



Prayers, Thoughts and Consequences

No, Really!

Your Vestry has major decisions to make. The decisions are coming at them like a highspeed freight train. The train is unrelenting as the decisions must be made.

For many years, St. Paul's decreasing membership and recently post pandemic anemic attendance has had consequences relating most notably to financial sustainability. We are blessed that we have an endowment, yet, endowments were not created to pay operational expenses (think salaries, heat and a/c).

Our anticipated pledges for 2023 indicate that we will be significantly below 2022. This year we believe we will end the year with a small surplus due to my part-time status. The Vestry has eliminated the once full-time and later part-time position of Administrative Assistant. The consequence is that the priest is now creating and printing all bulletins and newsletters, and there is currently no reasonable way to answer the door or telephone.

At a time with 8% inflation, during a Rector search, the Vestry must decide what to do. The Vestry is the fiduciary or trustees of the parish in that they, under the authority of corporation law, the Canons (law) of the Episcopal Church and our Diocese, and our by-laws. While the Rector (or in my case, Priest-in-Charge (which is a Rector with a specific term), has voice in discussions, only

elected members of the Vestry may vote on these decisions.

At our Vestry meeting in November, unless delayed, the Vestry will vote on the 2023 parish budget. The budget gives the Treasurer and Rector the authority to approve day-to-day expenses without requiring the Vestry to approve every expenditure. The budget is based upon pledges, and income from various funds making-up our endowment. Much of our endowment is restricted to specific use by the original donors, some income is through trusts such as the many trusts named for Charles Barth. The Barth trusts cannot be used for operational expenses.

All of this is complicated. Suffice it to say that currently the funds that keep the lights on and the staff paid come from about 75% endowment and 25% pledges.

The reality is that we do not anticipate having the funds to pay a full-time Rector and current staff in 2023-24. Ouch! We have known this for a while, and the Vestry has taken difficult and unpopular steps to help. It depends on when a new Rector arrives.

Paraphrasing the sign on President Truman's desk, the "Buck stops" with the Vestry.

Let's chat about alternatives.
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The Warden's Word

How do you learn to listen to God? I think it requires practice and openness. I have been fortunate for several years to spend two weeks in September without TV, Wi-Fi or cellular service. At first, I want to interpret the sounds to urban life. Periodically a truck will come down the road which is a mile away. A train is 10 miles away but can be heard if you listen carefully. These are so rare that after a few days I do not think of the sound relating to modes of transportation but rather the sounds of nature. Being in an area of few trees, there are only a handful of birds. One needs to listen carefully. They may only make a few chirps before they fly on to a new location.

I think that is how we hear God. We make an effort to be aware of the faint sounds that are different than those we normally hear. We free our mind of any thoughts that will distract our concentration. We ask God to speak to us. And then we are still and listen.

Have you ever been so passionate or focused on a specific outcome that your prayer is a demand for that which you want? How can God answer, when you have already set your mind on the answer. I believe we can let God know how troubled we are but then wait for his response. It is easy for human beings to forget we have not created all that we have. Finding a solution to a problem seems necessary, when really, we can ask for God's help.

Summer is over and we are beginning the Fall Season. We gather our financial pledges, focus on ministries we want to support, and access how much time we will give to spread the kingdom of God. Realizing everything you have is a gift from God, please pray about how you will use your time, talent and treasure. Listen for God speaking to you. Study the scriptures and continue to connect with your St Paul's family.

Prayer of Quiet Confidence from the Book of Common Prayer

O God of peace, who hast taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and confidence shall be our strength: By the might of thy Spirit lift us, we pray thee, to thy presence, where we may be still and know that thou art God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Art Walk, October 7, 2022

Youth Arts: UNLOCKED brings artists and arts workshops to justice-involved youth in Flint and Genesee County.

Our goal is to introduce artistic concepts and techniques as a means of connecting, expressing, learning, and discovery.

We offer workshops in the visual arts, spoken word poetry, theatre, dance and yoga. A separate gender-based program HerStory: UNLOCKED addresses the unmet needs of incarcerated girls.

Our workshops take place inside the Genesee County Juvenile Justice Center (GCJJC) and at the Learning Co-op in Flint, Michigan.

Each year we bring the artwork created in our workshops to the public through our exhibits and in books and videos available on our website.



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



All Saints' at Glenwood

Glenwood Cemetery Est. 1857

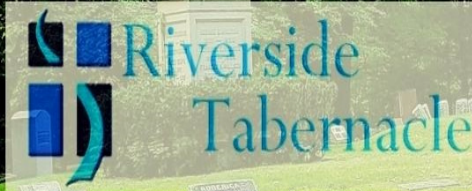


Walking Tours

1:00PM - 4:00PM

Worship Service

2:00 PM



Sunday October 30, 2022

FREE EVENT - EVERYONE WELCOME!




Sunday, October 9, 2022

10:00 AM Holy Eucharist

Blessing of the Animals

WE OPEN OUR DOORS
The Blessing of the Animals is a tradition in many Episcopal Churches honoring St. Francis of Assisi.

WE WELCOME OUR NEIGHBORS
Dogs, cats, birds, snakes, (and once an iguana) have joined us in the past for an individual blessing. All are welcome. Pets are family!

WE SHARE OUR GIFTS
Blessings, water, treats, and ear scratches are generously shared on Pet Blessing Sunday! (Indoor rest rooms will not be available for blessing guests.)

If you would like, please bring a can or bag of pet food, cat litter or pet treats, etc. that we can share with local shelters.

Join St. Paul's for our annual tradition of the Blessing of the Pets in honor of St. Francis of Assisi.

Dogs must be on a leash, other animals should be in carriers. Blessings of larger animals (horses, goats, dinosaurs) and those (animals and people) who are not comfortable inside or at a church service, will be held in our garden area for a blessing after the service.

150 years at the Intersection
711 S. Saginaw Street, Flint, MI 48502



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
A Church with Heart in the Heart of the City

ALL SAINTS' SERVICE AT GLENWOOD!

The third '150th Celebration' event of the 2022 season will be an All Saints' service at Historic Glenwood Cemetery. Although our first two 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.

The main event at Glenwood will be an ecumenical, community-wide All Saint's memorial service at 2pm, Sunday October 30, 2022. Clergy from all four Crossover churches will work together in planning and leading that service. The afternoon will also include self-guided cemetery walking tours with docents and storytellers stationed near selected gravesites, specifically those with significant historical ties to the churches and congregations.

OUR ORIGINAL INTENTIONS – HONORED!

Recalling the stated '**Purposes**' of the 150th project, established during the first 150th Steering session last November, I'm delighted that this Glenwood event is shaping up to hit all the marks:

Relationships – Our historic building and its 150th anniversary provides the vehicle, but our 150th celebration is really centered on the parish's role and relationships with our community and our neighbors. The purpose of the project is to celebrate, renew, and establish meaningful ties to the community, its institutions, and our neighbors.

Collaboration - We discussed the importance of building this project in partnership and collaboration with our community stakeholders; never doing alone, that for which we can collaborate.

Sharing Our Gifts - Although the event is will be open and absolutely free to the public, our current thought is to encourage and direct any donations or financial gifts to Crossover Outreach.

PLANNING PROCESS AND STATUS

A Community Effort: As we continue to reach out to establish and renew relationships with a variety of community partners, I continue to be amazed at the level of interest and investment by folks from throughout our community. Indeed, it is Dayne Walling at Glenwood who has agreed to take the lead in coordinating the work of the event team. The planning process for the event is truly a collaborative effort, guided by a small team of community partners.

Event Team Members/Roles:

Dayne Walling, Glenwood Board of Directors (Event planning and logistics)

Professor Thomas Henthorn, University of Michigan-Flint, History Department (Cemetery History / Tours)

Pastor Jeremy Peters, Court Street Methodist Church (Clergy / Worship Service)

Father Don Davidson, St. Paul's (Clergy / Worship Service)

Walt Peake, St. Paul's 150th Steering Team (Community Engagement)

Community Collaborators: We are grateful that Dr. Joseph Novak (First Presbyterian Church) and Pastor Tom Mattiuzzo (Riverside Tabernacle) have enthusiastically agreed to take part in the 2PM worship memorial service along with Father Don and Pastor Jeremy. In addition to the planning team members, we are grateful as well for folks from the Genesee County Historical Society in helping to identify tour guides/docents for the cemetery tours. We are also having conversations with the Sheriff's Office, as they have enthusiastically embraced the project and offered their support and assistance. We do have calls/emails out to additional community organizations/stakeholders who may have an interest in participating/supporting the project. We continue to reach out to invite participation by other organizations with close ties to St. Paul's and Glenwood. Watch this space for new partners/collaborators!

Consistent with our earliest hopes, this will be a community-wide project, taking on life outside of our buildings and grounds. We will again, 'open our doors'; but this time they swing outward into the community where we will join our friends and neighbors at Historic Glenwood Cemetery.

Please feel free to contact me by phone, 810-444-0150, or by email: waltpeake@yahoo.com.

EVENT DETAILS:

All Saints' at Glenwood

Date: Sunday, October 30, 2022 1PM – 4PM

Location:

Historic Glenwood Cemetery
2500 W. Court St
Flint, MI 48503

Description:

Walking Tours: 1:00PM to 4:00PM
Worship Service: 2:00PM

Join us for an afternoon in Historic Glenwood Cemetery, as local churches and community partners remember the people and families of Flint's past. This is a community event, and everyone is welcome to take part in the tours and/or remembrance service. Docents will be posted throughout the cemetery for the self-guided walking tours. The ecumenical All Saints' service will take place at the will take place at the Mausoleum on the cemetery's east side.

This is a free event, but donations will be gratefully accepted on behalf of Crossover Outreach.

Planning Partners:

Court Street Methodist Church
First Presbyterian Church
Genesee County Historical Society
Genesee County Sheriff's Office
Glenwood Cemetery
Riverside Tabernacle
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
University of Michigan-Flint Department of History

On that Note from our Director of Music

“Where is God my Maker, who gives songs in the night?” Job 35:10

Songs in the night! Have you ever awoken to have a song run through your mind as you contemplate the darkness of the night? This week several songs went through my mind as I was away from home with some friends at a rug hooking event. One of my favorite songs is “My Jesus, I love thee” and there was a night that song went through my head over, and over until I fell back asleep. As I was thinking about the article for this month another song popped up ‘No One Ever Cared for Me, Like Jesus”

I would love to tell you what I think of Jesus,
Since I found in Him a friend so strong and true.
I would tell you how He changed my life completely;
He did something no other friend could do.

All my life was full of sin when Jesus found me;
All my heart was full of misery and woe,
Jesus placed His strong arms about me
And He led me in the way I ought to go.

Ev'ry day He comes to me with new assurance;
More and more I understand His word of love.
But I'll never know just why He came to save me
Till someday I see His blessed face above.

Chorus

No one ever cared for me like Jesus;
There's no other friend so kind as He.
No one else could take the sin and darkness from me;
O how much He cared for me.

In the darkest hours of my life I have often prayed to feel the arms of Jesus surround me and comfort me, and I can feel a peace and calmness come upon my soul when I pray and ask for comfort. This is why I love this song, it take my personal experiences and I can sing about them. May you also feel God wrap his arms around you if you are feeling a need for calm and peace.

<https://youtu.be/wapXZkU-jFM>

Holly Richardson, Director of Music

Announcements

Without an Administrative Assistant, we cannot always answer the phone, and we cannot remotely unlock the door. The best way is to call us on your cell phone from the parking-lot and let us know that you wish in. Call 810-234-8637, Thank you for your understanding.

Sadly, we do not have a technician to run our live-streaming system every week. We apologize. Sometimes people are unable to attend, and sometimes people are ill or away on vacation. It is our intention to live-stream every service, and we apologize when we cannot. If you would be interested in learning how to run our live-streaming, please contact Walt Peake.
walt@stpaulschurchflint.com

Our master-calendar of all church events is online. Copies of the calendar may be posted around the church, but please remember that the only correct copy is online. The calendar is a menu link from our website
stpaulschurchflint.com

Have you ever thought about being a licensed Worship Leader? The Reverend Curt Norman and members of the Diocese will be leading instruction on November 5, at St. John's Church in downtown Saginaw. You must be licensed to lead Morning Prayer on Sunday or as a major service.

Christmas eve Cantata practice is about to begin, see Holly if you are interested. All voices needed.



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Your Vestry:

(all at stpaulschurchflint.com)

Barbara Mannor, Senior Warden
([seniorwarden@](mailto:seniorwarden@stpaulschurchflint.com))

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

Maggie Hart, Treasurer (*Finance*)
([treasurer@](mailto:treasurer@stpaulschurchflint.com))

Jan Bugbee, Clerk of the Vestry
([clerk@](mailto:clerk@stpaulschurchflint.com))

Walter Peake (Stewardship)
Parish Archivist
([walt@](mailto:walt@stpaulschurchflint.com))

Dr. Elizabeth Jordan (Diversity)
(*Member of Diocesan Council*)
([Elizabeth@](mailto:Elizabeth@stpaulschurchflint.com))

Joel Arnold (*Intersection 150*)
([joel@](mailto:joel@stpaulschurchflint.com))

Tina Morrison (*Worship*)
([tina@](mailto:tina@stpaulschurchflint.com))

Celeste Lord (*Outreach*)
([celeste@](mailto:celeste@stpaulschurchflint.com))

Staff:

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

Fr. Don's cell phone:
810 836 8727

(Member of Diocesan Standing Committee)

The Reverend Deacon Donna Kusky
(retired)

(donna@stpaulschurchflint.com)

George Gibson,

Director of Finance ([directoroffinance@](mailto:directoroffinance@stpaulschurchflint.com))

Holly Richardson,

Director of Music ([directorofmusic@](mailto:directorofmusic@stpaulschurchflint.com))

Rafael McDaniel, Gospel Choir Director
([gospel@](mailto:gospel@stpaulschurchflint.com))

Ed Arter, Organist ([organist@](mailto:organist@stpaulschurchflint.com))

Terrance Whitehead,
Sexton

No Really... continued from page 1

You are welcome to visit with any member of the Vestry and express your thoughts, your support and please your prayers.

- A part-time Rector. We would decrease our expenses by half of the Rector's salary. Benefits including health insurance would not change. This would mean that the Rector would be available at least 2 days a week plus Sunday. Language here is important. Please note part-time Rector not part-time priest. A person is ordained a priest and that is 100% of the time. A Rector is a position.
- Decrease or eliminate remaining staff. The consequences are obvious.
- Use funding for operational expenses from endowment.

I have no doubt there are other possibilities out there, maybe you have one?

I believe it is very important that our community is aware that the Vestry is working through all the possibilities, and recognizes the serious nature of the decisions ahead.

My thanks to our Wardens and Treasurer for their work and help as we labor together.

Be assured, we shall overcome and move forward in Christ Jesus. Don+



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*I was glad when they said unto me
We will go to the house of the Lord!*

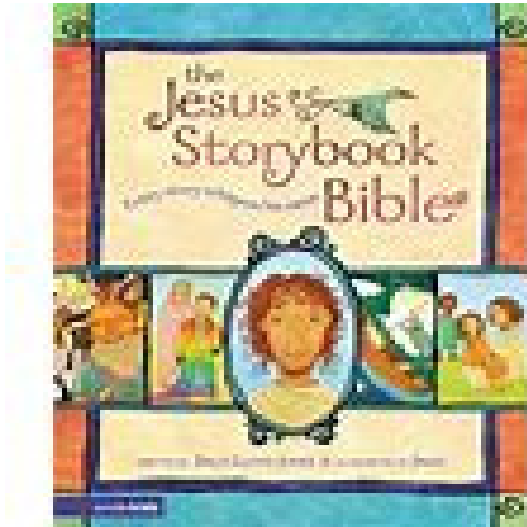
Beginning October 23, 2022, children from pre-K through 5th grade are invited to join us for Children's Chapel. Older children are welcome to come help if they would like. We will leave the sanctuary right during the opening hymn and return to the Sanctuary during the Peace.

Children's Chapel will be filled with stories from the Jesus Storybook Bible by Sally Lloyd Jones, crafts, singing and prayer. We will worship together encouraging children to be part of the service by being candlelighters, readers or helpers. We will take time to share our thoughts about what we have learned and join together to praise God, share our thanksgivings and our concerns through prayer.

In His Service,

Betty Anne Taylor

If you have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me at 713-502-6925.



St. Paul's Episcopal Church
711 South Saginaw St.
Flint, MI 48502