



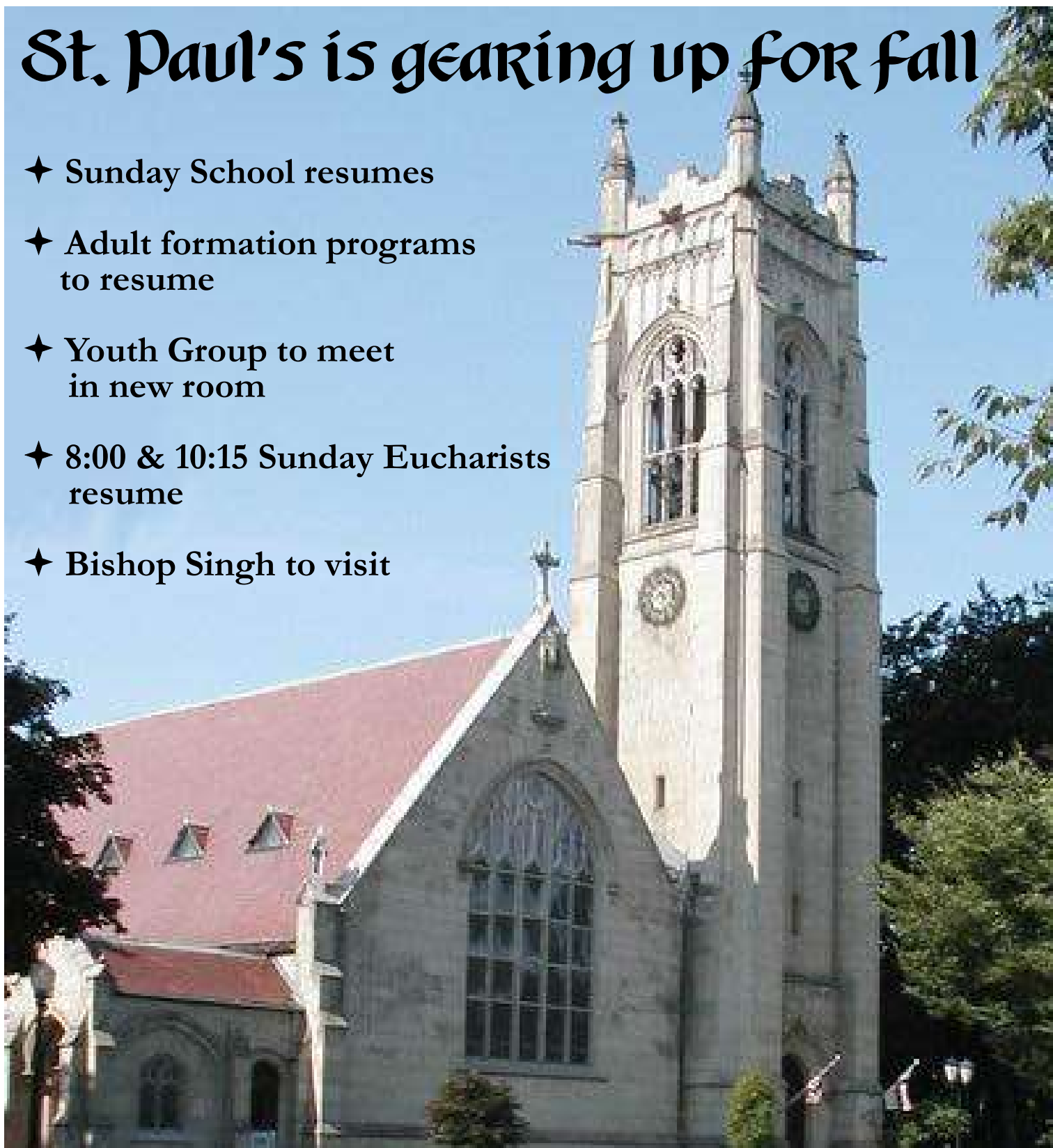
THE EPISTLE

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

September 2021

St. Paul's is gearing up for fall

- ✦ Sunday School resumes
- ✦ Adult formation programs to resume
- ✦ Youth Group to meet in new room
- ✦ 8:00 & 10:15 Sunday Eucharists resume
- ✦ Bishop Singh to visit





A Message from our Rector

Dear Friends,

Greetings in the Name of Christ. I hope that you all had a safe, healthy, relaxing and refreshing summer.

If you spend any time on social media, you've probably seen countless *memes* like this one — an illustration of the Delta variant disrupting plans. I find myself very much identifying with that meme as we look to the beginning of the 2021-22 program year. Yet even now, I am excited to resume our program year worship schedule, adult formation, Sunday School, youth group, choirs, etc. in whatever forms they initially take in the weeks to come.

I know I'm repeating myself: If I was asked in seminary to do a case study on a parish's (or the Church's) response to a pandemic, I never would have imagined such flexibility, ingenuity, grace, and patience. In the face of setbacks and frustrations: we have gathered for worship in new and unique ways, we have shared in joys and sorrows, we have deepened our faith, and we have reached out in extraordinary ways to those in need.

St. Paul's Church is a truly remarkable community filled with loving, caring, and faithful people. May God's grace and mercy continue to bless and guide us. I remain,

Your friend and Rector,

(The Rev'd) Robert A. Picken



September Worship Schedule

September 12

Holy Communion at 8:00 A.M. and 10:15 A.M. (with live-stream)

September 19 & 26

8:00 A.M.: Holy Communion

10:00 A.M.: Sunday School

10:15 A.M.: Holy Communion (with live-stream)

TUESDAYS: Noonday Prayer via Facebook Live

WEDNESDAYS: Noon Eucharist in Chantry

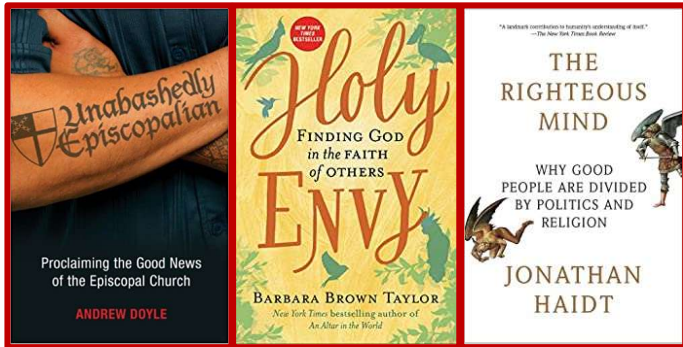
THURSDAYS: Morning Prayer at 8:00 A.M. via Zoom

Links for all worship services are emailed and available on our website, www.stpaulsec.org.

Coming Opportunities

In September -

HELP CHOOSE OUR FALL BOOK



Help select the book or books for our Fall reading program. To learn more or to register your choice(s), contact Nancy Gear at (585) 305-5727 or ngrean@stpaulsec.org.

PAUL IN HIS WORLD

Adult Formation Programs Begin on Zoom
in the St. Paul's Zoom Room
Tuesday evenings: September 21 through October 12 at 7pm



September 21: Socio-Cultural World
September 28: Paul and Women
October 5: Paul and the Jewish Question
October 12: Special Speaker, The Reverend Tony Lewis

Looking to October -

October 17: Bishop Singh Visits

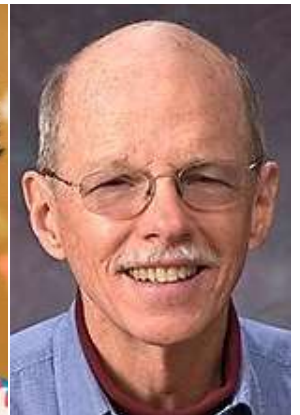
8:00 A.M. & 10:15 A.M.: Bishop Singh will preside and preach.

October 31: Ambassador Dane Smith Visits

Preaching at both services will be Ambassador Dane F. Smith, Jr., consultant on international peace building, adjunct professor in American University's School of International Service, and a senior fellow at the Joint Forces Staff College. He has served as Ambassador to Guinea and Senegal, and as a Special Presidential Envoy for Liberia. He has also served as President of the National Peace Corps Association (former Peace Corps alumni). He was named Executive Director of AFRECS (American Friends of the Episcopal Church of the Sudans) in June 2020.



Rt. Rev. Prince Singh



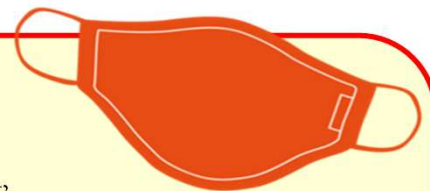
Dr. Dane Smith

MASKING & DISTANCING

Following the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Monroe County, and our Diocese, parishioners are asked to wear masks indoors, regardless of their vaccination status. Distancing by closing off every other pew will continue for now.

As a Christian community, we are called to demonstrate our care and concern for one another – especially the youngest who are not eligible for vaccines, and those who are the most vulnerable among us.

Thank you for your continued patience, cooperation, and respect for one another.



Summer Sunday Worship

During the summer months, one service of Holy Communion has been offered at 9:30 A.M. which has allowed for all parishioners to worship together.

During the July 25 service, parishioner Lindsay Korth, a participant in the Education for Ministry program, thanked Nancy Grear for her leadership as an EfM mentor on behalf of our parish's EfM students (Lindsay and Nancy are seen at the left in the upper right collage).

After the service, a special coffee hour was held in Nancy Grear's honor in Paul's Cross (coffee hour participants are seen in the photo collage at the right).

The August 8 and 15 Eucharist services featured choir members who volunteered to sing during their summer hiatus as Holy Communion was distributed. Charles Tellier played the organ on July 25, and Grace Wong performed a harp solo on August 22.

BELOW: Grace Wong playing the harp during the distribution of Holy Communion on August 22.

BOTTOM: Choir members singing during the distribution of Holy Communion on August 8.



RIGHT: The Rev. Laurence Wainwright-Maks preaching on August 29.



On August 29, in partnership with the Diocesan Ministry to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, St. Paul's celebrated the Rev. Thomas Galludet and the Rev. Henry Winter Syle, Episcopal educators and advocates for the deaf. The Rev. Laurence Wainwright-Maks, RIT/NTID Chaplain and Diocesan Missioner to the Deaf, was the guest preacher and co-president.

St. Paul's Summer Activities



College of Congregational Development

In July, Warden Ingrid Stanlis, Vestry members Julie Gedro and Erin Glanton, and our Rector, the Rev. Rob Picken, attended the week-long College for Congregational Development held at Notre Dame Retreat Center in Canandaigua. The College, a national program of the Episcopal Church, is a comprehensive two-year training program designed to nurture and develop congregational development practitioners from within existing parish lay and clerical leadership. Additional Vestry members will be participating in the weekend program throughout the upcoming year.

TOP LEFT: The St. Paul's team at conference with other participants on July 20, 2021.

June 17 - July 15 St. Paul's Letters

On five consecutive Wednesday evenings, parishioners met via Zoom with the Rev. Rob Picken, the Rev Jay Burkardt, and Nancy Gear to examine five letters of St. Paul to members of early church communities in what is now Greece and Turkey (Thessalonica, Galatia, Philippi, and Colossae). Participants considered the issues raised in each community and Paul's response to them. Discussion of other letters of St. Paul will continue this fall.

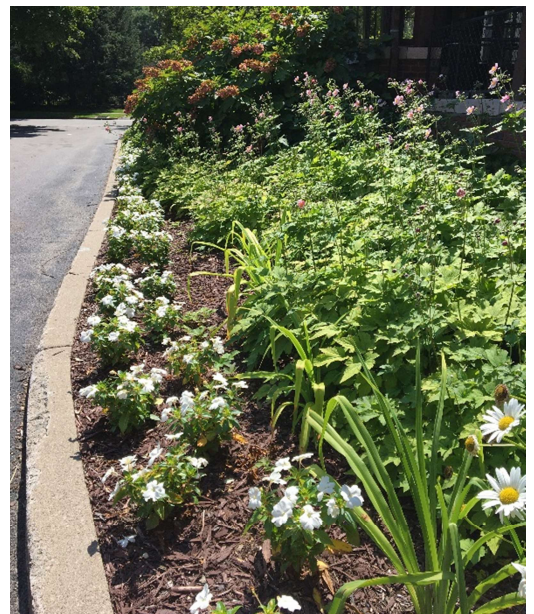
MIDDLE LEFT: Summer participants in discussions of Epistles.



Lay weeders beautify our campus

During spring and summer months, dedicated parishioners planted annuals and cared for the flower beds and gardens surrounding our buildings.

RIGHT: Plant bed adjacent to Wainwright Hall.



Welcome our newest member

St. Paul's welcomed Teagan Quinn Hellebush into the household of God upon her Baptism during the service on August 15.

LOWER LEFT: The Rev. Jay Burkardt baptizing Teagan.



Serving Others & Ourselves

Rural Migrant Ministry's Liturgia

For many years, St. Paul's has supported the work of the Rural Migrant Ministry (RMM) and its **Liturgia Rural Worker Education Center** in Lyons. Liturgia develops programs for rural workers, especially farmworkers, as they seek to improve working and living conditions. Programs have included: ESL-Literacy, workshops on knowing your rights, public speaking, and developing campaigns. Liturgia also hosts a year-round teen program, Justice Organization of Youth (JOY), and a two-week Summer Day Program for young people, among numerous other events.



ABOVE: The Rev. Rob Picken with the Rev. Richard Will, Executive Director of RMM, at an open house hosted by Liturgia in August.



THANK YOU to all parishioners who contributed school supplies for students attending Rochester's School #9. Pictured at the left are some of the many donations.

THANK YOU to all parishioners who contributed to the Haiti Fund by forwarding donations to St. Paul's. A check from St. Paul's will be sent to the Episcopal Relief and Development, which is providing support to Haitians.

THANK YOU to all parishioners who contributed funds, as part of the plate offering on August 22, to assist with the flooding response in the southern part of our diocese. A check will be sent to Church of the Redeemer in Addison.

Judy McGrath creates covers for our handbells

Judy McGrath handmade labeled 'socks' for the handbells used by our bell choir. She is seen at the left below with the bells inside the covers she made which are stored in the church basement.

Group meets to create prayer shawls

A group of knitters met on July 10 at the home of Rita Lancy to begin work on replenishing our parish supply of prayer shawls. Seen in the center photo collage below at the top left are Chari Krenis and Sandy Stenzel; others artisans are Erin Glanton, Diane Healey (in the cameo), Nancy Grear, and Carol Panzer. Seen in the photo below at the right is the Rev. Rob Picken as he blesses a prayer shawl before it is distributed.



Photos of shawl knitters
by Rita Lancy



Welcome Organ Scholar Augustine Kweku Sobeng

Augustine Kweku Sobeng will be serving as St. Paul's organ scholar this coming program year. He is a native of Shama, Ghana, and is a doctoral student in Organ Performance and Literature at the Eastman School of Music. He studied Medical Laboratory Technology for his undergraduate program at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (K.N.U.S.T) in Kumasi, Ghana, and completed his Master's program in Organ Performance at Syracuse University in May 2021.



Augustine served as conductor of the school choir at Prempeh College, and as Organist/Choirmaster for the University Choir-KNUST. He also worked and trained with the Harmonious Chorale-Ghana, the premiere interdenominational semi-professional choir in Ghana. There he was a part of several large concerts every year for seven years, serving as Principal Organist. Although he did not receive any formal musical education, he put himself through music theory and practical examinations with the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (ABRSM), earning a diploma certification (with distinction) in the 2018 Organ practical exam. Also in 2018, he was named best keyboardist in Ghana, and the following year received admission to Syracuse University's Master of Music program with a VPA Fellow Scholarship. In May 2021, he won first prize in the "solo instrumental work" category for the Setnor Outstanding Artists' Competition at Syracuse University.

Youth Room Getting Ready for Use

Among the improvements made to Strong Hall in the basement of the Parish Hall is a room dedicated to use by our youth. Seen below is the room with furnishings ready to host gatherings by our younger members



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.

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.

Merciful God,

we entrust to your never-failing care and love

Julian (Joe) Atwater, Anne Brown, Margaret Carnall, Claire Curtis, John A. Metcalfe

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.

Altar Flower Ministry CORRECTION

The Altar Flower Ministry was featured in the previous issue of The Epistle, recognizing the work of volunteers who arrange altar flowers into vases after the 10:30 A.M. service, then deliver them to those unable to attend service. Two of the volunteers shown on June 13 were mis-identified. Seen with Grace Wong Henshaw (in the background) are Bob and Liz Litwiller, who spearhead this ministry.



Altar Guild:

Altar Guild members are resuming a more normal schedule. We are also in need of new members, so please consider joining this important ministry. People of any age may join and learn how to prepare the sanctuary for worship in service of our parish and God. We are a friendly and welcoming group. We will schedule orientation sessions for new members in the Fall. Contact Jackie Barnes (585-436-5104, barnesj@rochester.rr.com) or Maureen Chepiga (chepigafam@aol.com) to learn more.

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