



A Confession

The Reverend Don Davidson, Priest-in-Charge

A few years ago, Marcie and I stumbled upon Hallmark and Lifetime Christmas Movies, and as a confession, we watch them. They are not great writing, nor great acting. They have any number of silly mistakes and they all tend to all have the same plot structure. They can be silly, and almost amateurish (have you seen the "Twelve Days of Christmas Eve" with Kelsey Grammer?). I feel as if I should be standing in front of a 12-step group and introducing myself "Hi, I'm Don and I watch Christmas movies" and the crowd responds "Hi Don." Maybe some of you watch the silly things? It is ok if you do and not wish to admit it.

Like many folks, I wish I could go home sometimes and I can get rather blue during this red and green season. My Dad and Grandfather died the day before and after Christmas, and as a cleric I have been with many families when Christmas brings memories that are anything but Hallmark moments. The movies may help us as they remind us about all the "stuff" that has been layered upon Christmas through the years, like the whole North Pole scene, drummer boys and singing snow-people and lets not forget a reindeer with a LED nose.



Most of the movies make a stab, be it secular, on the meaning or purpose of Christmas and it may be too sweet for most candy shops. It dwells in the wonderful feelings of romance, family, tenderness and gooey-love (a new term I just invented). While the movies have a distinct habit of helping one to feel better, and most of the time bring a tear to my eye, they are everything but realistic and they leave out Incarnation. What is Christmas without the incarnation? How about a big batch of cookies that have no substance and no taste. God became human in the form of a baby that was totally dependent and wholly vulnerable. God is with us now and forever.

We celebrate that, through the incarnation, God loved us so much that he knew and learned what we have learned and knew and more importantly God knows how we feel and what we feel.

The Incarnation is the focus of Christmas, but it may not make it within the plethora of movies. Such is to pity. Unlike any movie, or card...please accept from us (Marcie and me) our joyful hope that each of you may feel the love and peace that only God can give in an Incarnational Christmas this year. Peace!

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



Art Walk, December 9, 2022

Cheyenne Wyntar is a 27 year old disabled artist from Flint Michigan. In 2021 she graduated from Mott Community College with an associates degree in graphic design, but her true passion has always been illustration and fine art. Her work is largely created with graphite, oil paint, water colour, or gouache.

Cheyenne grew up in an artistic family. For many years her bedtime stories came from art history books; she and her mother would pour over the art for hours, and she learned how to look at things and appreciate the parts of them that made them beautiful. She dreamed of being an artist like her sister, Symantha, and would copy everything she made for many years until she learned how to find her own voice.

Now, Cheyenne uses art as a tool to share stories and experiences from her life and the lives of people around her. She finds that because she always aims for vulnerability and radical honesty, people trust her with their closely held secrets. This is reflected in her art, which aims to explore the soft, private pieces of people's inner worlds. In this collection of

work Cheyenne's focus leans heavily into the pain, joy, and pride that come with being fat, disabled, neurodivergent, and queer in a world that is not always easy to live in."

Bass-Baritone Terrence Stewart will be joining us for his second performance with *St. Pauls at Friday Artwalk*. A Philadelphia-area native, Mr. Stewart is a member of the *Brazeal Dennard Chorale*, and has sung with *Carolyn Mawby Chorale*, *Flint Festival Chorus*, and in several *Detroit Opera (Formerly Michigan Opera Theatre)* productions, most recently *AIDA in Concert* (forthcoming), *La Boheme*, and *Eugene Onegin*. In 2014-15 Mr. Stewart performed the role of Betto in *Gianni Schiichi* with *Flint Light Opera*. Terrence is the former Bass Soloist and Bass Section Leader at *First Presbyterian Church of Pontiac*. Terrence is Professor of Sociology at Mott Community College, where he teaches Introduction To Sociology, Marriage and Family, Human Sexuality, and Urban Sociology.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of St. Paul's Episcopal Church

January 22, 2023 —10:00AM

We will elect two of our members to serve on the Vestry for three-years, and four of our members to serve as delegates to the Annual Convention of The Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan



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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

Edythe Peake, Web Editor
(webeditor@stpaulschurchflint.com)

The Warden's Word

This is my last Epistle article as Senior Warden. As we reflect on this past year, it has been a time of gladness, sorrow and challenges. Thinking we had conquered Covid soon turned into the reality of life with a disease we could manage, but one that could cause death. Our members have found it difficult to return to the old normal. Everyone is understanding we need to create a new way of sharing our faith. Letting go of old ways of doing things is hard. Deciding what traditions to keep and be open for new possibilities is a challenge for 2023.

Two new vestry members will be elected and a new Senior and Junior Warden appointed. I feel privileged to have served as Senior Warden for two years and now am able to pass the torch. Hopefully I was able to spread the light to others as I know it will be the expectation of the new vestry members.

I have tried to be the priest's warden and am thankful that Fr Don forgave my shortcomings and encouraged me to try again. I will forever be thankful he has been in my life during this time of preparation for a new Rector.

St Paul's will continue to work with Partners for Sacred Places on Strategic Planning. Calling a new Priest, collaborating with our neighbors and a new building for Crossover Ministries are in the works. Developing member involvement in committees will be important. New things will be tried and some may not thrive. Be patient and willing to step out again and try something different.

Lastly, I want to thank the members and staff of St Paul's for your support of the vestry and my leadership as Senior Warden. The things we have accomplished would not have been possible without your participation. Thank you.

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen. Ephesians 3:20,21.

For Christ's Sake,

Barbara Mannor, Senior Warden



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

150 YEARS AT THE INTERSECTION

THE PARISH HOUSE

Did you know that our present building is actually made up of three separate structures? By now, everyone is probably familiar with the story of the main worship space and its construction 150 years ago. But it wasn't until 44 years later, in 1916, that our 'Parish House' (today's parlor and office space) was built. The last expansion of our building was done in 1953, when Barth Hall was added.

A GOOD PARISH HOUSE – 1916

In the fall of 1914, the Rev. J. Bradford Pengelly, along with the vestry of St. Paul's Episcopal Church were taking up the idea of expanding the old church and erecting a new 'Parish House'. The financial panic and depression of 1910 was behind them, and the church had clearly outgrown the 1872 church and chapel. As reflected in the Flint Daily Journal, 'A good parish house is now considered part of the working equipment of every up-to-date Episcopal Parish', and St. Paul's leaders were apparently motivated to ensure that St. Paul's was 'up to date'.

A CAPITAL CAMPAIGN!

When the vestry met at the Elks Temple on April 26, 1916, Mr. C. S. Mott had already proposed that New York architect, Herbert E. Davis be engaged to prepare drawings. A build-

ing committee was elected including the rector, Mr. Mott, J. D. Dort, John L. Pierce, and C. H. Miller. On June 26th, 41 invited guests attended the dinner at the Dryden Café. Twenty of these guests responded to Mr. Dort's appeal for fundraising volunteers, and the campaign was undertaken in earnest. Mr. Mott had already expressed his intent to give \$40,000 toward the effort, provided that the parish would guarantee to raise the remaining \$30,000. Others joined the effort, with J. Dallas Dort contributing \$5,000, while A.G. Bishop, F. A. Aldrich, and John and Mary Pierce, each gave \$1,000. Among others who pledged were many of the city's most prominent citizens, including Walter P. Chrysler, Edwin W. Atwood, Lewis Bridgman, Mrs. J. D. Dort, Francis H. Rankin, Robert J. Whaley, and Lloyd Kenworthy.

In Purpose, what it is in Location!

When J. Dallas Dort and C. S. Mott set the cornerstone on Sunday September 17, 1916, they put in place the first piece of a building designed to support the growing needs of the parish and the city, including a gymnasium and auditorium to seat 850 people, meeting rooms for men's and women's societies, as well as a kitchen, and a dining room. The new building would serve as home for the city's 'Men's Club' which boasted membership of over 700 community members of all creeds, politics, and walks of life. The Reverend J. Bradford Pengelly had other big plans for the space too, to become a 'downtown civic



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

center' including the establishment of a 'School of Civics' with classes for all who were interested in improving life in the city. With the cornerstone in place, the priest gave an inspiring sermon that is as relevant and appropriate today as it was 106 years ago.

Distressed by the illness and death of infants due to poor housing and sanitary conditions, he proclaimed, 'We are going to try at the earliest possible date to having a free clinic in this parish house to combat these conditions and to instruct people along these lines. But there is more to a city than politics, sanitation and social work. There is the inner spiritual life, the soul of the city. It is from the city's soul that our literature, science, art, and spiritual longings flow. We yearn therefore to do much to deepen the spiritual life, to bring us all nearer to God the Creator and Father of us all.'

'This is going to be a large and well equipped building. It will be capable of giving us much

pleasure. But God forbid that we of St. Paul's and our friends should use it in a selfish way, just for our own comfort and entertainment. No! We here and now dedicate it to the larger uses of the Kingdom of God and the needs

of our city. Friends, one and all, the clergy of St. Paul's, the Vestry and the members of this church are your servants. This building is yours, not ours. Give us your kindly advice, sympathy and cooperation, and demand of us an intelligent, sympathetic and earnest service.'

'This building is rising up in the very center of this busy, growing city, to be a thing of beauty and utility. It holds the same relation to the city as the heart does to the body, it is in the

midst of the civic body. We hope to make it in purpose, what it is in location.'

Partners for Sacred Places

In the coming months, St. Paul's will engage in a process of strategic visioning with representatives from Partners for Sacred Places, a national nonprofit preservation organization committed to the active community use of historic sacred places like St. Paul's. As we look ahead to an abundant future, building

'PARISH HOUSE WILL BE MADE A CIVIC CENTER

Elaborate Plans are Laid for Use of the New building

-CITIZENSHIP SCHOOL-

Vestrymen of St. Paul's

Dedicate it to City's Uplift'

'It is the aim of the Rev. J. Bradford Pengelly, rector of St. Paul's, and the vestrymen, to make this parish house a center both for social enjoyments and social services'; 'to be to Flint what the heart is to the body—an organ pumping good, rich blood into every part of the city.'



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Music Notes

Holly Richardson, Director of Music

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” is the hymn we are using in the place of Gloria during Advent. It is considered a plainsong chant that has been around since the 15th century. The words were originally in Latin, and first documentation of use is about 1710. In 1851 John Mason Neale featured the text and tune in *The Hymnal Noted*.

For me the beauty of the plainsong, poetry and simpleness combines for me the wonder of December. The church tradition I came from ignored Advent, but I really love the tradition and reflection that Advent offers. It seems to set Christmas up to be more wonderful and special. It allows us as Episcopalians to reject the busy and bustle of December, and to spend time in reflection and hopefulness as we prepare for Christmas. Christmas when I was a child was never fun. I told my dad when I was 12 that if I never spend another Christmas with my parents it would be fine, because they fought so much. He felt badly about that. This is why Advent is so very special for me, it is a time set apart, to reflect upon God’s love and gift for us.

I hope that you also find time to enjoy the Advent season in preparation for Christmas.

O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel, That mourns in lonely exile here, Until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel	O come, Thou Key of David, come And open wide our heav'nly home; Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.
O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free Thine own from Satan's tyranny; From depths of hell Thy people save, And give them victory o'er the grave. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.	O come, Adonai, Lord of might, Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height, In ancient times didst give the law In cloud and majesty and awe. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.
O come, Thou Dayspring, from on high, And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh; Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel	Here is a link to a beautiful rendition: O come, O come, Emmanuel - (Piano/ Cello) - The Piano Guys



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Need Transportation Genesee County Residents?

If you no longer drive at night, or if you just need a ride at any time, the MTA Transportation has a program where anyone in Genesee County can request a car service. While most of us know YOUR RIDE as a service to get people to medical appointments or to buy groceries, which are two of their essential services, YOUR RIDE is available for other activities. In fact, MTA and FLINT INSTITUTE OF MUSIC (FIM) have partnered so that patrons can get to the symphony, or a performance at the Whiting or the Rep Theater, or the Capitol Theater downtown. The entire Cultural Center in Flint is accessible with this car service.

This car service is available for taking you to church as well! It is very affordable at \$2.25 each way and is available to anyone in Genesee County. You need to call YOUR RIDE at least 24 hours in advance. The number is 810-767-5541. YOUR RIDE uses cars as well as small buses, depending on the number of people.

Group Service is also available through YOUR RIDE, but MTA needs two weeks' notice for a bus. Large buses cost \$1.75 per person each way, small buses cost the same as a car, which is \$2.25 per person each way.



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

new relationships, and engaging our neighbors in new ways, perhaps we can also look back to the hopes of those who left these sacred spaces to our care and stewardship. Situated at the intersection of S. Saginaw and E. Third Streets in the center of the city, **'May we make St. Paul's in purpose, what it is in location.'**



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Christmas at St. Paul's

Celebrate the Birth of Christ

December 24, 5pm

Holy Eucharist and Cantata

9:00 pm Holy Eucharist

beginning with Carols

December 25

10:00 am

Holy Eucharist

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