



Tower Talk

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

The Church with Heart, in the Heart of the City

March 16, 2022

+/- 22%

We have a lot of good news to share, and a lot of really neat things coming up. We have a lot of great people working very hard to do everything possible to bring St. Paul's back after the pandemic.

We have a problem too:

Our attendance is significantly less than it can be, maybe than it should be. I resist going into all the possible reasons that people have not returned to church after the trials of the virus. I am pretty sure I could not list them all and I am positive that I do not know them all. What I believe is that if people wanted to come back to church, they could.

What I want you to know is rather obvious but needs to be said:

WE NEED YOU

We would bring back the ushers bringing the gifts (oblations) forward at the offertory—but at the moment we have no ushers. We will need Eucharistic Ministers and Eucharistic Visitors again, but we are not totally sure who would want to serve. We do not have many lectors and at the moment we have no regular acolytes.

If you take our active membership minus those who are no longer able to attend, on average only about 22% are coming to church. I think we can do better and I pray that people will accept the invitation to join Jesus for a special dinner every Sunday morning. In reality the decision to attend or not is between you and Jesus as Jesus is the host.

As your priest, I would love to meet and get to know every member of our community. Rumors that I have horns and live under a bridge are not true.

Our work does not stop or even slow down with pushing our beloved folks to come back to church. Our work continues as we invite folks who do not have a current church relationship. Let them know we will not go after them, we will let them ask any questions and we will not judge them or even dislike them if our way of worship is not their way of worship.

I pray that we will find a way to let people know that our doors and our hearts are open, and that we have love to spare.

Don+

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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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

From the Stewardship Committee:

The Bishop is coming, The Bishop is coming and so is our partnership with the City to clean up our church and grounds in collaboration with the other organizations in our city, May 14. This is about relationships and helping to tidy up our neighborhood. St. Paul's will kind of serve as home-base for the downtown effort. We'll invite folk to use our parking lot, have some snacks and beverages, take a church tour, visit the bathrooms, etc. Our hope is that St. Paul's folks will be able to spend some time wandering around downtown, meeting our neighbors, visiting a restaurant or coffee shop, etc.and help clean up **our** space!

We are asking each ministry area to volunteer for an area of the church to clean May 14.

There will be sign up sheets at the visitor center as we get closer to May 14.

For example: The Bell Choir members would volunteer to clean the balcony. Sweep the floor, dust the organ up in the balcony, dust the woodwork. A general clean up of our space that we use weekly.

Chancel Choir would volunteer to clean the choir loft, pews, racks, and the choir room.

Everyone is needed for this event. If you are not currently on a committee, come and volunteer in a spot that you see needs help.

EVERYONE is NEEDED!!!! Let's have a 100% participation of all of our members.

Holly Richardson, Director of Music and Stewardship Committee member for our 150th Anniversary.

Attention anyone 15 and older:

If you would like to be confirmed, received or make a public reaffirmation during the diocesan service on May 22, 2022... please let Fr. Don know. The service will be held in our own nave. A confirmation class is forming now!

It will be FUN!

Serving on a Committee

Are you kidding?

The Vestry is beginning the work to restructure our Committees and bring new life and focus to the areas of our parish wide ministry.

Some of our goals :

- 1) Spread out leadership so that members of the Vestry are not the only chairpersons and members of each committee (chairpersons not members of the vestry)
- 2) Keeping the balance between the roles and responsibilities of the Vestry and the Rector.
- 3) The Vestry will provide a charge or mission to give each Committee a focus on their specific area of ministry.
- 4) Committees will function within the structure of the whole church keeping clarity in their own area of ministry.
- 5) Committees through their chairperson or Vestry representative will communicate regularly with the Rector and Vestry about their current and upcoming events and projects.
- 6) No member of our community will be forced to serve on a committee, every member can and some members really should.

There will be more information coming forth as Committee Chairs and members are appointed and mission statements written.

ANNOUNCING
Get out your calendar and reserve May 22, 2022
On May 21 and 22, 2022 we will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone of our beautiful building.

Many events will take place both days.

On the 22nd we will have a special service with The Right Reverend Prince Singh.

That afternoon one of the Diocesan wide Confirmation services will be held at St. Paul's.

Mark it down NOW... more information forthcoming.

Your Vestry:

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

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

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

Ferrell Katzenberger

Jan Bugbee

Walter Peake (Stewardship)

Parish Archivist

Dr. Elizabeth Jordan

(Member of Diocesan Council)

Joel Arnold (Intersection 150)

Tina Morrison (Worship)

Celeste Lord (Outreach)

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
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Rafael McDaniel, Gospel Choir Director

Matthew Benkert, Organist

Terrance Whitehead, Sexton

Edythe Peake, Web Editor
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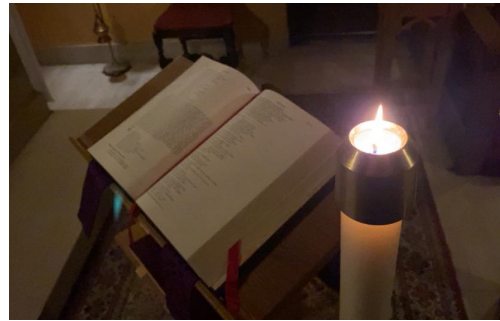
Jelesia Ford Geraghty
(Member: Diocesan Standing Committee)

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

Fr. Don
Tuesdays-Thursdays
(by appointment)

LECTOR SUPPORT INVITATION
Saturday, March 19, 2022
10:00 AM Upstairs Conference Room

There are sign-up sheets in the parlor at church,
or you can send an email to



(webeditor@stpaulschurchflint.com) to let us
know you are coming.

—Outreach—

Since it has been hard to schedule a monthly meeting, I thought I would update you as to the opportunities for March and April. Please remember Harriet Kenworthy's family. She was such a faithful contributor to this ministry. She will be missed.

1. We have been asked to support Crossover for Easter by contributing filled eggs, individually wrapped candy, sidewalk chalk, bubbles, etc. If you would rather send a monetary gift you can send it to St Pauls indicating for "Crossover Easter" or to Crossover. We can take over the items to Crossover or you can deliver them yourself. Deadline April 3, 2022.
2. We will not be housing families for Family Promise until Fall. Until then you can volunteer at the Day Center. They are still remodeling so still in need of painters, caulking, setting cabinets and organizing supplies. They also have a monetary fundraiser in celebration of Family Promise and Tiffany's March birthday. Check out their website for more information.
3. Instead of meeting at 4:30 pm on the second Tuesday of the month it has been suggested we meet after the Tuesday lunch program. Next meeting Tuesday April 12, 2022 at noon. May will be a busy month for the church with a clean up day Saturday May 14 and our first 150th celebration with the Bishop visiting on May 20-May 21. Thanks for all you do.

Barbara Mannor



We are all aware that sometimes, despite our best efforts, our relationship with God and the recognition of God in our lives can move down in our priority ranking.

I remember a lady telling me "I do not care what Jesus said, this is Christ Church" Of course she did not mean what she said, but there are times when almost everything becomes more important than Jesus.

We know better. Only Jesus is Jesus and only Jesus is our Savior.

That is why during Lent we pause in our regular services to bring us an important message and that message is that God loved and loves us so much that he sent Jesus to change the way we think of sin and death, and to give us eternal life.

Do not be alarmed, the liturgical police are not in our area at the moment.

Lent is a wonderful season of the Church year mostly because it is a time when we take the time and remember God in our lives.

In Lent the crosses are veiled, the church looks more like a desert as we spend this time in a wilderness without the "A" word, and with a lot more time to get Jesus back on top.