground series, book groups, adult formation, and the needle arts ministry. She coordinates the lectors and has sung in the Senior Choir at St. Paul's for the last 35 years.

Erin and Al, her husband, live in Brighton. She retired five 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 University. Erin serves on the Human Resources Committee for Family Promise of Greater Rochester (formerly RAIHN). She is honored to be nominated again for the position of warden.



## **Floyd Bayley**

Since becoming a member of St. Paul's in the 70's, Floyd has served in several missions of the church and the Diocese. He previously served on the Vestry and recently served as chair of the Outreach Committee.

In what may be called his "freshman and sophomore" years at St. Paul's he served as Sunday school teacher, Crucifer, Usher, Stephen Ministry and on the Long Range Planning Committee.

Over the years, Floyd has gained broad experience and knowledge of the Episcopal polity and the inner workings of our Diocese. He was elected to Diocesan Council where he served as chair of the Congregational Development Partnership Committee. He is now serving on the Bishop's Standing Committee and is active in the search for the 9th Bishop of the Diocese.

Floyd said he would welcome the privilege and opportunity to serve on the vestry.



## **Laura Carr**

Laura Carr grew up in Wayne County, graduating from high school in Newark, NY. She went to school in the North Country attending St. Lawrence University and majored in Economics and Environmental Studies. While studying there Laura completed research that was published and earned awards representing both departments. Over the years, she spent time staying home with her kids, and has worked in different roles for HSBC Bank, Paychex, the Town of Webster, and currently she works for Webster School District as Administrative Assistant, and part-time for Wegmans in

the Accounting Office.

Laura's family started attending St. Paul's in 2006, and have since celebrated the Baptism of her 3 kids: Leo (17 yrs), Oliver (15 yrs), and Ruby (9 yrs), the Confirmation of her 2 boys, and held the funeral service for her husband, Mason, in 2021. She is thankful for the support that St. Paul's has shown her family, and admires the commitment to grow and involve youth and family programming within the church. For the past 15 years she has lived in Webster, NY and has always appreciated how St. Paul's pulls in families from all over the county (and beyond), which adds to the richness of our congregation and community.

In her free time, Laura enjoys reading memoirs and going to see live music and attending theater productions. As a family, Laura and her kids like finding small adventures spending time outdoors hiking or kayaking and finding day trips to explore the area.



## **Chari Krenis**

Chari was born on November 29th on Long Island. Her father worked for the federal government building airports during World War II. This meant that she moved frequently, attending nine schools by the time she graduated from Camp Hill H.S.

In 1960 she graduated from William Smith College with the B.A. cum laude. The following year she earned the M.A.T. degree from Johns Hopkins University. In 1966, she was awarded the PhD degree from the University of Minnesota with concentrations in educational, child and school psychology. Chari taught at

University of Minnesota, University of Maryland, University of Winnipeg and University of Rochester. She finished her career with 23 years at Greece Athena High School.

Chari calls herself a “genetic Episcopalian” as church membership goes back many generations on both sides of her family. (Her brother and she were baptized by their grandfather, a priest of this diocese). Before serving on St. Paul’s vestry, Chari served on the vestry of St. Stephen’s (Rochester). She has volunteered with the Rochester Interfaith Jail Ministry, School #9 tutoring, 19th Ward Community Association, Women Helping Girls, and Rochester Women’s Giving Circle.



## **Swing Harre**

Swing Harre moved to Rochester with her husband, David, in the fall of 2012 to join a daughter who relocated to Rochester. They joined St. Paul’s where David served on the Vestry for several terms.

Their first St. Paul’s was in Alexandria, Virginia in 1967 where they were both active for forty years. Their first retirement was to Beaufort, North Carolina where they lived for six years and joined their second St. Paul’s.

Swing was born in Washington DC and lived many places growing up as the daughter of an Air Force officer until she went to Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN. She was a Southern Baptist, following the tradition of her family of origin, until graduating from college when she went to live in the Northern Virginia area.

A formative part of her search for truth was her participation in The Church of the Savior about which several books have been written. The Church was a nondenominational Christian church located in Washington DC which forged new paths of social justice and required serious study by its participants – offering classes in Christian history, theology, and the Christian life studying Paul Tillich, Kierkegaard, Teilhard de Chardin, Abbe De Tourville and others. Swing and David met and married at The Church of the Savior.

Swing was a Speech Therapist in Fairfax County Schools for nine years. After a number of part-time jobs in speech therapy while raising three daughters, she became the Chapter Relations Director for The American Inns of Court. The members are judges and lawyers who meet monthly to mentor new lawyers in ethics and civility in the practice of law.

I would call myself a seeker of truth - spiritual and psychological and intellectual. I love the liturgy and tradition of the Episcopal church. While I am not a “cradle to grave” Episcopalian, I feel that my spirit is very much at home in St. Paul’s Rochester. I welcome the opportunity to contribute to St. Paul’s.

# “Sing a new Song unto the Lord!”

## St. Paul’s Choir

*Peter DuBois, Interim Organist and Choirmaster*

The new year brings new opportunities - and one of those is to consider joining the wonderful St. Paul’s Choir! January is the perfect time to join, as we begin to prepare music for coming liturgies and an Evensong in February. Plus, you’ll get a jump start on preparations for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter! Membership is open to all, high school age and above, with a desire to sing and serve the Church in this way. Music reading ability is helpful, as well as a commitment to rehearsals (Wednesdays from 7 - 8:30pm) and services on Sundays (9:30-11:30am). We are open to singers in all voice parts!



For more information, or to indicate your interest, please see Peter DuBois after service on Sunday, or email him at [music@stpaulsec.org](mailto:music@stpaulsec.org). For those interested

in joining, no audition is required, just a meeting with Peter before attending your first rehearsal.



*Photos from the Festival Eucharist service on Christmas Eve at 3:00 pm.*



# Quilt of Crosses

Submitted by Linda White and Judy Wadsworth

Photos by Hank Kingston and Linda White



Parishioner Betty Molesworth designed and hand-crafted a quilt of 20 crosses which she donated to the parish's chapter of the Episcopal Church Women in 2007 with the intent that the quilt be sold/auctioned and the proceeds used to support St. Paul's. ECW members discussed ways that the quilt could be showcased. There was group consensus to use the quilt as a fund raiser to support the ECW's Stained Glass Restoration Fund. Parishioners were asked to 'purchase' one of the 20 crosses making up the quilt for at least \$50.00.

The ECW also determined to present the quilt to the parish as a gift as a thank offering to God. The June 2008 issue of the Epistle reported that the Vestry had accepted the gift and the Property Committee had approved the hanging of the quilt in the Library Room (now called the Quilt Room) and thanked Betty Molesworth for her contribution as well as that of the individuals who contributed to the fundraising effort.

The quilt, which measures 72" x 90", is composed of 20 styled crosses, many of which follow designs originating in Mexico and the Southwest US. According to Mary Critikos, ECW President in 2008, the 'sale' of the individual crosses raised \$1,300 for the ECW Memorial Fund for the Restoration of Stained Glass Windows established in 2007. Donors included Marylu Andrews, Nancy Andrus, Gail Bush, Joyce Bogdanski, Ray and Joanne Claus, Liz Cook, Mary Critikos, Susan Dow, Eleanor Gardephe, Stan and June Hasty, Frances Kerr, Linda Lakeman, Nancy Lyke, Mary Jane McKnight, Carol Panzer, Kim Petrucci, Dorothy Phillips, Anne Refermat, and Emily Wood. Betty spent her last years at the Fairport Baptist Home before her death in 2020.



#### SOURCES:

*Episcopal Church Women Records, Book 1 of 4, 2007-2008*  
*The Epistle, June 2008, St. Paul's Parish Directory, 2009*



# St. Joseph's House of Hospitality

Submitted by Meredith Halter



As winter has arrived, Meredith and Mike Halter generously delivered 24 coats, 95 pairs of socks, and 48 pairs of underwear, available in various sizes, to St. Joseph's House for distribution to the homeless in Rochester. Additionally, they contributed several hats and gloves. Winter gear is still being collected and donations can be placed in the baskets in the back of the church.

A friendly reminder: every first Saturday of the month at 9:30 am, we gather in the Parish Kitchen to prepare sandwiches and lunches for St. Joseph's. We extend an invitation to everyone to join us in this crucial outreach effort for our community.



*St. Paul's parishioners having a discussion in small groups during a December Sunday Forum.*

## Outreach Council - Save the Dates

Submitted by Mary Pietrzykowski

Our Outreach Council has invited Julia Oakley of Agape Haven of Abundance and Peter and Sarah Peters of REACH Advocacy to speak at our Sunday Forums at 9:00 am in the Cadigan Room. Julia will be with us on Sunday, February 11th, and Peter and Sarah on Sunday, May 5th. Hope to see you there!

# Chili Cook-Off

The St Paul's Youth Group Chili Cook-Off is coming! **Saturday, Feb 3 from 5:30-7:30pm**, put your best chili up against rest of the church to see how it compares. Prizes will be awarded to the best chili's, but nothing will beat the bragging rights you'll earn!

This year the Chili Cook-Off is being done as a fundraiser for the Youth Group. They are busy putting the plans together to make sure we all have a fun and tasty evening! Whether you are making a chili or just want to taste them all, it will be a great time for everybody! Watch your email for more information as we get closer, but mark your calendars now!



## An Ode to Chili

Chili, oh chili, a food that's never boring,  
in every spoonful, there's a flavor worth exploring.

Beef or chicken, or maybe just beans,  
chili's the dish that always hits the scene.

Spicy or mild, it's all a matter of taste,  
But either way, it's a meal that can never be replaced.

It's hearty, it's filling, it's simply divine,  
chili, oh chili, you're always on our mind.

From potlucks to parties, you're always the star.  
A dish that brings us together, no matter where we are.

Chili, you're the dish that's always there,  
A food that we can't help but love and share.

Thank you for the warmth and the spice,  
chili, you're simply oh so nice!

*~Henry, Youth Group Member*



# Ministry Sign-ups

Submitted by The Rev. Jay Burkardt



St Paul's will begin to use "Church Center" online scheduling programming for most of our Sunday morning ministries. Acolytes, readers, Eucharistic Ministers, and ushers will move to this new

program during January. While each ministry will have its own section within the program, this will help to create a central location for finding these schedules, as well as to make it easier to communicate, find substitutes, and share information such as readings or guidelines. As we have always done, we have a process to include those who are not online.

To help with the transition, Sonja and Jay will be leading sessions at **9:00 am on January 14th in the Vestry Room** and **21st in the Parish Hall**.

We will be walking you through the signup and showing you where to find the information you're looking for both on your smart phone and computers. These sessions are just for those who would like to have a little guidance through the process and it is not necessary to attend if you want to go through the process on your own.

If you are unable to make one of those sessions, videos will be made available or you can schedule a time with Jay to go over the process.

## Thank You for your generosity, St. Paul's!



*This year's donations to the Veterans Outreach Center doubled! A huge shout out to those who helped make this year's collection a success!*

*School #9's Giving Tree presents overflowed around the altar for this year's blessing. A lot of area kids were very happy this Christmas because of your generosity and caring!*



### FOLLOW

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

*"St Paul's EC"*

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# ST. PAUL'S

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The Rev. Jay Burkardt  
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The Rev. Sue Ouellette, Ph.D.  
*Deacon*

Peter DuBois  
*Interim Organist & Choirmaster*

Augustine Sobeng  
*Organ Scholar*

Amy Welker  
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Dorrie Champlin  
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*Sunday Child Care*

Sonja Slother  
*Director of Communications  
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Natosche Holt  
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Judy McGrath  
*Parish Accountant*

Lisa Werner  
*Accounting Assistant*

Bob Potter  
*Property Manager*

Dave McEntee  
Jim D'Angelo  
*Maintenance Associates*