



Why?

The 2022 Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday January 23, 2022 at 9:00 A.M. The meeting will take place during our Sunday morning service of Holy Eucharist.

We are slated to elect three people to serve as members of the Vestry for the next three-years, and four people to serve as delegates to our annual Diocesan Convention. Both elections are of considerable importance this year more than other years. Members of the Vestry will call a new Rector for St. Paul's Church within the next year or so, and Delegates may face questions of our relationship with the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan.

As I write this message, we have only one candidate for vestry and no candidates to serve as Delegates. If you wish to serve, please contact TaMara Oertel who is the chair of the Vestry Nominating Committee.

The meeting will take place within the Eucharistic service as a reminder that although the church functions under the best of business practices, the church is not a business. Indeed, we are called to give away the grace and love of Christ unconditionally, just as Christ has given his love to us.

In this edition of the "Epistle" the 2022 budget has been published for your reading and understanding. Although already adopted by the Vestry, the

budget indicates how the church plans to operate in 2022.

At the Annual Meeting, the Treasurer will present the finances for 2021 and answer questions if any arise. How about doing me a favor and asking those questions now by writing them to the Treasurer (treasurer@stpaulschurchflint.com) and finding out anything you want to know.

During my address at the Annual Meeting, I will be discussing one new proposal as we prepare to call and welcome a new Rector. I will also spend some time on how "we" as a congregation can make that process easier and more effective.

The Wardens will also present reports. All reports will be published on line

www.stpaulschurchflint.com

only the financial reports will be published as a handout at the meeting. Please read the reports and make copies, if you wish. If you do not have an Internet connection, please call the office and ask that a copy of all the reports be mailed to you.

By our by-laws, 50 people must be present in order to conduct an Annual Meeting. That is more than our typical Sunday attendance, so please please please attend. Thank you!

Vestry nominations

It's that time of year when we look for candidates to fill open Vestry positions. This year we will elect 3 new members to serve a 3 year term.

The Nominating committee this year is out-going Vestry member TaMara Oertel, Tim Grant and Velecia Ford. Please see one of these people with your recommendations.



The Warden's Wisdom

A New Year! Actually, according to the church calendar, we are celebrating the second month of the church year. Compared to all the excitement of ringing in 2022, with the ball dropping at Times Square, and every type of musical performance on all the television stations, the church has celebrated much differently.

We began the year in anticipation and preparation to receive the greatest gift the world has ever known, Jesus Christ. The advent candles counted down the arrival of the birth of a baby who would change our world forever. We sang songs celebrating this gift, and opening our doors, to welcome our neighbors as part of this spectacular event. It has been challenging since we are experiencing a virus that seems relentless. We wonder; what will be our new norm? But just as the baby was born, we too must keep moving forward, looking for ways to expand our love for ourselves, God and our neighbor.

Hopefully, St Paul's family has thought about their plans for our new year. We have pledged not only our treasure, but the multitude of ways we want to serve in 2022. I would like to suggest that we think about what we have to offer a new rector as a church family. We will be developing a profile of our community. It will require us to look at ourselves and our surrounding neighbors. We may have to add or delete programs, start new habits, and find ways to meet in person or by zoom to accomplish these tasks. A Bible study of the early church and other books discussing the issues facing the church in today's world will be helpful.

In conclusion, let each of us pledge to pray daily for our search for a new rector, embrace the work of our interim to help prepare our way, and let us become open to letting our teacher, Jesus, lead us on this journey.

For His Sake, Barbara Mannor
Senior Warden



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A Music Note

Welcome to 2022!

The desert shall rejoice and blossom as a rose:

It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with praise and singing

For the ears of the deaf shall hear and the blind, their eyes be opened

For the tongue of the mute shall sing and the lame will dance with gladness

For the ground will become a pool and the dry land springs of water

The ransomed return to God and come singing back to Zion

Unto Zion we come with joy, for our God has come to save us.

Isaiah 35: 1-10

This is a song found in the Wonder, Love and Praise supplemental book to the hymnal 1982.

<https://youtu.be/FxnglmDxyys>

As I read this it gives me hope, as I wish it to give hope to you, that even though it seems things have been crumbling around us for the last two years, God is still in control, and we need to trust that our time of wandering in the desert of Covid will end. That our desert will bloom and blossom as a rose.

It is easy to become discouraged, it is hard work to keep going, knowing that even when there is a drought, it will eventually end. I am sure during the dust bowl there was a lot of discouragement.

Lord, I am ready for you and ready to come forth with joy as we begin a new year.

You notice it says, "the tongue of a mute shall sing", remember we are always ready to welcome singers and people who want to sing into the choir. We will help you! We would love to have you join us Tuesdays at 4:00 in the choir room to sing with either the Chancel Choir or the Gospel Choir which rehearses at 6:30 pm on Tuesdays.

Holly Richardson, Director of Music

Epistle Financial Update – January 2022 Maggie Hart, Treasurer

The New Year brings us the Parish Annual Meeting and a new budget. Below is the 2022 budget, approved by the Vestry, and to be affirmed by the Parish at the Annual Meeting.

Our income is primarily from projected pledges (33% of revenue), Barth Trust distributions (37%) and endowment withdrawals (22%). The endowment fund withdrawal (funds we control) is based on 4% of the average balance of the past 4 years. We will withdraw 4% of the value of the endowment funds for operations and another 1% will be set aside as a reserve to cover significant building repair costs. St. Paul's receives monthly distributions from 6 Barth Trust accounts administered by a third party trustee. These will be used for Operations and Outreach. Other trusts include the Ingalls and Lile Education Trusts. These are used for pastoral care, religious education, music and other expenses.

The expense chart below breaks down how our dollars are spent and is presented in different categories than in prior years. The new format spreads the labor cost, including benefits, into the various areas of church operations. For example, the costs of the Rector is spread across several categories such as worship, pastoral care while the labor cost of our musicians is included in the worship category. Likewise, the costs associated with the maintenance staff are included with building and grounds along with insurance and utilities.

Revenue	Dollars of Revenue	Percent of Revenue
Pledges	\$180,000	33%
Barth Trusts	202,000	37%
Other Trusts	30,000	5%
Endowment	123,000	22%
Other Income	17,000	3%
Total Revenue	\$551,000	100%
Expenses	Dollars of Expense	Percent of Expenses
Worship	\$89,000	18%
Educations	8,000	2%
Pastoral	12,000	2%
Outreach	101,000	20%
Building/Grounds	171,000	34%
Communications	66,000	13%
Growth	17,000	3%
Diocesan Tithe	42,000	8%
Total Expenses	506,000	100%
Net revenue	\$46,000	



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Vestry Candidates

Three people are to be elected to the Vestry at the Annual Meeting on January 23, 2021. At this time only one person has stepped forward to serve.

The Vestry is the Governing board of the parish having specific responsibility over the property of the parish, the parish finances and with the consent of the ecclesiastical authority (the Bishop) to call a Rector.

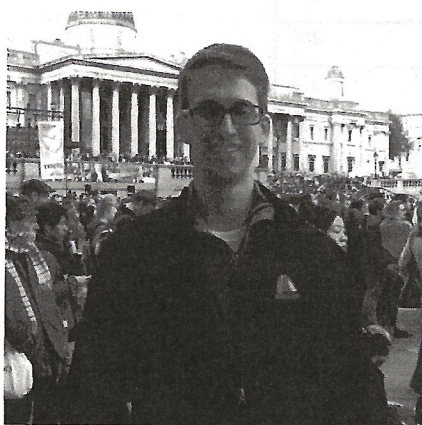
At St. Paul's, there are nine members of the elected vestry. From the Vestry, a Senior Warden, Junior Warden and Clerk are chosen. The parish Treasurer is also elected by the Vestry, and may or may not be a member thereof.

The Rector (Priest-in-Charge of the parish) is the Presiding Officer of the Vestry and only votes in the case of a tie.

Generally, the Vestry meetings once per month and at the call of the Rector.

The Rector has specific responsibility and authority in the day-to-day management of the parish, the staff, appointments, music and worship and shares with the vestry in areas such as pastoral care, education and other programming.

Members of the Vestry must be "contributors of record" of the parish.



Joel Arnold

Statement from Joel Arnold:

My name is Joel Arnold. I was born in 1993 in Flint and became a parishioner at St. Paul's in 2016. I work as a city planner and have worked both for the City of Flint and now for Communities First, Inc., where we are working to renovate both the former Christ Enrichment Center and the Masonic Temple right next door! After a few years away living in Dublin, Ireland and Philadelphia, today I live in the Central Park Neighborhood in Flint, right next to the Cultural Center. As someone who came to the Episcopal Church as an adult, I appreciate what a unique and needed institution this church is in our city. I would love the opportunity to serve this parish on the vestry to deepen St. Paul's connections with the Flint community, to serve and welcome those in our community who we still need to work to reach, and to work to ensure that St. Paul's is still here in Flint for another 150 years serving our community.

If there are other candidates, their names and information will be posted on-line.

A person may be nominated from the floor at the Annual Meeting if that person is present and accepts nomination, or if the person has given assurance (written) acceptance of their nomination prior to the meeting.

Fr Don's note:

It may come as a surprise that there are few qualifications for vestry as was the case in the church for many years. Part of this is a continuing "living-in" to the consequences of the 1976-79 Book of Common Prayer; and part the changes that have taken place in the National and Diocesan Canons. Our by-laws merely reference the Diocesan and National Canons which no make little statement about vestry qualifications leaving them to the local parish.






While slightly unorthodox, in our current age it seems quite reasonable to allow parishes to elect those who have the ability and fit the addressed need of any parish rather than being overly concerned about specific sacramental or other qualifications. It is generally accepted that candidates will be baptized communicants of at least 16 years of age.

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ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

JANUARY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26  9:00 AM Holy Eucharist (First Sunday of Christmas) 11:30 AM Absalom Jones Ministry Meeting	27 Fr. Don out of the office	28 Fr. Don out of the office 6:30 PM Gospel Choir Rehearsal	29 Fr. Don out of the office 10:00 AM Benedictine Study 6:30 PM Bible Study with Tim G.	30 Fr. Don out of the office	31 5:00 PM Holy Eucharist and reaffirmation of wedding, engagement and baptismal vows.	1
2  9:00 AM Holy Eucharist (Second Sunday of Christmas)	3 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM New Century Chorale Rehearsal	4 6:30 PM Gospel Choir Rehearsal	5 10:00 AM Benedictine Study 12:10 PM Holy Eucharist 6:30 PM Bible Study with Tim G.	6  Epiphany 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Common Threads	7	8
9  9:00 AM Holy Eucharist (Epiphany Sunday)	10 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM New Century Chorale Rehearsal	11 4:30 PM Outreach Ministry Meeting 6:30 PM Gospel Choir Rehearsal	12 10:00 AM Benedictine Study 12:10 PM Holy Eucharist 6:30 PM Bible Study with Tim G.	13	14 6:00 PM St. Paul's Art Walk	15
16 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist	17 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM New Century Chorale Rehearsal	18 12:30 PM OSL 1:30 PM Pastoral Care Ministry Meeting 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM Gospel Choir Rehearsal	19 10:00 AM Benedictine Study 12:10 PM Holy Eucharist 6:30 PM Bible Study with Tim G.	20 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Common Threads	21	22
23  9:00 AM Holy Eucharist and Annual Meeting 11:00 AM Vestry Meeting 11:30 AM Absalom Jones Ministry Meeting	24 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM New Century Chorale Rehearsal	25 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM Gospel Choir Rehearsal	26 10:00 AM Benedictine Study 12:10 PM Holy Eucharist 6:30 PM Bible Study with Tim G.	27	28	29
30 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist	31 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM New Century Chorale Rehearsal	1 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM Gospel Choir Rehearsal	2 10:00 AM Benedictine Study 12:10 PM Holy Eucharist 6:30 PM Bible Study with Tim G.	3 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Common Threads	4	5

Vestry Notes

After getting to work following the Annual Meeting, the Vestry will begin putting together a full compliment of parish policies. This is part-n-parcel to making everything ready to welcome a new Rector.

The new live-streaming equipment is set to be installed sometime within the next two months.

The Vestry will be looking at a new copier lease, and continuing with the maintenance work that has begun on the outside of the building. The Vestry will also be considering next steps in regard to repairing and enhancing our old, and mostly non-working security system.

Appointments for 2022 will be addressed including how each member of the vestry connects with the various groups within the church.

Walt Peake and the 150th Anniversary group will be focusing on their first few events.

A Search Committee will be appointed within the next few weeks, applications will be available for anyone interested.