



Senior Warden Vestry Report

April 26, 2023

SENIOR WARDEN REPORT

In 1916, the Reverend J. Bradford Pengelly shared his vision for our existing Parish House during his sermon at the laying of its cornerstone. He spoke of the new building being situated in the heart of our city, and imagined the new building becoming in purpose what it is in location.

“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 co-operation and demand of us an intelligent, sympathetic and earnest service.”

The Rector’s words of 107 years ago seem particularly prophetic today, as we seek new opportunities to Open Doors, Welcome Neighbors, Share Gifts, and Build Community.

1. Gratitude (Too many things to even remember/mention!)

- a. I am grateful for the time and effort of everyone who helped to welcome Father Tom and Teri to St. Paul’s. Special thanks to our Pastoral Care team who took the lead in organizing the Tuesday drop-in and Sunday Coffee Hour events.
- b. I’m grateful for the work of each individual and group who contributed to a wonderful Holy Week. In addition to all of our regularly schedule services, St. Paul’s welcomed neighbors from 11 different congregations to join in the ecumenical Good Friday Tenebrae service.
- c. I am grateful for the work of our Artwalk team and the lovely April event. Attendance set a post-covid record, with 172 friends walking through our open doors. Our featured artist was Kent Copeman, who is the grandson of one of Flint’s most notable and important inventors. (Kent also happens to be Linda Ronstadt’s cousin.) Music for the evening was provided by a wonderful trio of Flute, Saxophone, and piano.
- d. I’m grateful for our Music in the Heart of the City program and Holly’s work in making the season such a success. Our Artist in Residence put on a spectacular show last month and the April program promises to be wonderful as well.
- e. Finally, I’m grateful for all of the groups and individuals who continue to find ways to share the gift of our abundant space. During this past month we’ve hosted meetings of ‘The Art Class’, Flint Residents for Stronger Neighborhoods, Family Promise Board of Directors, New Century Chorale, Master Singers, and the Child Welfare Society.



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2. Current Projects

- a. Family Promise Project – We continue to work on finalizing plans to have the Family Promise Day Center move into our second-floor classroom spaces. We continue to work on developing a formal ‘Space Sharing Agreement’ that will spell out the expectations and requirements, and planning continues in terms of any needed modification of the physical plant (showers, laundry area, etc). Our written agreement will likely be based on sample materials we’ve received from Partners for Sacred Places, ensuring that any arrangement does not jeopardize our tax-exempt status.
- b. We are anticipating that we will receive a formal easement request from Consumers Power, pursuant to earlier discussions with our neighbors at Communities First. You’ve all received a summary description of the proposed easement, which would support the cost-effective upgrading of electrical service to the Masonic Temple next door. No action is needed immediately, as we won’t know precisely what may be involved until we receive the formal request from Consumers.

3. Going Forward

- a. My hope is to find new and meaningful ways to engage and empower each of our respective ministry/committee groups in the work and life of the parish. Our vestry representatives for each of these groups provide a way for ideas to bubble up and ensure that everyone has the opportunity to share their gifts in community. I hope that each of us can find additional ways for ministry groups and committees to share, collaborate, and work together on additional projects throughout the year. I continue to hope that each of you will keep an eye out for opportunities to encourage collaboration and community among and between your respective ministry/committee groups.

4. Upcoming Activities and Events (Please see Archivist, 150, and Stewardship Reports for Details)

- a. We are approaching a series of significant dates, events, and activities. Please check the Parish Calendar on our website for additional details.
- b. Sloan Museum/St. Paul’s Exhibit-Opening Night: May 12, 2023
- c. Sloan Museum – St. Paul’s Exhibit Tea Party/Reception: May 14, 2023
- d. Groundbreaking/Spring Cleanup: May 13, 2023 (Tentative)
- e. Blood Drive at St. Paul’s: May 26, 2023, 11AM – 4:45PM

Respectfully Submitted: Walter A. Peake, March 21, 2023