

## **Vestry Communications Information**

Web:

The Vestry has a web page. This site allows us to post information for Vestry members. In order to access this page, go to:

<http://www.stpaulschurchflint.com/vestryinfo>

Vestry List-serve    [vestry@stpaulschurchflint.com](mailto:vestry@stpaulschurchflint.com)

A "list-serve" is a way to email a group of people using one email address. It works a bit like an online meeting.

To send a message to ALL vestry members at the same time, please use the e-mail address above. Remember, when you receive a message from this address you need to use the reply-all function so that your message will be sent to all vestry members, otherwise your reply will only be sent to the individual who originated the message.

No message originating on the list should be forwarded or quoted (or in any other way distributed) without the permission of the original sender.

The Vestry list is open ONLY to vestry members.

Every vestry member will have their own stpaulschurchflint.com address. It will be your first name (or commonly used nickname) @stpaulschurchflint.com

We would like to publish this e-mail address and phone number in some documents (but not on the website). We would appreciate your permission to do that.

To be clear, your stpauls address is a “forwarding” address. Email sent to your stpauls address will instantly be sent to your primary address. Email sent to your stpauls address will not be intercepted and cannot be read by anyone. You need not “do” anything for this to work.

If you respond to a message sent to your stpauls address, your primary email address will be shown.

Internal web site: <http://paul.stpaulsflint.org>

Parish Website: <http://www.stpaulschurchflint.com> or

<http://www.stpaulsflint.org>

You can use “stpaulsflint.org” in place of “stpaulschurchflint.com”

The Executive Committee (composed of the Wardens, Treasurer and Clerk) meets two-weeks prior to each Vestry meeting and at the call of the Rector (Priest-in-Charge).

**Staff E-Mail and Phone Numbers:**

The Reverend Donald F. Davidson, Priest-in-Charge

11703 Shell Bark Lane

Grand Blanc, MI 48439

Cell: 810-445-9430 Church cell: 810-836-8727

Office: Extension 216, 810-234-8637

The Reverend Donna Kusky, Deacon in Residence

Megan Faris, Administrative Assistant

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursdays 9:00-2:00

[megan@stpaulschurchflint.com](mailto:megan@stpaulschurchflint.com)

Holly Richardson, Director of Music

[directorofmusic@stpaulschurchflint.com](mailto:directorofmusic@stpaulschurchflint.com)

George Gibson, Director of Finance

[directoroffinance@stpaulschurchflint.com](mailto:directoroffinance@stpaulschurchflint.com)

Rafael McDaniel, Gospel Choir Director

Matthew Benkert, Organist

Terrance Whitehead, Sexton

Edythe Peake, Web Editor

[webeditor@stpaulschurchflint.com](mailto:webeditor@stpaulschurchflint.com)

### **Advice**

Vestry members should check their email at least twice every day. I would suggest making a folder and rule that would place your church mail in that specific folder.

There is no one who cannot "figure out" how email software works. I think it is easier to use an email client software like Thunderbird, Outlook or the little email client software that comes with Windows (there are others) than logging-in via your browser.

Read the documents from the vestry website so that you are prepared for each meeting. Unprepared Vestry members make meetings longer. If you have a question, send your question to [vestry@stpaulschurchflint.com](mailto:vestry@stpaulschurchflint.com).

Read the Tower Talk and the Epistle.

**Attend Sunday services.** Of course it may not be possible for you to attend every week – I get that – yet, vestry members need to be seen.

**Attend Vestry Meetings.** When a Vestry Member misses three Vestry meetings in a row, the Vestry may declare the seat vacant and elect someone to fill the position.

If we ever get back to having parish-wide social events, **please go!** Honestly, social events can be the best way to meet and know someone you have yet to meet.

**Each Vestry member will be assigned** to a specific group or committee as either chairperson or as a representative of or to the Vestry. The Vestry member does not have to be in-charge of the group. Although, it may not always be possible, leadership change is healthy. New ideas and fresh perspectives can recharge long term servant ministers.

**Your time is important!** Please be careful and not allow any ministry to be “your” ministry. Ministry belongs to Jesus. The ministry in which we engage is part of the overall ministry of our parish, of our diocese, of our national and worldwide communion. We own these ministries as we own our participation in our parish communities. In order to do that, we must keep our relationships clear and our spiritual and physical batteries charged.

**Vestry meetings should not be stressful**, but sometimes they are. If you hear yourself getting louder, if you start not to care about the feelings of another or you start thinking in terms of winners and losers, you may have lost the gospel imperative of love, at least for a moment. Use Robert’s Rules with great discretion, but a pause for prayer is always an effective way for a “time-out.” A Vestry meeting is neither the time nor the place, if indeed there is such a place, to be mean toward another human being.

**ZOOM** meetings are indeed possible from time-to-time. Be ready for a special ZOOM meeting on a moment’s notice. A “newish” cell phone with a Wi-Fi connection is all you need. You can also call in from any telephone. Laptop computers are almost always ready, desktops computers will need external cameras and microphones.

**Finally, when speaking to members of the staff**, please remember you are not their supervisor, nor can the vestry terminate their employment. Please speak to them with ample

respect and if there is a problem, speak to the Rector. A vestry members should never be disrespectful or intimidating to any member of the staff.

### **Notes about Direct Communication**

No member of the Vestry should ever bring anything anonymous to a meeting of the Vestry. An issue brought to the Vestry should include the name of the individual who has the concern.

If an individual will not allow their name to be attached to an issue, the issue is not brought to the vestry.

Any person may attend a vestry meeting and with permission of the presiding officer, speak to the vestry. The person speaking should be given respectful attention, without debate or argument.

Direct Communication First  
Triangles should never take place.  
Secrets always make you sick.

The only way to break a "system" is through direct engagement.

Gossip is evil!

Gossip is talking about someone without that person being present. Engaging in gossip is being disrespectful toward all those involved. If it is not about love, it is not about God.

If someone wants to attempt to engage you in gossip, please respond that you will be happy to get the individual being discussed so that they can be included in the conversation, and then reach for your phone.

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