



Tower Talk

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

The Church with Heart, in the Heart of the City

May 26, 2022

We Must Do Better

As much as I would like to write about many other things, I cannot get the scene of 19 children and 2 teachers being gunned-down in an elementary school. Watching a father talk about learning of the death of his daughter from the daughter's best friend as she was sitting outside the school covered in blood, but otherwise unhurt.

We must do better! In my own time in public school, I could not have imagined that any such thing could ever have happened. My neighbor's Dad owned hunting rifles, and another neighbor would shoot innocent clay pigeons on occasion, but no one...no one would ever think not alone act on the idea of killing school children. Indeed, there may not have been a safer place in my home town if anywhere.

We must do better! I am convinced that no one act will magically stop what has become a cultural phenomenon. We truly need to develop a united action for good. We do not need more churches, there are way too many as it is. We need churches willing to sacrifice their correct theology for community safety. We need less video games and screen time and more family games and family time. We need less kids who have no one and more kids that have everyone.

There are commonalities among the shooters in these horrible events: most all were loners that had few if any friends and had grown distant from family. Most if not all of them had no church relationship at all. Many, if not all had no connection with organized sports where they could learn team work and the values of trust, fair play and good sports conduct.

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St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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Holly Richardson,

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Megan Faris,

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Rafael McDaniel,

gospel choir director

Matthew Benkert, organist

Terrance Whitehead, sexton

Edythe Peake, web editor

I wonder if any of the shooters went to Sunday School or confirmation or church camp. Maybe that does not seem important, but values need to be taught, experienced and heard. We are not born knowing the difference between right and wrong, we learn that from the environment, parents and from mentors along the way.

It will take all of us, and lots of time to change the anger and rage projection that causes children to hate to the extreme. It will take all of us and lots of time to bring trust and peace back to a shattered world and people full of fear.

We must do what it takes because we must do better and we are the only ones who can.

Confirmation at St. Paul's



May 21 & 22



Your Vestry:

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

Maggie Hart, Treasurer (*Finance*)
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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)

Upcoming

June 5 — PENTECOST
WEAR RED!

The Reverend Canon Tracie Little,
Preaching

June 12
Trinity Sunday
Becket LeClaire, Preaching

June 19
The Reverend Paul Brunell
Guest Celebrant

CAMP CHICKAGAMI

Camp Chickagami is open for the season and taking reservations. The camp has programs and experiences for the least to the most experienced camper, with a full semester if not a year of Christian formation within one-week of camp.

Any youth of St. Paul's who wishes to attend camp will be given the opportunity to attend without any cost.

Go to
<https://campchickagami.org>
and when you register, please indicate that your fee may be paid by St. Paul's.

Camp Chickagami is ACA Accredited
Family Camping Center of the
Episcopal Diocese of
Eastern Michigan,

We Need Help PLEASE

One of many painful remembrances of Covid is that many of the beloved members of our St. Paul's community are not attending. We pray everyday that they will return as we need them and we miss them.

God's love heals all wounds from the past, and that love and forgiveness can release you from the burden of anger, resentment or anything else that might be keeping you from your church on Sunday morning.

Sometimes small things become large things when they are not confronted. Our efforts at forgiveness and reconciliation in a formal way did not happen as I had hoped, but peacemaking, loving and growing is part of what it means to be Christian, especially now in our painfully divided

and isolated world. I appeal to those who have not returned yet, and ask that you reconsider and come home to your brothers and sisters, to our beautiful 180+ year old church and this year 150th anniversary of our building. I want you to know that you are loved, you are missed and you are needed.

Big needs:

Live-streaming Technicians

Lectors

Ushers and Greeters

Acolytes/Servers

Eucharistic Ministers*

Vestry (One vacant seat)*

** training (election required, to serve on the vestry)
a person must regularly attend, make contributions,
be a baptized communicant, and at least
16 years old.*

For more news and our master calendar

go to:

www.stpaulschurchflint.com