



# THE EPISTLE

September 2021



Hello

The Reverend Don Davidson

Growing up in a small town, I would often walk with my dad as he would go to the bank or post office. At 6'3" it took many of my steps to equal one of his, and most everyone who knew him would say "hello George" as we passed. It was fun to know that my dad was well known, and Dad would greet them back using their names too.

I begin this first message to you all with "Hello." I hope that I get to know you all by your name in the months ahead, but if my memory does not work as well as it should, please remind me. My name is Donald, but I prefer Don. You are welcome to use ecclesiastical or academic title if you wish. I am married to a wonderful lady named Marcie and we have two lazy cats and a dog and live in Grand Blanc.

A priest-in-charge is a Rector with an expiration date. I will serve as your priest during a time of transition as you search and prepare for your next Rector. There is much to be accomplished during this relatively short time. My current plan (always subject to change) is to be in the office on Tuesdays-Thursdays and of course on Sundays. As soon as I have a phone number, I will be happy to publish that as in emergency, I am available whenever I am needed.

In the next few weeks, I will use this space to talk about the work of the Interim or Priest-in-Charge and what together with your leadership and vestry we hope to accomplish. Right now, I want to say "hello."

Blessings everyone,

Don+

## **From the Senior Warden.....**

When I first read a news article regarding a discussion of Prince Harry's daughter, Lilibeth being baptized, I thought how wonderful that they would want her to become a member of the body of Christ. Then I realized that this was not seen as a spiritual, life giving act but rather an opportunity for a photo. The discussion of whether the daughter of Prince Harry will be baptized has made me think of how the value of this act given to us by Jesus has been reduced to a royal publicity opportunity for the news agencies. I understand it is the secular world speaking but I pray for the welfare of this child's spiritual life. May we continue to find ways to express our faith to the world.

This summer I had the opportunity to work with children in two different church settings. One was at Camp Chick Day Camp at Memorial Park in Flint and the other at Vacation Bible School in Hinsdale, Illinois. Hearing these children singing songs praising Jesus and talking of his mighty power and love makes me know that it is important to share the good news of Jesus redeeming love.

Many of us were baptized as children. This sacrament was a true act of love for us by family to bring us into the body of Christ. When we participate in the Rite of baptism or Renewal of our baptismal vows we express our faith by reciting the Apostles Creed. It was introduced in the first or second century and is recited in many different denominations. The word "creed" is from the Latin word "creo" which means I believe. As a community of believers in Jesus Christ, we express our faith together just like the early Christians.

As we start September and carefully open up our daily lives to enjoy more contact with our fellow congregates and guests, may we at St Paul's, with God's help, find new ways to share our faith and live more fully into the body of Christ.

For His Sake,  
Barbara Mannor, Senior Warden

### **The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth;  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen

## From the Music Desk.....

This month we are kicking off our music series, Music in the Heart of the City with a tribute concert to September 11 and those we have lost in the pandemic. There are two works planned for this event, Requiem by Faure and Gloria by Vivaldi. Several local groups have united to present these two works, the Carolyn Mawby Chorale, New Century Chorale and the Michigan Chamber Orchestra with Organ, Matthew Benkert and Harpsichord, Steven Holovach. Conducted by Daniel Schmier and Steven Holovach.

These two works represent honoring those we have lost and celebrating our freedoms. The Faure Requiem was not written for any grand occasion, it is an intimate work meant to celebrate life and Faure himself described it as a "very human feeling of faith in eternal rest." It was first performed in 1888.

The Vivaldi, according to Peter Carey was probably first performed in 1715 and was lost after his death until it was found in a pile of music in the late 1920's, performed again in 1939.

It has been a tough couple of years, music is the one true help when things pleasant and unpleasant are happening. This should be a beautiful concert, it is free for the public and I hope you will take advantage of beautiful music in our beautiful space. Saturday, September 11 @ 4:00 in our sanctuary.

As we consider All Good Gifts come from thee, we realize that our church is really a beautiful and special gift from the people who came before us and God who has allowed our congregation to thrive for the last 150 years at the intersection of Saginaw and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. As you ponder our church life going forward, I hope you will invite others, continue to work for the good of our community and pledge money to support the ministries of St. Paul's.

Below is a link to the Gloria by Vivaldi:

<https://youtu.be/OvZYhxT5Mf8>

Holly Richardson, Director of Music

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## Rehearsals

Choir Rehearsal will resume for the Chancel Choir, Tuesday, September 7 from 4:00-5:15

All are welcome to sing!

Bell Choir rehearsal will resume Tuesday, September 7 from 5:30-6:30

If you have questions or would like to join us, you can talk personally to Holly Richardson or any choir member. We are inclusive not exclusive, we can teach you to read music if you are unsure and we are able to help you with good vocal health.

Holly Richardson, Director of Music

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## Christmas Cantata

Everyone is welcome to sing in the Christmas Cantata scheduled for 5:00pm December 24.

We will start practicing after church on the following dates and would love to have you join Chancel Choir for Christmas. We will be singing **Christmas Cantata** from the Concerto Grosso Opus 6, Number 8 by Corelli, arranged by Richard Shephard.

We will practice the following Sundays from 10:30-11:30am:

September 26

October 17 & 24

November 7, 21 & 28

December 5 & 19

I have recordings that you can use to practice with at home.

If you would like to talk to me about it, or have questions please ask!

Holly Richardson, Director of Music

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## FINANCIAL UPDATE

St. Paul's spends nearly a quarter of its operating budget on Outreach to the community. This is made possible because of a former parishioner, Charles Barth, who left a Trust that produces about \$70,000 a year for Episcopal Outreach by St. Paul's. The following St. Paul's programs qualify for funding from the Barth Trust:

1. TUESDAY LUNCH provides lunch every Tuesday to people in need. Before the Pandemic, lunch was served in Barth Hall to about 130 persons every week. The Pandemic forced change, and unable to have people inside for a meal, we started providing sack lunches, given out every Tuesday. Our number of meals provided has declined to about 80, based on current demand. When Pandemic concerns allow, we will welcome people back into Barth Hall for Tuesday Lunch.
2. ART WALK, held on the second Friday of the month (10 months of the year), is a popular downtown event. Several venues around town have art shows, including St. Paul's. We generally feature local artists, showing their art in our parlor. We also have refreshments, musicians playing or singing in the sanctuary, and we provide tours of the church to anyone interested. Information about the Episcopal Church and St. Paul's is readily available.
3. CROSSOVER is a non-profit organization operating to help families in need in downtown Flint. As a founding member of Crossover, St. Paul's joins forces with other downtown churches to support Crossover in this vital work.
4. FAMILY PROMISE is a program for homeless families in Genesee County. St. Paul's houses and feeds up to three families for a week in our building. We do this four times a year, for one week each time. The professional staff of Family Promise supports the families with housing searches, transportation, job searches, and referrals to appropriate social agencies, tutoring and day care for the children. St. Paul's is supported during the weeks it houses families by other Episcopal churches in Genesee County. Family Promise itself is a national program supported by churches of several different denominations.
5. ST. ANDREWS EPISCOPAL CHURCH on the East Side of Flint has been financially supported by St. Paul's for about ten years with a substantial donation each year to their operating budget.

6. CAMP CHICKAGAMI is the Episcopal Camp in Northern Michigan. We support Camp Chick with donations directly to the camp as well as through Crossover, by sending children in need to Camp, facilitated by Crossover.

All these outreach programs are partially supported by the Barth Trust. We are looking for ways to somewhat expand our outreach efforts in 2022. If you have ideas, contact Barbara Mannor, Maggie Hart, or any member of the vestry.

Below is a snapshot of revenue and expenses compared to budget as of July 31, 2021. Pledges are projected to be around \$169,000 for the year compared to a budget of \$180,000. Most members are on schedule as far as pledges to date.

|             |                   | YTD as of<br>7/31/2021 | 2021<br>Budget | YTD as %<br>of<br>Budget |
|-------------|-------------------|------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Revenue     | Pledges           | 110,961                | 180,000        | 62%                      |
|             | Other Income      | 123,882                | 306,056        | 40%                      |
|             | Total Revenue     | 234,843                | 486,056        | 48%                      |
| Expenses    | Service/Outreach  | 45,700                 | 114,272        | 40%                      |
|             | Worship/Education | 2,015                  | 3,300          | 61%                      |
|             | Personnel         | 135,793                | 266,287        | 51%                      |
|             | Building/Grounds  | 75,901                 | 115,500        | 66%                      |
|             | Administration    | 6,754                  | 12,850         | 53%                      |
|             | Total Expenses    | 266,163                | 512,209        | 52%                      |
| YTD Results | Revenue/(Loss)    | -29,951                | -26,153        |                          |

Maggie Hart, Treasurer of the Vestry

George Gibson, Financial Officer

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## **SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE/REQUEST**

### **Update:**

First, let me thank everyone for your patience and input as we try to get our online presence tuned up. There have been a few challenges with the technology, in-house and online, but the vestry is working diligently to try to address the challenges as they come up.

One of the recent challenges related to the sound for our Facebook Live and YouTube recordings of Sunday services. We tested some new equipment last week, and it looks like everyone online should now be able to hear the entire service, including Announcements, Prayers of the People, and Lessons.

### **Request:**

If you've not yet visited the parish Facebook page, please consider 'liking' our page at 'St. Paul's Episcopal Church'. Our social media presence is a wonderful tool that we can use to share information about the parish, our ministries, programs, and special events. If you are interested in learning more about the parish history and the stories of those who were here before us, you might also have a look at the page for 'Friends of Historic St. Paul's-Flint'. We hope that each of you will consider 'liking' both of these Facebook pages and sharing our posts to your personal pages and groups!

Walter Peake

# Every Perfect Gift



Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above..." James 1:17

## **STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY**

### **EVERY PERFECT GIFT - INTRODUCTION**

The scripture lesson on Sunday August 29<sup>th</sup> came from James 1:17. It reminded us that 'Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above...'

The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS) has selected this verse as a theme and guide for parishes in our stewardship work this year. As we approach the fall, the time of year when our parish traditionally focuses on stewardship, pledge campaigns, and promises, we'll be sharing materials, singing hymns, offering prayers, and reflecting on this passage from James.

### **GRATITUDE AND THANKS**

Perfectly, this passage is indeed a gift to us. It gives this parish and the stewardship ministry a wonderful organizing theme; and an opportunity to reflect on, celebrate, and give thanks for the abundant gifts we've been given, and perhaps a renewed opportunity to consider how each of us... and the parish together can share our gifts with each other and our community.

As we engage in the annual pledge campaign process, it is only right to begin by giving thanks for 'every generous act' by all of you during this past year. Whether your gift was financial support, your time, your talent, your prayers, or simply your presence, we are truly grateful.

### **THIS YEAR'S CAMPAIGN**

As the parish works our way through some challenging and unusual times, perhaps the gift we've been given is a wonderful opportunity to think more broadly and creatively about our many blessings and consider new ways to share them. It isn't yet time to actually roll out our annual pledge campaign and cards, but we wanted to take the opportunity today to share some thoughts about what you'll see when the campaign is rolled out.

### **THIS YEAR'S PLEDGES/CARDS**

We're all pretty familiar with the traditional 'pledge card' that invites everyone to make a promise regarding financial support for the parish. This year, our cards will also invite you to consider other gifts and other acts of generosity. So, in addition to pledging to support the work of the parish with your financial gifts, we hope that you'll consider pledging to share the gift of your time, talents, prayer, or study, in support of our ministries in the parish and in our community. There are so many gifts to share, but we don't often think of them in terms of or pledges. Some examples might include:

**Some may pledge to pray...**

- Say grace at dinner (at home or at a restaurant)/say grace at each meal of the day
- Start or end every day giving thanks to God for 3 things
- Create a touchstone prayer: A short one sentence prayer that you say every time you do a regular action (Example: - Every time you walk in front door "Thank you God for my family." Or when brushing teeth, "Thank you God for my physical health)

**Or learn more about God and your faith:**

- Read 'X' books of the Bible in a year, or read one chapter each day
- Read 'X' books on faith, prayer, spirituality in a year
- Participate in parish spiritual/faith/Biblical book studies

**Or share your faith with others:**

- Pray daily for God to create an opportunity for you to share your faith
- Share St. Paul's masses and social media posts to your personal Facebook page
- Serve as an Usher or Greeter
- Attend or work with Art Walk, Music in the Heart of the City, Church Tours, Downtown Events

**Or share your gifts in parish or community ministry:**

- Be involved in a liturgical ministry (Choir, Eucharistic minister, lector)
- Be involved in St. Paul's ministries (Outreach, Stewardship, Liturgy, Tuesday Lunch, Pastoral Care, Vestry, etc.)
- Volunteer/join a service organization or project, Crossover
- Donate Blood/Plasma

**WATCH FOR UPDATES**

So as the fall approaches, please watch for bulletin inserts, Facebook posts, and future Epistles for more updates and resources on this year's campaign. When you do receive your pledge card later in the fall, we hope that you'll spend some time considering these or other ways in which you can share your gifts. In addition to the traditional financial pledge, there will be places on the card for you to make your promise to share your gifts with the parish and our neighbors.



**ST. PAUL'S**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

711 S. Saginaw St. Flint, MI 48502 + [www.stpaulschurchflint.com](http://www.stpaulschurchflint.com) + (810) 234-8637



**Holy Hike  
on August  
7<sup>th</sup>**

Holy Hikers pose for a photo after hiking and praying at Ogemaw Hills Pathway in West Branch.

**On Crim Race day.....**



**Edythe Peake**



**Walter Peake**



**Elizabeth Jordan**



## Upcoming Celebrations.....

### September

#### Anniversaries

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Craig & Sarah Leavitt | 4 |
| Mark & Donna Wilson   | 6 |

#### Birthdays

|                               |    |
|-------------------------------|----|
| Tracy Leman                   | 7  |
| Sophia Manley                 | 8  |
| Robert Marshall               | 10 |
| Davina Pendragon              | 12 |
| Heather Gagnon                | 12 |
| Jane Bingham                  | 21 |
| Lawrence Struck, Jr           | 21 |
| Fred Miska                    | 23 |
| Don Stanley                   | 29 |
| The Rev. Dcn. Sharon Naughton | 30 |

### October

#### Anniversaries

|                           |    |
|---------------------------|----|
| Jerrord & Vernice Roberts | 11 |
| Mike & Debbie Bommarito   | 14 |
| Lawrence & Norma Struck   | 16 |
| Walt & Edythe Peake       | 27 |

#### Birthdays

|                           |    |
|---------------------------|----|
| Sean DeGeorge             | 2  |
| Tom Shriver               | 2  |
| The Rev. Dcn. Donna Kusky | 4  |
| Ferrell Katzenberger      | 8  |
| Genevieve Oertel          | 10 |
| Norma Struck              | 11 |
| Evan Karr                 | 13 |
| Dr. Sean Tahaney          | 13 |
| Michael Kennedy           | 16 |
| Elizabeth Barnhart        | 25 |
| Jo Miska                  | 26 |
| Judith Stoerman           | 28 |
| Zack Bailey               | 29 |
| Gerrit Cates              | 29 |

# SEPT 2021

| SUN          | MON | TUE  | WED                                   | THU                     | FRI | SAT   |
|--------------|-----|--|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----|---|
|              |     |  | 01                                    | 02                      | 03  | 04  |
|              |     |  | Bible Study<br>Book of John<br>6:30pm | Common<br>Threads 10 am |     |   |
| 05           | 06  | 07   | 08                                    | 09                      | 10  | 11  |
| Worship 9 am |     | Lunch 11-noon<br>Chancel 4pm<br>Bell 5:30pm<br>Gospel 6:30pm | Bible Study<br>Book of John<br>6:30pm | Stewardship<br>1pm      |     | Sept 11 <sup>th</sup><br>Remembrance<br>Concert 4pm |
| 12           | 13  | 14   | 15                                    | 16                      | 17  | 18  |
| Worship 9 am |     | Lunch 11-noon<br>Chancel 4pm<br>Bell 5:30pm<br>Gospel 6:30pm | Bible Study<br>Book of John<br>6:30pm | Common<br>Threads 10 am |     | Flint City Bike<br>Tours 9:30am                     |
| 19           | 20  | 21   | 22                                    | 23                      | 24  | 25  |
| Worship 9 am |     | Lunch 11-noon<br>Chancel 4pm<br>Bell 5:30pm<br>Gospel 6:30pm | Bible Study<br>Book of John<br>6:30pm |                         |     |   |
| 26           | 27  | 28   | 29                                    | 30                      |     |   |
| Worship 9 am |     | Lunch 11-noon<br>Chancel 4pm<br>Bell 5:30pm<br>Gospel 6:30pm | Bible Study<br>Book of John<br>6:30pm | Vestry Meeting<br>Noon  |     |   |

# OCT 2021

| SUN                                    | MON | TUE  | WED                                   | THU                     | FRI                                 | SAT                                 |
|--|-----|--|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|  |     |  |                                       |                         |                                     | 01 02                               |
| 03                                     | 04  | 05   | 06                                    | 07                      | 08                                  | 09                                  |
| Worship 9am<br>Blessing of<br>Animals  |     | Lunch 11-noon<br>Chancel 4pm<br>Bell 5:30pm<br>Gospel 6:30pm | Bible Study<br>Book of John<br>6:30pm | Common<br>Threads 10 am | Art Walk 6 pm                       |                                     |
| 10                                     | 11  | 12   | 13                                    | 14                      | 15                                  | 16                                  |
| Worship 9 am                           |     | Lunch 11-noon<br>Chancel 4pm<br>Bell 5:30pm<br>Gospel 6:30pm | Bible Study<br>Book of John<br>6:30pm | Stewardship<br>1 pm     |                                     |                                     |
| 17                                     | 18  | 19   | 20                                    | 21                      | 22                                  | 23                                  |
| Worship 9 am                           |     | Lunch 11-noon<br>Chancel 4pm<br>Bell 5:30pm<br>Gospel 6:30pm | Bible Study<br>Book of John<br>6:30pm | Common<br>Threads 10 am |                                     |                                     |
| 24                                     | 25  | 26   | 27                                    | 28                      | 29                                  | 30                                  |
| Worship 9 am<br>Music Concert<br>4pm   |     | Lunch 11-noon<br>Chancel 4pm<br>Bell 5:30pm<br>Gospel 6:30pm | Bible Study<br>Book of John<br>6:30pm | Vestry Retreat<br>Noon  | Diocese<br>Convention<br>Lansing MI | Diocese<br>Convention<br>Lansing MI |
| 31                                     |     |  |                                       |                         |                                     |                                     |
| Worship 9 am<br>Family Promise<br>Week |     |  |                                       |                         |                                     |                                     |