



March Artwalk

Rugs are Art too!

Our St. Paul's Artwalk is amazing. Each month an artist presents beautiful art. Such an inspiration to see items made by hand, and hands with so much talent and inspiration. Some works will take your breath away when you imagine the skill and love placed in the work by the artist.

Our March Art Walk will be held from 6:00 -8:00PM on Friday March 10. Rugs will be on display from the Great Lakes Rug Hooking Guild which is a member of the Association of Traditional Hooking y Artists. The Guild meets every Wednesday at the Washington Senior Center. The rugs that will be on display are hooked with 100% wool on linen and are often designed and color planned by the fiber artists.

The Norton Male Chorus will provide mu-

sic in the Nave. The chorus was established in 1921 by the Buick factory in Flint. They asked Dr. WW Norton to organize the chorus and be the director.

Originally established as Buick Male Chorus when the corporate sponsorship ended the group took on the name of the director and became known as "The Norton Male Chorus"

In over 101 years in existence there have only been 4 directors. Their Current Director is Dan Hill from Montrose, MI. Dan has directed the chorus for about 35 years.

At Piano we have Joshua Pratt who is a 3 time recipient of the Guy Stoppert Memorial Scholarship.

Our St Paul's Art Walk is truly Amazing. Please come and find out for yourself.

Please mark your March 26th as we for all they have given honor them with a service. Their last day morning. Come and all they have given us

Thank you

calendar for Sunday thank Fr. Don and Marcie our congregation. We will luncheon after our 10AM with us will be Easter show your appreciation for over the last 18 months.



Holly's Notes

As I am writing this it is sleeting and there is more freezing rain, it seems indicative of my mood as well. My father, at this writing, is in the hospital and I once again am making decisions about what the next step we will need next, as far as nursing care. Everyone seems to go through this passage in life, and now it is my turn. As I have contemplated decisions that we make and have to make I realize that there are consequences for decisions we either consciously or unconsciously make every day. I have always thought about the stream of consciousness that we travel upon, and of course as a teen the wagging of the finger in your face by over zealous adults who tell you to make choices carefully, I have laughed about and even rolled my eyes a time or two, until now. Until now when you see the lifelong result of choices made. Jesus made choices. He made choices to raise Lazareth, his friend from the dead. He chose his 12 disciples. His decisions saved all of us from our worldly sin and the consequence of forever damnation. Lent is certainly a time of reflection, and this year my Lenten reflection is about choices that the people around me make and the consequences of those choices.

We make choices when we are impatient to be waited on. Do we smile and act like we have all the time in the world, so the clerk feels at ease? Or, do we glare at them because they are imposing upon our time? When we are at the park and a little child hits us with a ball do we glower and scold them for acting like children? Or do we smile and hand the ball back? So many people do little and large things to make our lives better, our spouses, children, grandchildren, friends, do we smile and say thank-you? Or do you just expect the people around you to make your life easier just because they are part of your circle?

Jesus was grateful when Mary washed his feet with perfume and dried it with her hair. Are we grateful to God for the blessings he washes us

with and do we smile when we come out of the freezing rain and sleet? Or do we grumble because someone forgot to salt?

1 Jesus, the very thought of thee
with sweetness fills the breast;
but sweeter far thy face to see,
and in thy presence rest.

2 O hope of every contrite heart,
O joy of all the meek,
to those who fall, how kind thou art!
How good to those who seek!

3 But what to those who find? Ah, this
nor tongue nor pen can show;
the love of Jesus, what it is,
none but his loved ones know.

4 Jesus, our only joy be thou,
as thou our prize wilt be;
Jesus, be thou our glory now,
and through eternity.

<https://youtu.be/wF1cFxJ2Yhw>

Holly Richardson, Director of Music

Outreach Ministry

"Donations are needed to help Crossover Outreach with its annual Easter project of providing at least 100 families with a memorable Easter. Crossover is requesting donations to fill the Easter baskets with individually wrapped candy,



filled candy eggs, chocolate Easter bunnies, and spring outdoor toys, including sidewalk chalk, bubbles, Frisbees, jump ropes, and kites. Crossover will take care of the Easter meal needs. You may also write a check to St. Paul's Episcopal Church and specify that the donation is for "Crossover Outreach Ministry



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Your Vestry:

(all at stpaulschurchflint.com)

Walt Peake, Senior Warden

seniorwarden@stpaulschurchflint.com

vacant, Junior Warden

(*Building and Grounds*)(juniorwarden@)

Jan Bugbee, Treasurer (*Finance*)

(treasurer@)

Tina Morrison, Clerk of the Vestry

(clerk@) (*Worship*)

Heather Gagnon (*Pastoral Care*)

(heather@)

Dr. Elizabeth Jordan (*Diversity*)

(*Member of Diocesan Council*)

(elizabeth@)

Joel Arnold (*Intersection 150 & PSP*)

(joel@)

Celeste Lord Timlin (*Outreach*)

(celeste@)

Zan Milner (*Stewardship*)

(zan@)

Staff:

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

(Member of Diocesan Standing Committee)

George Gibson,

Director of Finance (directoroffinance@)

Holly Richardson,

Director of Music (directorofmusic@)

Rafael McDaniel, Gospel Choir Director

(gospel@)

Ed Arter, Organist (organist@)

Terrance Whitehead, Sexton

Edythe Peake, Web Editor

(webeditor@stpaulschurchflint.com)

Rafeal Walker McDaniel

Director of the Gospel Choir

(Rafeal@)

Vestry Doings

Appointment of Acting Junior Warden

Rebecca Bennett has been appointed as the Acting Junior Warden of St. Paul's until the end of August 2023.

The Vestry was unable to elect a Junior Warden from its membership as required in our by-laws as, at this time, no member of the Vestry was willing to take on the job.

With permission of the Vestry, the Priest-in-Charge appointed Becky to serve for a six-month period. Becky will not be a member of the Vestry, but will attend meetings of the Executive Committee and will be the convenor of the Buildings and Ground Committee. Becky will also submit monthly reports to the Vestry.

New Security System

A new building security and surveillance system will be installed at St. Paul's beginning on March 29th. The system will include a new card reader entrance and communication system so that the Administrative Assistant will be able to let people into the building. Entrance Cards and Fobs will be available for a deposit (fee) once the system is installed. The system will be "armed" from 11:00 PM until morning.

New Administrative Assistant

Karein Russell has been selected as the new parish Administrative Assistant and will be in the office on Tuesdays-Thursdays from 9 until 2. Her new staff position includes answering phones and emails, opening doors, keeping calendars and creating bulletins and starting next month, creating the "Epistle". Karein comes to us from Qualified Staffing and has an amazing background.

If you are in the building, please stop-by, introduce yourself and welcome her.



ST. PAUL'S
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PSP (Partners for Sacred Places)

Since early 2022, St. Paul's has been fortunate enough to work with the nationally renowned non-profit Partners for Sacred Places (PSP). PSP is the only national, non-sectarian, nonprofit organization focused on building the capacity of congregations of historic sacred places to better serve their communities as anchor institutions, nurturing transformation, and shaping vibrant, creative communities. Last spring, we held a public community asset mapping session and held extensive meetings as a committee made up of members of St. Paul's, members of the Flint community, and PSP staff to identify what connections and opportunities there might be to better share the gifts we have been given as a congregation, including this building, with our neighbors. You can see the report that came from that effort [here](#) if you are reading this online, or by visiting stpaulschurchflint.com/partners-for-sacred-places/. Hard copies are also placed around the church.

Now, we have moved into the Strategic Visioning process of this partnership with PSP. Maggie Hart, Barbara Mannor, Tim Grant, Joel Arnold, Velecia Ford, Fr. Don, community member Dexter Clarke from the Genesee Health System, and staff from PSP have been meeting biweekly to help develop a strategic vision for our historic building. In specific, our charge states that, "Partners for Sacred Places will lead St. Paul's Episcopal Church to develop a strategic vision and mission-driven plan for the stewardship of the historic building." We have thus far considered our mission statement so that we can best articulate why we want to do this work, what barriers there are to more deep partnership with our neighbors, and how we can overcome those barriers.

As we consider how best to share our gifts, know that this work is being guided by St. Paul's members working together with members of the community to both determine how we as a congregation see the best way to use our building, what our mission is, and how community members can best benefit from these gifts.

From Fr. Don

As I draw closer to retirement, I confess I am more and more reflective and nostalgic. Often times I think about events in my life which truthfully I wish I could forget. Reflection and perception help, but often I am truly amazed at the things I have said and done and the manifold stupidity I had acquired to do them. As part of the reflection I realized that nothing was "that" bad whatever that may mean to you. Yet, the time I was given the chance to lead the children's message when I was a senior in High School and I did so with the help of a pet rabbit. Somehow the rabbit decided to jump, which I now understand that rabbits will do, and take flight toward the confused Lutheran ladies sitting in the front pew. In retrospect, maybe this event was part of the reason that I did not attempt to become a Lutheran Pastor. The rabbit moved swiftly under the pews until he was nabbed by a young girl and brought Mr. Beans back to the front of the nave and I tried to find a nearly lost thought during my message for the children. The rabbit took front and center, nothing I said was heard, and of course a few disgrunteled people were quick to remind me that a rabbit was no place for a church, or the other way around. *For your listening pleasure, I recommend the "The Squirrel Revival" at the First Self-Righteous Church with Ray Stevens.*

Thirty-eight years can create more stories than a person has the ability to tell. From mispronounced Biblical names, or the amusing things that people can say or do, church has for me never been boring. Indeed, every Sunday is its own wonderful adventure with people to greet, meet and love. Although I admit some sadness as I begin a new adventure, how could I not be thankful for the wonderful people I have known, the newly baptized that I watched as they made vows to their spouse. I am so very thankful to you all for the honor of serving here, and while I may not have

brought a rabbit to church, I brought all that I could give. I am indeed forever grateful.

Blessings,



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Lent at St. Paul's

Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2023

Services at 12:10 and 6:00pm (with music)

A Episcopal Walk after 10am services

Every Sunday during Lent begins February 26.

Stations of the Cross Fridays at 6:30pm

Wednesday Holy Eucharist 12:10

During the season of Lent, it is especially appropriate to consider the rite of reconciliation or confession. If you wish to make a confession with the priest, please call the office and make an appointment with Fr. Don. If you would like a different priest to hear your confession, that can be arranged.

Stations of the Cross will be prayed each Friday at 6:30pm. Stations is a service of remembrance as we walk with Jesus in his procession to the cross. Each of the 14 stations is part of the journey, and each station includes a prayer.

This year, the leader each Friday will be utilizing a different version of the service from various traditions within the wider church.

You need not attend, you are welcome to attend once, or all.

Walking the Way of Christ is nearly guaranteed to bring your relationship with Christ closer, and give your spiritual life a lift.

Your leaders this year will be Fr. Don and Tim Grant.

Holy Week

Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023

10:00 A.M.

Blessing and Processions begins outside or in Barth Hall, Holy Eucharist continues in Nave

Holy Monday

Holy Eucharist 5:30 P.M.

Holy Tuesday

Holy Eucharist 7:30 A.M.

Holy Wednesday

Holy Wednesday 12:10 P.M.

Maundy Thursday

Holy Eucharist 6:30 P.M.

Good Friday

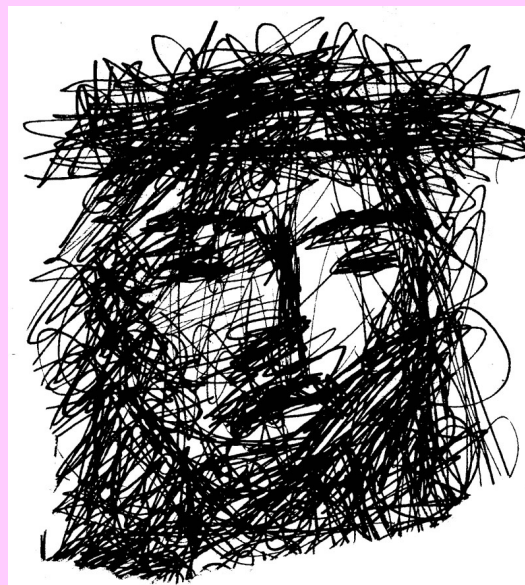
Ecumenical Service, 12:00 Noon at St. Paul's

Holy Saturday

Lighting of the Pascal Candle

8:00 P.M.

Easter Day Festival Holy Eucharist at 10:00 AM



ST. PAUL'S
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Saving Soles

If you are a lifelong member of St. Pauls, you may recall a time, not that long ago, that our acolytes were an active group of children and teens who still view St. Pauls as their “church home.” **One of those young acolytes is now a Captain in the U.S. military and currently serving in the northeast region of Syria.**

Captain David Kennedy has been prayed for often in our church during special trainings and deployments. Now David is reaching out to us to make a difference in what may be one of the most complex military regions in the world. His job – to support the Kurdish Syrian forces and fight any opportunity for ISIS to regain a stronghold in the area.

Part of this work is to repatriate **over 50 thousand widows and children** who have been living in refugee camps in the region for nearly 10 years. These camps do not have adequate food, supplies, or safety, and ISIS recruiters are more than willing to use the desperateness of the situation to recruit demoralized young people to their cause.

While David works with other countries to try to find these families a permanent home, immediate needs must be addressed. **Currently that need is shoes.**

Winter is real in northern Syria, and many children and mothers do not have covering for their feet. **David is asking that we reach out to every individual and organization we know** to arrange for shoe donations (any shoe, any size, with some amount of wear left) to ship directly to him. He will deliver them directly to the widows and orphans, with no middle man or organization.

David’s mother and St. Paul’s member, Sheryl Kennedy, will pick them up from church and ship them directly to David. **If you don’t have any shoes to donate, please consider a donation for shipping.** Each box costs between \$17 - \$20 to ship. You can send Sheryl a donation through the church or through VENMO. Just make sure there is a memo: Shoes for Syria. Sheryl’s VENMO address is: @Sheryl_Kennedy_7. Any donation, large or small, helps to defray the cost, and writing a check to the church allows for a tax deduction.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. **Imagine that providing shoes to the needy will help make the entire globe a safer place,** while providing a basic need to God’s children. You can do that today.

Blessings,
Sheryl Kennedy



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

From our Bishop:

The Right Reverend Prince Singh, PhD.

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him. Matthew 4:11

When the devil leaves, angels arrive and minister to Jesus. The cosmic choreography is striking.

We live amid devilish actions. Some actions are temporal and visible to us. Some are cosmic and less visual yet intuitive. One year after Putin's war against Ukraine, and in a year when we have had fewer days than mass shootings, we must pay attention to aggression. Turkey and Syria rising from an earthquake with more than 50,000 people dead. We are all rising from the fading impact of the pandemic. We are wise to pause, fast, and pray.

We have been traveling together as people of the Way in Eastern and Western Michigan. Thank you for the privilege of accompanying you as your bishop provisional. I am honored and humbled!

As we engage in the season of Lent, I can see some convergence between Lent and our Season of Practice. Lenten practices of arms giving, fasting, and prayer give us some spiritual muscle memory to discern other methods. Methods like curiosity, discernment, and an openness to see how much we have in common. It usually provides the grace to navigate our differences. Curiosity is one of the best expressions of love.

Jiddhu Krishnamurti, an Indian Philosopher, said, "the ability to observe without evaluating is the highest form of intelligence." I would go further and add that it is the highest form of respect! We are in a beautiful place of exploration of one another. Let us be *curious* and see each other for the mysterious gift we are to one another.

We are amid many transitions. With transition comes grief and a degree of anxiety. The most apparent change of our time is the pandemic and all the misery and losses the world has endured. You have had a transition in the episcopate with a bishop provisional who has a strange hue compared to his predecessors, a different accent, and likes spicy food!

We asked the General Convention to pay attention to the process of pastoral support during a disciplinary process involving a bishop. Western Michigan is experiencing transitions with the departure of the CFO, a Canon Missioner, and two more Canon Missioners in the next few months. We are discerning new maps for new regions as we interview and prepare to call new Regional Canons to help us become thriving, beloved communities.

Behind each of these transitions is the spiritual practice of discernment. The second spiritual practice I would hold up is *discernment*. We must discern how to be and what to do. There are two expressions of agency, which is the end of discernment. A significant part of discernment is figuring out prayerfully when to practice what kind of agency. The first kind is where you act from the call, "don't just stand there, do something." The second kind of agency is responding to the invitation, "don't just do something; stand there." Let us discern and practice these during our season of practice with grace and patience.

Finally, let's practice the gift of discovering our commonalities within and across the dioceses. Let us then allow the energy from these common ground experiences to help us navigate the places where we are different. In this Season of Practice and Lent, let us invite angelic expressions of curiosity, discernment, and commonalities while recognizing demonic forces that tempt us to go after shiny objects. May our prayer, fasting, and almsgiving help us develop the mind of Christ. Have a Holy Lent!



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