



JANUARY 2023

# 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."*

25 Westminister Road, Rochester, NY 14607  
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[StPaulsEC.org](http://StPaulsEC.org)



## A message from the Rector

### Save the Date:

**Sunday, January 29:**

Annual Meeting in the Parish Hall  
at 11:30 am

**Wednesday, February 1:**

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

**Sundays, February 5 and 12:**

Sunday Forum: Why stay a Christian?  
in the Cadigan Room at 9:00 am

**Monday, February 20:**

President's Day - *Office Closed*

**Wednesday, February 22:**

Ash Wednesday services will be at 7:30 am,  
Noon, and 5:30 pm.

**Sundays, Feb. 26, March 5, 12, 19, 26:**

Sunday Forum: The "A" Word - Atonement  
in the Cadigan Room at 9:00 am

**Tuesdays, Feb. 28, March 7 & 14:**

Lenten Soup 'n Study in the Parish Hall  
at 6:00 pm

Our seminarian, Lydia, challenged us in a sermon recently with the words of the great 20th Century theologian Howard Thurman. He began his poem, "The Work of Christmas", saying: *When the song of the angels is stilled, When the star in the sky is gone, When the kings and princes are home, When the shepherds are back with their flock, The work of Christmas begins....*

Together, we again went to the manger like the shepherds and joined the song of the angels. I am grateful to all who made our celebrations possible – what a joy it was! Each year, my heart is warmed by Christmas and each year, as I take down my decorations and stop playing my favorite Christmas music, I wonder: what difference has it all made?

In other words, will hearing again about the God's Love being made real in Jesus make me more likely to "enflesh" God's love in my interactions with others? To quote Thurman again, the work of Christmas calls us: *To find the lost, To heal the broken, To feed the hungry, To rebuild the nations, To bring peace among others, To make music in the heart.* Christmas may be only a 12-day season; yet, the call to share God's love in Christ lasts all year.

Blessings to you and your loved in the New Year!

Your friend,

The Rev. Robert Picken



# Parish Christmas Dinner



Photo: Sonja Slother

Thank you to everyone who came out and supported the Youth Group at the Parish Dinner last month! The youth (and some of our Vestry, too!) worked very hard over the weekend and thanks to your support, raised over \$500! The proceeds will be split between a local organization, the Youth Group's Mission Fund, and other expenses for the group.

Submitted by:  
Jay Burkardt, *Asst. Rector*



Photo: Jay Burkardt



Photo: Jay Burkardt



Photo: Sonja Slother



Photo: Sonja Slother

# Annual Meeting: Sunday, January 29th

## *Not Business as Usual*



*The Rev. Paul Frolick, Director of CCD, working with the Vestry in September.*

Dear Friends,

Epiphany and New Year greetings!

**Our Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 29, 2023, following the 10:15 am Eucharist.** While I know the excitement is already building for the financial and rector's reports, I am writing today to encourage your attendance at the Annual Parish Meeting for another reason.

Over the last six months or so, our College for Congregational Development (CCD) Team, alongside our Vestry, have been hosting listening sessions for our ministry groups and conducting some one-on-one parishioner interviews. **Our CCD Team will present some high-level feedback to date and will solicit your participation in an activity** as we, as a church, seek to answer the questions: How is God renewing and changing lives here? Who are we as a parish? What are we here for? And, who is our neighbor and how do we relate to them?

While this will be an ongoing discussion with other opportunities to participate, I hope you will mark January 29th on your calendar and join us that Sunday. I promise you'll be home in time for the Bills game and that you are an important part of the conversation.

I look forward to seeing you there!  
The Rev. Robert Picken, *Rector*

## 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 29th.

- Candidate for Warden (2-year term): Ingrid Stanlis
- Candidates for Vestry (3-year term): Mara Hazzard-Wallingford, Christopher Moore, Maura Surdyka

Ingrid Stanlis has completed her first term as Warden and is eligible for another two terms. Likewise, Mara Hazzard-Wallingford has completed her first term on the Vestry and is eligible for another term. Christopher Moore and Maura Surdyka are both nominated for their first term on the Vestry.

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 25th 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 Erin at [erinaglanton@gmail.com](mailto:erinaglanton@gmail.com).

The members of the Nominating Committee this year included: Erin Glanton (Chair, with no vote, except in a tie), Nancy Andrus, Jackie Barnes, Jennifer Bleecker, Kevin Frisch, Julie Gedro, Vicki Harrison, Griffin Jones, Cheri Potter, and The Rev'd Rob Picken (Ex-Officio and non-voting).

*Respectfully Submitted on behalf of the Nominating Committee,*  
Erin Glanton





### **Ingrid Stanlis**

Ingrid began attending St. Paul's in 1996 when she moved to Rochester. She has previously served on the Vestry, and is currently an usher, a lay reader, and chair of the Stewardship Council. Along with other parishioners, Ingrid completed the two-year College for Congregational Development course last summer. She has served one term as Warden, from 2020 to 2022, and is eligible for another term.

Ingrid's career consisted of over thirty years at KPMG, primarily as an audit partner specializing in the not-for-profit sector. Her clients included several major universities in the Northeast. She retired from KPMG in 2011.

Ingrid lives in the city of Rochester, and in her spare time enjoys spending time with friends, reading with her book club, singing in the New Horizons chorus, attending operas in New York City, and traveling.



### **Mara Hazzard-Wallingford**

Mara Hazzard-Wallingford has been a member of St. Paul's since 2015. She sings in the choir, serves as a reader, chairs the annual stewardship committee, and has served one term on the Vestry.

Mara is a participant in the College for Congregational Development (CCD), a curriculum that helps clergy and lay leaders develop congregations of all sizes, locations, and conditions into more faithful, healthy, and effective communities of faith.

Outside of St. Paul's, Mara serves as Chief Growth Officer for Tessitura, a nonprofit technology company dedicated to helping arts and cultural organizations thrive. She lives in Henrietta with her husband, Chris,



### **Christopher Moore**

Christopher is pleased to be asked to join the Vestry. He and his family have served the Church in many ways since 1987, when he and his wife, Louise, first started attending services regularly. He immediately joined the Senior Choir and continues to this day.

Christopher served on the Vestry from 1993 to 1999, as Parish Treasurer from 2000 to 2005, and as Warden of the Vestry from 2006 to 2011. He has served on the parish's Investment Policy Committee since becoming Treasurer and acts as Chairman of the Committee today. Christopher has also been active in the Episcopal Diocese of

Rochester, having served on the Standing Committee and currently serving on its Investment Committee.

Last, and certainly not least, Christopher and Louise were early and are continuing supporters of Water for South Sudan, an organization founded by parishioner Salva Dut and several other parish members in 2002 and to this day bringing clean drinking water to the people of South Sudan. Christopher and Louise live in Fairport and are proud newly-minted Grandparents.



### **Maura Surdyka**

Maura Surdyka started attending St. Paul's in 2015 when she lived in the Goodman area. Her boyfriend, now husband, Will suggested they attend together. Maura was baptized Catholic but quickly fell in love with the Episcopal Church and made her confirmation during the Spring of 2017.

On a thunderous August day in 2017, Father Rob officiated the wedding of Maura and Will on beautiful Keuka Lake. Since then the family has grown adding Eleanora (age three) and Theodore (10 months), both baptized at St. Paul's.

Recently, Maura joined the hospitality committee, she loves planning events and bringing the people of St. Paul's together. During the day, Maura is a PreK teacher at Sodus Elementary. In her time off, she enjoys spending time outdoors, traveling, and reading.

*(Biographies were edited for space and clarity.)*

# Latest News from Sunday School!

We had a busy 2022 in our Sunday school classroom, with lessons on Abraham and angels, Jesus and John, up through Zacchaeus and Zechariah! With plenty of fascinating stories and fun crafts and games, our time together is filled with truly special moments each Sunday morning. In December, we had a wonderful opportunity with our fellow parishioner and friend, Walter. He helped teach the children the first verse of Silent Night in sign language. The children signed the song beautifully during the service on the 18th, and even the congregation signed along! As a reminder, all children in preschool through 5th grade are welcomed to join any Sunday at 10:00 am, and if you have a special gift or talent to share with our class, please reach out to Amy Welker at [AWelker@StPaulsec.org](mailto:AWelker@StPaulsec.org) as we love visiting and learning from our church friends!



Halloween Party was held in Stone Hall after the services on Sunday, October 30th.



Photos: Sonja Slother

## Sunday Morning Nursery Care

We are so thankful for our dedicated staff members, Dorrie and Candace! They continue to faithfully provide our families with babies and toddlers a safe and loving environment during our Sunday services. It's important for our parishioner's to know that we are in need of substitute care givers in the event that 1 of the ladies is absent. Is this a ministry opportunity for you? Please consider and email Amy at [AWelker@StPaulsec.org](mailto:AWelker@StPaulsec.org). Thank you!

## Christmas Volunteers Thank You!

Kudus to all my faithful volunteers who unpacked and placed the poinsettia delivery as well as watering the plants and flowers during the week after Christmas to ensure two weeks of Christmas flowers. Thank you to Jane Chapman, Margaret Cochran, Mary Gulick, Diane Healy, Pat Moran, Kate Sturman, Peggy Willard, and Gretchen Zenner. And as always to Bob Potter, Dave McEntee, Jim D'Angelo, Rob Picken and Matt Koreth from Kittelberger Florist who designed the pulpit flower arrangement.

Submitted by:  
Nancy Andrus, *Altar Flowers*



Photo: Sonja Slother

A special thank you to Bill Moore for constructing a wooden stand for St. Paul's new creche. Bill and Judy McGrath set up the new creche in the nave in time for our Christmas celebrations. Thank you!



Photo: Nancy Andrus



# Christmas at St. Paul's



Photo: Sonja Slother



Photo: Rob Picken



Photo: Sonja Slother



Photo: Rob Picken



Photo: Sonja Slother



Photo: Rob Picken

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St. Paul's on Facebook,  
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YouTube Channel

*"St Paul's Rochester"*

## OFFICE HOURS:

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

Office email:  
[info@stpaulsec.org](mailto:info@stpaulsec.org)

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

Send all *Epistle*  
submissions to:  
[sonja@stpaulsec.org](mailto:sonja@stpaulsec.org)



# ST. PAUL'S

## EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

### STAFF

The Rev. Robert Picken  
*Rector*

The Rev. Jay Burkardt  
*Assistant Rector*

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

Lydia Arnts  
*Seminarian*

Dr. Robert Poovey  
*Director of Music*

Augustine Sobeng  
*Organ Scholar*

Amy Welker  
*Director of Children &  
Youth Faith Formation*

Dorrie Champlin  
Candance Hoffman-Hussain  
*Sunday Child Care*

Sonja Slother  
*Director of Communications  
& Digital Ministry*

Natosche Holt  
*Parish Office Administrator*

Judy McGrath  
*Parish Accountant*

Lisa Werner  
*Accounting Assistant*

Bob Potter  
*Property Manager*

Dave McEntee  
Jim D'Angelo  
*Maintenance Associates*

### REST IN PEACE

*Merciful God, we  
entrust to your  
never-failing care  
and love*

**Karen Walrath  
&  
June Hasty**

*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.*