



Tower Talk

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

The Church with Heart, in the Heart of the City

January 7, 2022



On the Feast of the Epiphany, families across the globe gather to ask God's blessing on their homes and on those who live in or visit the homes. It is an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in our homes, our comings and goings, our conversations, our work and play, our joys and sorrows. House Blessings are available anytime of the year, please see Fr. Don.

A traditional way of doing this is to use chalk to write above the home's entrance. It can also be written somewhere inside the home. One way is to get a piece of chalk and chalk the door of your home. This short liturgy is a way of marking our homes, usually at the front or main entrance, with sacred signs and symbols as we ask God's blessing upon those who live, work, or visit throughout the coming year.

The letters C, M, B have two meanings:

- They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar.
- They also abbreviate the Latin words *Christus mansionem benedicat*, "May Christ bless the house."

In Exodus, the Israelites marked their doors with blood so that the Lord would pass over their homes; but in this service, we mark our doors with chalk as a sign that we have invited God's presence and blessing into our homes.

On your doorframe you'll mark 20+C+M+B+22. The doorframe of the home is marked with their initials within the year as a reminder of the Magi who received God's great welcome when they visited Jesus in his first home. It's a house blessing and a reminder to make the home a place of welcome for all people.

On the doorframe of our nave, (Saginaw St.) take a look at the chalk reminder.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

711 South Saginaw St.

Flint, Michigan 48502

810 234 8637

www.stpaulschurchflint.com

The Rev. Don Davidson

priest-in-charge

The Rev. Donna Kusky

deacon in residence

George Gibson,

director of finance

Holly Richardson,

director of music

Megan Faris,

administrative assistant

Rafael McDaniel,

gospel choir director

Matthew Benkert, organist

Terrance Whitehead, sexton

Edythe Peake, web editor

Jelecia Ford Geraghty

Diocesan Standing Committee

COVID NEWS

Word has been received of new restrictions from the four Dioceses of Michigan who have worked in harmony throughout the current pandemic. These restrictions are as follows:

1. Masks are required for everyone inside the building. If someone refuses to wear a mask, they will be respectfully told that they cannot enter.
2. Eating (in groups) inside the building is hereby suspended.

Our building and office will remain open, however, staff will wear masks unless they are alone in their office.

Coffee Hour and refreshments following all events is hereby suspended. Staff may consume meals in their offices.

Since July, there have been no restrictions as to groups eating inside the building. Our hope is that we can return to allowing everyone to eat in the building. Despite Covid, we wish to honor our baptismal vows by respecting the dignity of every person.

As we are an Episcopal Church, we will comply with the decision by our Standing Committee which operates as the Ecclesiastical Authority in the absence of the Bishop,

My advice, as always, if you are able, please get vaccinated and boosted, wear good surgical or N95 masks when you are out of your home, and wash your hands frequently.

Thank you for your understanding, and let us all pray for the end of this horrible virus.

Fr. Don

Annual Meeting Information

The Annual Meeting of St. Paul's Episcopal Church will take place on Sunday January 23, 2022 at 9:00AM. The meeting will be held during the Sunday service of Holy Eucharist.

Our by-laws require 50 people to be present in order for a quorum to be established. Your presence is very important. If for some reason we do not have 50 people present we will postpone the elections until we meet quorum.

Three people will (may) be elected to the Vestry to serve three-year terms. Joel Arnold, and Tina Morrison are our only candidates at this time.

Four people will (may) be elected as delegates to the Diocesan Convention.

The Treasurer will present her report for 2021 and the budget for 2022.

TaMara Oertel is the chairperson on the Vestry Nominations Committee.

The Priest-in-Charge will present the Rector's report for 2021 and will address the parish on 2022.

The Wardens will also have written reports along with reports from various committees and groups.

All reports will be published on-line for everyone to see. Go to our website to see all the Annual Meeting reports. Reports will be posted as they are received.

<http://www.stpaulschurchflint.com>

Financial Reports will be printed and copies available at the Annual Meeting.

The service and meeting will be live-streamed, however you must be physically present to vote and to count for a quorum.

What Happens If?

If we do not have a quorum, we will conduct the elections on the next Sunday when a quorum is present. We may also consider changing the by-laws so that we do not need that large of a quorum.

If we only have two candidates for the Vestry, we will elect the candidates we have and the Vestry can fill a vacancy when a person becomes available.

The same as above if we do not have four candidates for election as delegates (and alternates).

Continued on the next page.

Your Vestry:

Barbara Mannor, Senior Warden
(seniorwarden@stpaulschurchflint.com)
(*Outreach*)

Becky Bennett, Junior Warden
(*Building and Grounds*)
(juniorwarden@stpaulschurchflint.com)

Maggie Hart, Treasurer (*Finance*)
(treasurer@stpaulschurchflint.com)

Ed Henneke

Ferrell Katzenberger (*Pastoral Care*)

Jan Bugbee

TaMara Oertel (*Worship*)

Walter Peake (*Stewardship*)

Dr. Elizabeth Jordan
(*Member of Diocesan Council*)

Staff:

The Reverend Dr. Don Davidson, Priest-in-charge
(rector@stpaulschurchflint.com)

Fr. Don's cell phone: 810 836 8727

The Reverend Deacon Donna Kusky
Deacon in residence

(donna@stpaulschurchflint.com)

George Gibson, Director of Finance
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Holly Richardson, Director of Music
(directorofmusic@stpaulschurchflint.com)

Megan Faris, Administrative Assistant
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Rafael McDaniel, Gospel Choir Director

Matthew Benkert, Organist

Terrance Whitehead, Sexton

Edythe Peake, Web Editor
(webeditor@stpaulschurchflint.com)

Jelesia Ford Geraghty
(*Member: Diocesan Standing Committee*)

St. Paul's Office Hours
Tuesday-Thursday
9 AM—2 PM

Fr. Don
Wednesday– Friday
(by appointment)

810-234-8637

Annual Meeting continued

The Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan and the Vestry of St. Paul's Episcopal Church have approved, with the consent of the congregation, to allow our current Senior and Junior Warden for to be re-elected to their positions by the Vestry for one additional year..

This is not an unusual occurrence and often happens during a transition in order to assist the Priest-in-Charge with all things related to the management of the parish.

In order for this to take place, a motion will be placed on the floor by the Vestry. If the motion is approved, the total number of elected and voting vestry members will increase from 9 to 11 for one year.

Following the Annual Meeting, the Vestry will meet to elect their officers for 2022. and to establish when the Vestry will meet.

If you have any questions concerning the Annual Meeting, please contact Fr. Don at 810-836-8727 or rector@stpaulschurchflint.com.

Up and Coming Events

January 11

Outreach Ministry 4:30PM
Gospel Choir Rehearsal 6:30PM

January 12

Benedictine Study 10:00AM
Holy Eucharist 12:10PM
Bible Study with Tim 6:30PM

January 14

St. Paul's Art Walk 6:00PM

January 18

Order of St. Luke 12:30PM
Pastoral Care Ministry 1:30PM
Chancel Choir Rehearsal 4:00PM
Bell Choir Rehearsal 5:30PM
Gospel Choir Rehearsal 6:30PM

Wake from the Nightmare of Jan 6.

[Episcopal News Service] In a livestreamed Jan. 6 worship service from Washington, D.C., that marked both the Feast of the Epiphany and the first anniversary of the attack on the U.S. Capitol, and later in an address to the nation from the Lincoln Memorial, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry called on Christians to reclaim the spiritual light that the holiday celebrates and reject the “deeper darkness” shown in the attack.

“Epiphany, at its deepest roots, is about the light and life and love of God,” Curry preached in his sermon at the Church of the Epiphany, just east of the White House. “And what happened here in this country that we love a year ago was not about light and love and life. And we are better than that. And we must declare it.”

Standing near the monument to President Abraham Lincoln, who led the U.S. through the Civil War, Curry spoke about the “peril and promise” of this moment. The “nightmare of Jan. 6” was “a revelation that there are forces intentionally seeking and working to divide us,” he said in a video recording. “Left unchecked, unaddressed, and unhealed, this can lead to the decline and deconstruction of our nation.

“Such a moment demands moral vision that sees beyond mere

self-interest and beholds the common good — a spiritual strength stronger than any sword.”

At the invitation of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, the presiding bishop also offered a prayer during a brief early evening vigil with members of Congress at the Capitol.

The noon worship service highlighted the contrast between the Feast of the Epiphany – which celebrates the revelation of Jesus in the world, particularly to the magi who came to visit Bethlehem – and the attack on the Capitol by supporters of then-President Donald Trump, who breached and ransacked the building for about five hours after being spurred on by the former president’s false claims about election fraud.

In a passionate sermon, Curry presented Christians with a stark “moment of decision”: the light of the Epiphany or the darkness of anti-democratic insurrection.

“It never occurred to me in my 68 years of living that it would be necessary for me to stand up in front of the people of God and declare that it is necessary to reclaim Epiphany,” Curry said. “But one year ago, ... darkness descended [on] the land and Epiphany was eclipsed at the Capitol of the United States of America. And it occurred to me a few months ago that whatever else goes on, we who claim to be followers of Jesus Christ must reclaim Epiphany.”