

September 2022



STEWARDSHIP, RELATIONSHIPS, AND CELEBRATION... '150 Years at the Intersection'

OUR SHARED HISTORY... MORE THAN ENOUGH!

St. Paul's has indeed been blessed with God's abundant gifts in the years and decades since the parish was founded in 1840. Across those years, the church has always worked to open our doors, welcome our neighbors, and share our abundant gifts in community! The anniversary of our 150th year in

this church building, has given us an

obvious and wonderful opportunity to remember and renew our historic relationships,

and to reach out to build new connections. This 'season of celebration', this gift, has

again revealed new ways to share what we've been given.

Happy are those whom you choose and bring near to live in your courts.

We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house, your holy temple.

small workgroup to consider and plan for the celebration of our 150 years in this historic, sacred space. How would we recognize, care for, and share the abundant gift of our past? What would it mean to remember and share the stories of our rich history and our role in the community? How and why would we

decide to do this work? It now seems wonderfully obvious that this project would ultimately turn out to be always and only about one thing... stewardship!

A BIT OF RECENT HISTORY!

Conceived in pre-pandemic days, the notion of celebrating 150 years at this intersection was shaped by the historic connections between St. Paul's and many or most of the community's most recognizable organizations and institutions. Our early work included individual invitations and private church tours for representatives of those neighbors, reconnecting and renewing these historic ties.

In November of 2021, Father Don and the vestry authorized the establishment of a

THE PLAN AND THE PROCESS

Our 'Season of Celebration' was arranged to run for fifteen months, corresponding with the 150th anniversary of the period between the 1872 setting of our cornerstone and the official opening of the 'new' building in 1873. Six 'anchor dates' during this period were selected for special events to commemorate historically significant events, Cornerstone Day, Rector's Day, All Saints' Day, Founders' Day, Groundbreaking Day, and First Service Day.

(Continued next page)



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The Reverend Don Davidson, Priest-in-Charge
Barbara Mannor, Senior Warden

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Clearly, it would not do, to simply invite our neighbors to visit and learn about us and our history. There would really be little point in a celebration that looked inward: by us, for us, and about us. The value and impact of our anniversary celebration would only be found in sharing the effort, and welcoming the enthusiasm, interest, and involvement of our neighbors. So, the work of our 150th team was centered on relationships and built on a commitment to collaborate at every opportunity. This included our traditional sitebased events such as ARTWALK, Transgender Day of Remembrance, and Music in the Heart of the City, as well as reaching out to support broader community initiatives including Back to the Bricks, Pride, Crim Festival of Races, Juneteenth, and the variety of other downtown festivals.

THE CELEBRATION (SO FAR)!

During the first major event, which celebrated the anniversary of our groundbreaking and cornerstone days, St. Paul's partnered with local non-profits, community groups, and public entities, to serve as home-base for the springtime 'Downtown Cleanup and Social Mixer'. Ground was indeed broken, and new relationships built, as parish and community member worked side-by-side to spruce up and plant our garden, pick up debris well beyond our home at the intersection, all the way from City Hall to the river. In addition to the clean-up event, our cornerstone weekend also included a collaboration with the Diocese of Eastern and Western Michigan, as St. Paul's welcomed the Bishop for a service of Confirmation. Our August 'Rectors' Reunion and Open House' was another collaborative event, during which St. Paul's partnered with a local nonprofit organization to organize an ice cream and hot dog picnic in our front yard. We reconnected with parishioners who'd moved away or been gone a while, spent time with each other, and welcomed our friends from downtown (and Dropfest) to stop by for a chat and a snack.

THE PRODUCT

And so, it turns out that the product of our 150th project has never really been about a

series of events; and the measure of our success can't be found in the number of people that attend the celebrations. Our hope and expectation is that the meaningful outcome of the entire project will be the same as the methods we employed... to build and strengthen relationships with each other and our neighbors. We continue to learn that the 150th anniversary process is not the product; it simply the vehicle, a tool, and an opportunity to renew, rebuild, and perhaps establish new relationships. In the end, it has never really been about a building.

Walt Peake, Stewardship Committee and Intersection 150 Chair. Member of the Vestry

Art Walk, September 9, 2022

Our featured artist is Thomas Myers. Tom grew up in the Flint area, and has been painting for 22 years. He started drawing at the age of 5-6 years old.

Tom has a BA in Education from Central Michigan University and has taken classes in art at the Flint Institute of Art, Mott Community College and an industrial art class at Central Michigan University.

The music for the evening will be provided by the performing members of the St. Cecilla Society of Flint. Performing Members are professional musicians who volunteer their time and talent for the Flint Community. St Cecilia performing members have been providing music for the Greater Flint Community for over 130 years free of charge.

Art Walk is open to everyone with many participating organizations.



Come and Join Us!

Do you love to sing?

Would you like to ring bells?

Rehearsals start
Tuesday,



September 6, We would love to have you join us

See Holly Richardson (directorofmusic@stpaulschurchflint.com)



The Music Note

Holly Richardson

September 18 is the kickoff for Stewardship, and I have chosen a hymn to go with the theme for this year's campaign. The title is "Is your All on the Alter?" the words are as follows:

1 You have longed for sweet peace, And for faith to increase, And have earnestly, fervently prayed. But you cannot have rest, Or be perfectly blest, Until all on the altar is laid. Refrain:

Is your all on the altar of sacrifice laid?
Your heart does the Spirit control?
You can only be blest,
And have peace and sweet rest,
As you yield Him your body and soul.

2 Would you walk with the Lord In the light of His Word, And have peace and contentment alway? You must do His sweet will To be free from all ill— On the altar your all you must lay. [Refrain]

3 Oh, we never can know
What the Lord will bestow
Of the blessings for which we have prayed,
Till our body and soul
He doth fully control,
And our all on the altar is laid. [Refrain]

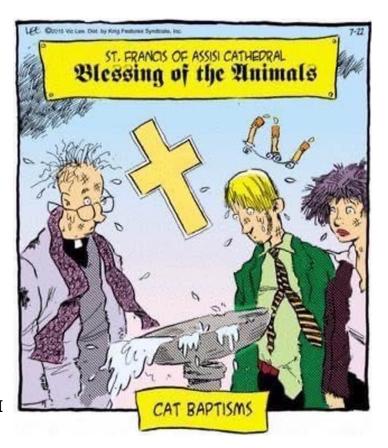
4 Who can tell all the love
He will send from above,
And how happy our hearts will be made,
Of the fellowship sweet
We shall share at His feet
When our all on the altar is laid!
[Refrain]

We will sing some form of it during the campaign. Stewardship to me is about using time and talents for the furtherment of God's kingdom. It is so important that we give of our time, money and effort. If you have chosen to worship at St. Paul's and it is your home, then I think that your time, money, and effort should be used for and in step with St. Paul's. There are many ways to help with the ministry of St.

Paul's. My focus is on the music, to make sure our services reflect what has been prepared and practiced, so that our service is a worship of God, and draws congregates into corporate worship. My challenge to you: What is your ministry? Where is your time, money and effort going to at St. Paul's?

The phrase, "and have earnestly, fervently prayed" means so much to me personally — I remember my grandmother earnestly and fervently praying. She would go into her room and pray, as we children would play outside, if we went into the cabin, we could hear her praying, and we would never disturb her time of prayer, we knew instinctively that what she was doing was important. Everything we do to further the kingdom of God is important, even if that is doing what no one else sees.

Holly Richardson, Director of Music





The Warden's Word

The day was drawing to a close, and the twelve came to him and said, "Send the crowd away, so that they may go into the surrounding villages and countryside, to lodge and get provisions; for we are here in a deserted place." But he said to them, "You give them something to eat." They said, "We have no more than five loaves and two fish—unless we are to go and buy food for all these people." For there were about five thousand men. And he said to his disciples, "Make them sit down in groups of about fifty each." They did so and made them all sit down. And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke them, and gave them to the disciples to set before the crowd. And all ate and were filled. What was left over was gathered up, twelve baskets of broken Luke 9:12-17 pieces.

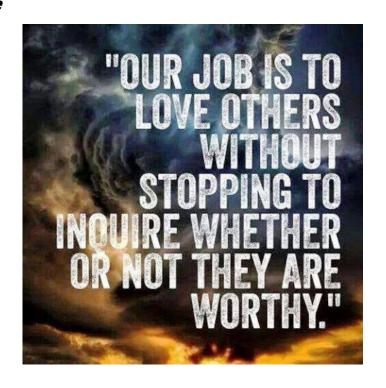
The theme for this year's pledge campaign, *More* **than Enough**, challenges us to reflect more deeply on God's abundant giving and how fully we respond. When we are concerned about having enough, it limits our opportunity to look at growth and opportunity. The disciples in Luke's gospel were looking at how to feed the five thousand, but Jesus provided the crowd with more than enough for the day. Just as the disciples worried about where they would get food to feed the followers of Jesus, we are concerned with how we are going to pay for staff and a new fulltime rector. The disciples were looking at how to feed the followers for one meal, but Jesus showed the disciples that the crowd would be fed not only today but have the opportunity for everlasting food. We need to use the gifts given to us and wisely as we seek ways to grow and strengthen our church family. Looking at future possibilities only through what we know today, can cause us to fear the future and not seek God's guidance.

We are not followers of Christ only on Sunday morning. We connect with our community every day of the week. Whether we have a full-time career or enjoy retirement we can reach out to share our faith and hope with those around us. After two years of isolation and fear of gathering, I believe we can emerge from the pandemic cocoon in a more wonderful form than we can im-

agine today. Over the last 150 years at our present location, we have seen times of great joy and times of great challenge, but even in moments of difficulty things turned around and the faithful survived to bring Christ to Flint. A steady amount of money has been pledged each year to support our work and willing hands have helped us be an active part of the community. You as faithful believers have made this possible.

Thank you for all you do for St Paul's church family and the world. In a few weeks you will be receiving an invitation to pledge your gifts and show your gratitude for the year to come. Pray that we welcome the new church year filled with hope and the abundance of Jesus Christ as offered to us first as a baby and then as our everlasting Savior.

Barbara Mannor, Senior Warden





More than Enough

The theme of this year's stewardship campaign, unlike last year's "Every Perfect Gift", is not drawn from a specific bible verse, but rather from the idea of God's abundant giving that pervades the scriptures. In Deuteronomy 8, the first reading for the launch of the fall pledge drive, Moses tells the Israelites that the Lord is bringing them to a good land. Just as the Lord had given them bread from heaven and water from the rock on their desert journey, the Lord's abundant provi-

sion will also extend to the resources of the Promised Land. The second reading, from 2 Corinthians, takes up the theme of God's generous giving. Paul tells the Corinthians in a pledge drive of his own that "God is able to provide for you with every blessing in abundance, so that by having enough of everything you may share in every good work" (2 Cor 9:8). The good work Paul has in mind is a contribution to the Jerusalem church. The Corinthians will increase their "harvest of righteousness" (2 Cor 9:10) by sharing their resources and will "produce thanksgiving to God" (2 Cor 9:11). Throughout the scriptures

from Deuteronomy to Paul, such giving enables the people of God to participate in the abundant living God makes possible, with gratitude for the "more than enough" that God provides.

Over the 10 weeks from September 18-November 20 we will remember the way our parish community has, within the various ministries with which God has blessed us, responded to God's gracious invitation to share our resources. Such acts of

service and generosity not only produce thanksgiving to God, but also spur us on to share in every good work as we respond more fully to the call of the one whose abundant provision can rain down bread from heaven and produce water from solid rock.

Tim Grant

More Than Enough – 2023 Stewardship and Pledge Materials are Available on the Website

The theme for the 2023
Stewardship Campaign is
'More Than Enough'. Developed by The Episcopal
Network for Stewardship, it
has been adopted by St.
Paul's for the coming year.
There are several articles in
the September edition of
The Epistle about the spirituality and generosity behind
the words 'More Than
Enough'.

The materials that have been developed by TENS are interesting, and are worthwhile to study. The prayers, forms, seasonal reflections, and other materials will be available to parishioners on the St. Paul's website. They can be downloaded as they are rolled out in the fall.

2023 Stewardship and Pledge materials can be accessed on the website from the 'Donate' button on the menu bar. If you have any questions about the materials, or navigation on the 'More Than Enough' web page, please let any member of the Stewardship Committee know.

www.stpaulschurchflint.com

Edythe Peake, Webeditor



More than Enough New Ways to Share, Sustain, and Serve.

As we celebrate 150 years in this building, we're also celebrating 150 years of St. Paul's serving as a community space. From partnerships with the Masonic Temple to community concerts, Back to the Bricks and ArtWalk, St. Paul's has been a home for our city to meet and gather for over a century. This legacy of engaging our neighbors in religious and nonreligious events alike is alive and well today. Serving as the home of the funeral for a fallen officer and leader in our community was a tremendous honor for our parish, and one that displayed the capacity of our church to serve as a home to a profound event of remembrance and honor for our city. Additionally, in just the last few months, the church has welcomed several Flint groups working to improve our community through collective action. Our church stepped up to serve as the home of meetings for the Genesee County Historical Society when their building no longer was usable. Flint Residents for Stronger Neighborhoods, a resident group in Flint organizing around better land use laws and who the broader Jesus Movement each and successfully pushed for the passage of a rewrite of the city's zoning ordinance, has used Barth Hall as a common meeting space. Just this summer, our church was the home of the Flint Food Summit, a conference focused on addressing issues of food insecurity in our city.

Connections from these events, and our work with Partners for Sacred Places, have led to unique opportunities for future partnership as well. The church is currently discussing a potential partnership with

Genesee Health Systems and Wellness Services to utilize church space to provide essential mental healthcare to our neighbors, especially our LGBTQIA+ neighbors who are often clearly discouraged from engaging with any churches. Barth Hall may also soon be home to brunches and fundraisers supported by the Flint Social Club, a local nonprofit led by Flint native Tony Vu that seeks to foster the next generation of amazing food entrepreneurs. By having a wonderful asset in our commercial kitchen located right Downtown, and infrequently used, we have a unique opportunity to help support the countless culinary talents that call Flint home but may not be able to afford expensive kitchen rentals at other commercial commissaries.

We are so blessed with this building and these facilities, and by opening our doors to these partnerships we are able to share these gifts with the people who truly make up our community - our neighbors. These partnerships however don't just benefit those who get to use our space. We are made richer by having deeper connections with our neighbors and Flint residents from across this community who know better the history of our space and the loving, liberating, and life giving work that St. Paul's carries forward in the name of every day.

Here's to another year deepening our work with our community, and ensuring that St. Paul's serves another 150 years as a cornerstone of the Flint community.

Joel Arnold Member of the Vestry, Stewardship Committee and 150 Intersection Group.



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Parish Notes

Thankfully, our old phone system is back working. Due to financial considerations, we no longer have an Administrative Assistant to answer calls during office hours. The phone system's auto attendant will answer calls most of the time. I know this is not what any of us would like and I apologize. A list of staff members and service times are available and you can leave a message for anyone.

The Vestry is looking into the purchase of a new phone and security system as we no longer have a method to unlock the Barth Hall outside doors remotely. If you are coming to the church, it is best to call when you arrive so we can let you in. The cost of a new phone and security system would be around \$15,000.00. Your help is needed.

The Vestry held a unofficial meeting in August to learn how to hold a "mutual ministry review." This process allows the vestry and rector to discuss concerns in different areas of church operations and find ways to move forward. This meeting may have been the most productive for many months as the vestry began to develop an internal awareness of its function as a group with a sense of understanding and compassion for their work, and for the people who make it happen. Although not an official meeting and no decisions were made, I am praying that this meeting will be remembered as one of the most pivotal all year.

New monitor speakers in the chancel have been installed making it possible for the choir to hear the readings and sermon.

Congratulations to Celeste and Moses who will be married at St. Paul's on October 8.

Ferrell Katzenberger has resigned as a member of the Vestry of St. Paul's. We thank Ferrell for her service (please see Tower Talk of July 20) and her many years of leadership for the Tuesday Lunch.

The parish master calendar is on-line and available from our website. A copy will be posted in the Machine Room, however, the copy will not be as up-to-date nor as official as the online version.

Our Welcome to Ed Arter as our parish organist as of September 4. Ed's office will be upstairs near the elevator.

Blessings, Don+

Episcopal News Service

Younger adults are more likely to pray than older generations, according to a survey for the Church of England published today showing that nearly half of UK adults report having ever offered up some form of prayer.

A majority of 18 to 34 year olds - 56% - say they have ever prayed, with a third (32%) reporting that they have prayed in the last month.

By contrast, a minority in the 55+ age group said they had ever prayed - at 41% - with 25% saying they had prayed in the last month.

The Savanta ComRes survey of 2,073 UK adults showed that overall nearly half (48%) said they had ever prayed with just over a quarter (28%) saying they have prayed in the last month.

Among those who had ever prayed, the most common topics prayed about were for friends and family (69%), people they know who are sick (54%) and to give thanks (51%).

The Revd Dr Stephen Hance, National Lead for Evangelism and Witness for the Church of England, said: "These findings really challenge the all-too-common assumption that young people are not interested in faith or spiritual things.

"In fact they show us that - more than simply being interested in spirituality - they are already exploring it in practice, to a greater extent than their elders.

"In an age when mindfulness and meditation are more popular than ever, prayer makes sense to people.

"And with pressures mounting and people of every generation facing huge uncertainty, many people of all ages are drawing strength from God in prayer.

The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, said prayer can transform lives and bring peace in a troubled world.

"As Christians, prayer is the bedrock of our faith and deepens our relationship and understanding of God," he said.

"The results of the commissioned Savanta ComRes survey on prayer show us that many people still long for that connection with something and someone beyond themselves.

"At this time of uncertainty in our world where we face many pressing issues such as the climate emergency, wars, famine, the cost of living, reaching out in prayer to the God who loves us and longs to be known to us can bring peace and transform lives.

"As a church we need to be a community of women and men who follow Jesus and offer spaces where the many people growing up in our world today who do not yet know Christ - can learn and receive from him and follow in his way, growing ever closer to God through daily prayer and reading of the scriptures.

"If younger people want to pray, then let our churches be places where prayer is taught and experienced."





Now a Word or Two From Fr. Don

I opened the mail a few days ago and there it was, my Medicare Card. "No No it can't be" I said internally. For the life of me I cannot figure out how my life went from my new Driver's License to my Medicare card in what seems like just a few days.

Admittedly, I found the arrival of my Medicare card depressing. I wallowed about in the light of my own fear of getting older for a few days.

Marcie and I returned Thursday from a few days visiting and enjoying a zoo safari trip. We talked quite a bit about the recognition that my own retirement is not that long off, and the added worry of what I am going to do. Although, I appreciated the chance to talk to the love of my life, I did not find the conversation about retirement as helpful.

Medicare, Retirement, turning 65 in a few weeks...GOOD GRIEF! I go back to my first thought—how did this happen? Unlike many, I do feel older, my waist seems to be larger, my legs weaker and my brain smaller. I accept that and as a senior priest in this Diocese, the wisdom I attempt to share is not always wanted. Sigh!

Once in a while I read that a priest is getting accolades and compliments for doing something that a few decades ago would have been considered grounds for discipline from the Bishop.

While I am and have been a geek for over 50 years (becoming a Amateur and Commercial

licensee at age 11), I find that it is becoming more difficult to keep up with the many changes in software and equipment. If you are my age and older, talk like this may drive you to attend my personal pity party.

Let's NOT~ ok?

I am full of gratitude that I am still here, still able to do the many things I love to do, still loving and still trying to follow Christ.

The reality of age I cannot escape, but I can work a little harder on my health and my perspective. I cannot make my vision come back to that I had at age 20, but with God's help, I can make sure I see the world about me honestly and without immersing myself in sorrow and regret.

I can remember and smile at friends gone by and then take the time to stay in touch with those I love.

During my time here, I plan on annoying you with stories you have heard before and maybe once in a while complaining about the cold or the heat.

I pray also to share, love and be your priest with every bit of energy I can. I plan to do everything I can to build up St. Paul's to welcome your new Rector.

And most of all, I plan to pray and praise God in grateful thanksgiving for every sunrise.





Diocese of Mississippi helps bring water to Jackson residents during crisis

[Diocese of Mississippi] In the wake of $\underline{\text{flooding and water pump problems}}$ in Jackson, 160,000 residents are without adequate water pressure or clean drinking water.

Bishop Brian Seage wrote in a message on Aug. 31, "...the Diocese of Mississippi is providing funds to New Horizons Church in South Jackson for distribution of water. They're perfectly positioned to [distribute] water and their location is on Ellis Avenue off Interstate 20. We'll be sending an 18-wheeler. Funding for the truck load has come from Presiding Bishop [Michael] Curry and my discretionary fund."

According to a report from Mississippi Today on Sept. 1, "The goal is for the pressure at O.B. Curtis [water treatment plant] to reach 87 pounds per square inch (PSI)," according to Jackson Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba. "The pressure had climbed back up to 80 PSI on Tuesday night [Aug. 30], but fell back to 40 PSI after setbacks on Wednesday."

At the Allin House in Jackson, Seage wrote, "we have brownish water and some pressure. Our water pressure [at home] is lower than normal. At this point it's enough to bathe, wash dishes and laundry."

Like many Jackson residents, the Seages are buying water at Costco and Sam's Club, but they haven't tried using the bottled water distribution points set up by the city and state.

"We feel blessed we can afford to buy water. We also sent jugs of water home with friends who live in other water districts. Some people have no water service at all due to the low pressure," Seage said.



WHAT'S NEXT – ALL SAINTS' AT GLENWOOD!

Our third 'Season of Celebration' event is shaping up to be the most complex and collaborative effort of the season. On October 30, 2022, 1PM-4PM, we'll join with partners and collaborators for a community-wide All Saints' event at Glenwood. The afternoon will include self-quided walking tours with docents and storytellers stationed near selected gravesites, specifically those with significant historical ties to the churches and congregations. The highlight of the afternoon will be at 2PM, an ecumenical, community wide 'All Saints' Memorial Service' with congregations and clergy from all four Crossover Outreach churches. Although our first two 2022 events (Cornerstone & Reunion) were relatively modest in size and scope, the Glenwood event promises to be a much larger, more complex operation as we leave the comfort of our own space for this special day. This will truly be a collaborative and ecumenical effort, including the Glenwood Board, University of

Michigan— Department of History, the Genesee County Historical Society, local nonprofits, law enforcement, and many more friends, old and new. This is going to be fun!

This edition!

This edition is being sent to you via email, posted on our website, and USPS.

Your Priest will do just about anything to help you to read it.

Due to time issues, as your priest is parttime, I have had to stop sending out the Tower Talk. Maybe we can get it going again someday.

Thank you for your kindness, support and understanding. Don+