

# THE **EPISTLE**



July 2023



# 2nd Annual PRIDE Service

















## A Note from Tom

Each month, I have an appointment with my spiritual director, Sister Veronica. And each month she asks me what I have been reading. Now, throughout my adult life, I have always rotated the kinds of books I read. I read history, then a biography, then maybe a political book, and then of course, a religious book. Lately, it seemed whenever Sister Veronica would ask me what I was reading, I always seemed to be reading something inappropriate. A few months ago, it was a book about a cheating scandal in pro baseball. Then it was a book about the rock band Led Zeppelin. To make matters worse, I was reading the books slowly and I think I was giving Sister Veronica the impression that I seldom read anything religious.

That all changed when I began to attend our Wednesday Bible Study led by Tim Grant. Tim selected a wonderful book for this month by an author named Barbara Brown Taylor. The title of the book is *Leaving Church*. Although the title sounds irreligious, the book is anything but. It is the story of the author's search for her own faith. I have found it to be a well-written, moving account of a very personal spiritual Journey.

And so, when it came time to answer Sister Veronica's question about reading material, I was thrilled to be able to proudly state, "It's by Barbara Brown Taylor. Have you read her?" (Notice how artfully I dodged the title). She had, of course.

In Tim's class we lingered on a particular passage in the book: "I discovered," writes Taylor, "worship that took place inside God's own heart. The divine pleasure was the pleasure of a mother with her baby at her breast."

This passage reminded me very much of something that Sister Veronica has consistently taught me; God is in all things and there is no part of life too unimportant for God. Having a relationship with God means that, not only is God totally *in and around you*, but also that you are *in* God. Not just worshiping God from afar, but being at one with God, like a mother and child. Not just asking God for big things, but including God in *all* things. All parts of life are relevant to God, and God is in all parts of life.

Bible study happens every Wednesday right after Noon mass. Please consider joining the group as we worship and wonder together about God's unlimited love.

With every blessing...

Tom+



Thanks to our St. Paul's strongmen --Terence Whitehead, Ed Arter, Tim Grant, & Walt Peake for moving the Christ Church altar into the Children's Chapel!

#### HOLLY'S NOTES

One of my father's favorite gospel songs is "Wonderful Grace of Jesus". I was never sure if he loved it because it had a great bass part he could sing or if he truly loved the words. Haldor Lillenas wrote this song and 4000 other songs as they were discovered by Charles Alexander. The song lyrics are based on 2 Corinthians 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.

Wonderful grace of Jesus, greater than all my sin; how shall my tongue describe it, where shall its praise begin? Taking away my burden, setting my spirit free, for the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me.

#### Refrain:

Wonderful the matchless grace of Jesus, deeper than the mighty rolling sea, higher than the mountain, sparkling like a fountain, all sufficient grace for even me; broader than the scope of my transgressions, sing it! greater far than all my sin and shame. O magnify the precious name of Jesus, praise his name!



2 Wonderful grace of Jesus, reaching to all the lost, by it I have been pardoned, saved to the uttermost. Chains have been torn asunder, giving me liberty, for the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me. [Refrain]

3 Wonderful grace of Jesus, reaching the most reviled, by its transforming power making me God's dear child, purchasing peace and heaven for all eternity, for the wonderful grace of Jesus reaches me. [Refrain]

This song is thrilling to sing, and when you sing it, you want to sing it loudly. I think one of the greatest gifts that Christ gives us is forgiveness. The grace he affords us does transform the soul and provides us with peace and liberty. I don't think there is a greater gift than peace and we find that through Christ and his forgiveness. May you all have peace as you travel on in the months ahead.

https://youtu.be/wUnSe7VUPco This is a male quintet version; the bass part is stunning!



A short note from the Financial Side of St. Paul's

"Did You Know"

Did you know John Sargis?

Did you know that John Sargis left St. Paul's a substantial donation in his will?

At that time our Vestry decided to put half of the amount away in our investments accounts for our future and use the remainder to improve the daily life at St. Paul's.

John Sargis enabled St. Paul's to purchase: A brand new shiny commercial DISHWASH-ER! Add a new security system! Replace our obsolete phone system! Add equipment which allows us to live stream our services each week. And still have a bit left over for whatever needs come next.

Barb Manor remembers John Sargis this way: John Paul Sargis served as the Eucharist Minister at the 8:00 am Sunday Morning service at St Paul's Episcopal Church. He drove his red electric Volt to church every Sunday morning. He loved worshipping at St. Paul's. He never looked for a new church when he retired from the Flint Journal and moved to Haslett. After church he would visit with one of his sisters in Flint.

We didn't need to ask why he moved to the Lansing area when he retired. He bled green and white. He graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in Journalism. John worked as the Associated Press Editor at the Flint Journal, then as a Copy editor for the Midland Daily News. He attended many home basketball, football and hockey games of his beloved Spartans. If the game was late on Saturday night, he would remind us he would not make the 8:00 a.m. service.

John often would have his mother and sister join him at church. He also had a cat named Sammy. John adopted the folks that attended 8:00 am services at St. Paul's as his family.

He would buy us gourmet cookies to enjoy with coffee.

Everyone remembers his as a kind, generous and gently man. He was a very quiet person, loved by everyone that met him.

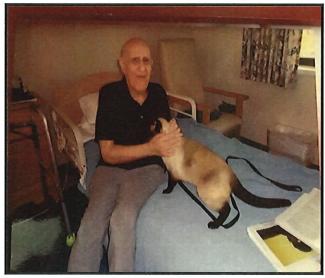
Our thanks to Mr. John Sargis and his generous gift.

More "Did You Know" stories to come in future editions.

BIG THANKS to Barb Mannor of her contributions.

Also we'd like to give a great thank you to Judy Hood for providing the pictures of John.

#### John & Sammy



John was Voted "King for the Year" at the Dobie Road Home



# THE BLOOD DRIVE IS RESCHEDULED TO JULY 7 Join Us at Camp Do Good! There will be cots in Barth Hall.

Be part of something big. Make an appointment. St. Paul's is hosting an American Red Cross Blood Drive on Friday, July 7, 2023 11:00 AM - 4:45 PM. To schedule an appointment, visit <a href="RedCrossBlood.org">RedCrossBlood.org</a> (sponsor code flintstpaul) or call 1-800-733-2767. Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting <a href="RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass">RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass</a> to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions. If you register early, you may be eligible to receive a special gift from the Red Cross.

This event is being organized by our own Dr. Susumu Inoue, whose areas of expertise are Pediatric Hematology/Oncology, Pediatric Hemophilia, and Pediatric Sickle Cell.

The Blood Drive was originally scheduled for May, but was cancelled due to staffing at the Red Cross. If you had made an appointment for the May date, please make sure that you are rescheduled on July 7th.



# **Blood Drive**St. Paul's Episcopal Church

711 Saginaw Street, Flint

Friday, July 7, 2023 11:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

To schedule an appointment visit RedCrossBlood.org (sponsor code flintstpaul) or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.





Come give 7/1 thru 7/11 for an exclusive Red Cross dry bag, while they last! See reblood.org/gifts.



Be part of something big. Make an appointment.

1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

2023 The American National Red Cross ( 376502-01 CW

## **July Artwalk**

### Real Elements Made Beautifully Into Works of Art

Welcome to St. Paul's Art walk. You are surely to be amazed at the talented artists that participate. The Artwalk is open to everyone with many participating organizations. Our Artwalk will be held from 6:00-8:00 PM on Friday, July 14, 2023. Please come and experience for yourself why St. Paul's Art Walk is Amazing.

One of this month's artist for our Artwalk is **Colleen Ford**. Colleen is a mixed media and watercolor artist who is from mid-Michigan area. She was influenced at an early age by her mother who owned and operated a decorating business. In high school Colleen designed programs for various events, served on decorating committees and was encouraged to pursue a career in art by her art teacher.

Colleen studied drawing, painting, design, composition, ceramics, and art history at the University of Michigan College of Architecture and Design. It was there that she realized that it was a higher calling to find her own expression than to sell her talent commercially. Notwithstanding, she took a position as a commercial artist for awhile where her drawings were featured on the cover and inside of the programs for the Musical Tent theatrical productions. While there one of her paintings was selected to be displayed at a local hospital.



Then Colleen decided to become a teacher. It was during her teaching career that she learned life's lessons and her current values. She taught many subjects preschool through college, most notably here art at Questar School for Gifted Children and Summerfield Community School.

Having retired from teaching, Colleen now finds the time to return to her first love, art. At this point in her life, she finds she has much to draw upon in terms of emotions and subject matter. She works with watercolors, colored pencils and collage in abstract representational work.

Since 2011 she has exhibited her work at the Swartz Creek Art Gallery, the Swartz Creek Senior Center, the Computer Doctor business, Kettering University, the Greater Flint Arts Council and the Flint Institute of Art and other galleries.



Our musical artist for the month of July will be **MOMENT'S NOTICE.** 

Moment's Notice is a Jazz Quartet.

Dirk Neuwenhuis - Saxaphones

Rich Hearing - Trumpet, Flugelhorn

Rich Small - Guitar

Nick Calandro - Bass



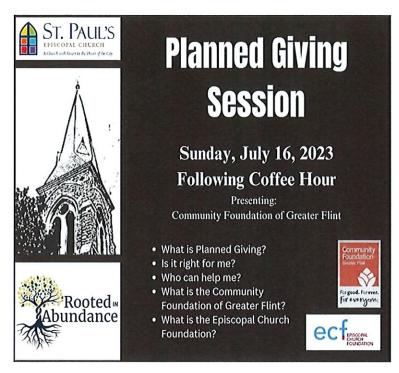


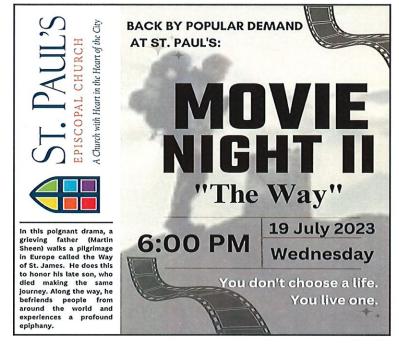
# **Exciting News!**

Our own **Janis Bugbee** has been reelected to the Genesee Intermediate Board of Directors for a six-year term beginning July 1, 2023. Congratulations Janis!









#### **From The Diversity Committee**

The Annual Hot Dog & Ice Cream Social will be held on July 16<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to seeing your smiling faces.

August is <u>National Wellness Month</u>, and we are looking to implement Wellness Sunday activities for each week, with the intention of instituting Wellness Sunday once a month thereafter. Self-care is important and looks different to many people. We are hoping to show different methods of self-care and focus on wellness in all ways. If you know someone who is skilled in an aspect of self-care and wellness, please contact Quiara Dones at <u>Quiara.Dones@outlook.com</u> with contact information and suggestions. Thank you.

## **Glad Spirits Garden and Grounds**

We had our first Glad Spirits Garden Day on Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup>. We started the day with a long list of things to do, and well, we ended the day with a long list too.

No problem though. We got a lot done, and through stewardship and fellowship, we nurtured our enthusiasm to take care of the natural gifts that we have been handed. For 150 years, our cloister, grounds, and building have been tended by those who came before us. For a while now, we have been trusted with the responsibility, and we feel up to it!



# Here is the great group that helped

Left to right:

Mary Hammond, Barbara Mannor, Carol Davis, Karen Schaefer (Photographer), Tim Grant, Mike Farver, Lanie Nix, Bill Johnson, Deb Nelson

Not pictured: Edie Peake, Walt Peake, Jane Bingham, Becky Bennett.

#### Thank you to the Building and Grounds Ministry

We appreciate the Building and Grounds Committee, under the leadership of Elizabeth Jordan, the Ministry Elder, and Becky Bennett, the Committee Chair. They demonstrated a commitment to let us be 'swords of the spirit' and stewards of the earth at the intersection of Saginaw Street and Third Street. As the chairperson of the Building and Grounds Ministry, Becky provided leadership, support, supplies, and worked along with us that day.



#### What does Glad Spirits mean?

Symbolizing St. Paul, "Spiritus Gladius," means "Sword of the Spirit". This emblem adorns our cloister as a reverent demonstration of our deference to St. Paul. We used this symbol as the basis for our name.

#### We draw our guidance from the Book of Common Prayer

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may work for health, wholeness and justice for all living things, to your honor and glory. (Form IV)

#### There is a lot to do, and you too can become a Glad Spirit.

- Like to work outside in the garden, or inside the church? We will be organizing more cleanup days. To prepare for our August events, we hope to have a cleanup day in late July. Sign up!
- Don't want to help on a cleanup day? There are ways to help for an hour here or there. A
  couple of people work on small projects one or two days a week. Join us!
- Have something to donate Plants, pots, supplies? We are working with a plan in mind for each area, so let us know what you have, and we can see if it works in the plan.
- Want to contribute to the budget? The Garden Group submitted a budget for 2023, 2024 and beyond to the Building and Grounds Ministry. Of course, the budget exceeded the funds available, so any donations you make would help with making our rich gifts beautiful.

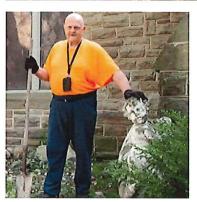
Let Becky Bennett or Edythe Peake know if you want to be involved in any way. THANK YOU SO MUCH.

#### Glad Spirits, at Work!

















## Rooted in Abundance!

#### Partners for Sacred Places

Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

#### Jeremiah 17:7-8 NRSV

The theme for our stewardship campaign this year is "Rooted in Abundance," taken from this passage in Jeremiah. The logo for the campaign materials is an extensive root system which supports a tree that continually bears fruit, because even in times of drought it will always reach its roots deeper to find an abundant source of water in a nearby stream. We see such abundance in the investment of previous generations in the effective use of our building filtering through our windows and gleaming through our furnishings. Their rootedness was in developing relationships with community partners that addressed the needs of at risk children, for example, and housing for senior women along other philanthropic civic and cultural concerns. Our work with Partners for Sacred Places (or PSP) continues in St Paul's tradition of opening our doors, welcoming our neighbors, sharing our gifts and building community. We are seeking new opportunities to strengthen and develop relationships with others who share our vision and values. Dexter Clarke of Genesee Health Systems, the community partner who joined us on the Partners team, worked with us on an exercise to flesh out what it would look like to put our vision of partnership into practice. Such partnerships are what we see in our past, hope for in our present and envision for our future.

In a Flint Journal report of remarks at the laying of the cornerstone of the parish house in 1916 St Paul's rector said, "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."

As the parish considers the best way to make good use of our building in service to our neighbors, it's encouraging to see how we are carrying on the promise of our history. Of course we have assets to share, not in the sense of doing something

magnanimous or particularly generous, but rather of mutually sharing gifts in community with our neighbors. St Paul's is keenly aware of its history, and an important aspect of that history is thinking of our building as a missional asset that will serve our community through developing relationships that will meet common goals. The power of sharing relationships opens us up to new understandings of what our place is in the community and why we matter to our neighbors. Such a journey has much to teach us as we adapt and respond to the Spirit's promptings.

Each of us in the Partners group contributed to a strategic vision statement to guide our thinking about who we are and what we have to offer. It says:

St. Paul's, a parish that has been part of this city for generations, seeks to serve the greater Flint community at the intersection of civic and spiritual life. Seeing our parish building as a community asset, we seek to serve as a welcoming and safe space, providing a center for community to gather to grow together, in partnership with those who serve the common good. Nourished by diversity, we work together with our community across Flint and the region to further a world filled with those virtues Christ has taught us - compassion, solidarity, and social justice.

This statement speaks of rootedness in service to the greater Flint community, of partnership with others to serve the common good, of the values of inclusion and diversity of life experiences and insights, and of growth in compassion, solidarity and social justice as followers of Jesus Christ. It also honors the sense of our location, not only in the city, but also in the life of the greater Flint area at the intersection where civic and spiritual values and concerns meet. Where the statement is aspirational, is does not set goals that are beyond our reach. Rather it challenges us to become more fully what we have always been: a community of faith that is concerned about the needs of the world, and seeks partnerships which help us to respond to God's call to walk together in love, growing in abundant hope and faith as we learn from our journey together how best to make use of our assets for the common good, and so contribute to the building of the Kingdom that God had in mind when he first scooped up clay from the earth.

## Plans from the Stewardship Ministry

According to the Episcopal Network for Stewardship: "We are children of God, disciples of Jesus Christ who feel called to a ministry of transformation through stewardship. We are sojourners who, along with many others, have some sense that it is through an understanding of holistic stewardship and a practice of gratitude and generosity that we will grow spiritually, that we will grow more and more into the likeness of the loving, generous God in whose image we are created. We believe that it is by virtue of our baptism that we are called to this ministry of stewardship."

Healthy and vibrant future ministries in Episcopal congregations, schools, and other organizations will be built upon the legacies we leave today. Many of our Episcopal institutions exist because past generations cared so much about the future of the Episcopal Church and expressed their caring by creating planned gifts.

# This is certainly the case with St. Paul's Episcopal Church for the past 150 years.

To help us understand how St. Paul's may fit into our own plans as individual members, the Stewardship Ministry is setting up two informational sessions about Planned Giving with experts in the charitable giving community. These sessions are completely optional, so feel free to stay in Barth Hall after the coffee hour and hear a presentation of no more than 20 minutes, with 10 additional minutes for your questions. If you don't feel that this is right for you, please feel free to leave before the session starts.

#### THIS IS OPTIONAL.

The first session will be on Sunday, July 16, 2023 following the Coffee Hour. Present will be a staff member from our partner organization, The Community Foundation of Greater Flint. To be scheduled at a later date will be representatives from the Episcopal Church Foundation. Stay tuned for those details.

Peace, The Stewardship Ministry



Our generosity is informed by the simple theological truth that God has blessed us infinitely with all of the gifts of Creation. Our lives, our labor, our love is devoted to the mission of the Church when we take stock and realize that our lives and our response to God's generosity are:

Rooted in Abundance.

#### Senior Warden Notes... Trust, Abundance, Fruit!

The Episcopal Network for Stewardship (TENS) is using this passage from Jeremiah as the basis for its 2023 campaign materials and slogan, "Rooted in Abundance".

"Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit." Jeremiah 17:7-8 NRSV

As I read this passage from Jeremiah, there are a few things that I think about:
We aren't told anything about who planted the tree! How did it end up by the water?
The tree, although planted by water, had to do something. It wasn't good enough to simply be there. The tree had to send out its roots, trusting the presence and abundance of the stream.

The tree is not anxious or fearful of its sometimes-inhospitable climate or seasonal changes. If it did not become anxious or fearful, what did the tree do?

The leaves of the tree stay green when the heat comes, and the tree doesn't cease to bear fruit during a drought.

Where do we see trust, abundance, and fruit in the life and work of St. Paul's?

#### **Building Community**

- 1. Our average Sunday attendance has consistently grown since the pandemic! Last week, 51 parishioners and visitors attended our 10AM service.
- 2. Our Wednesday 12:10PM mass (Worship and Liturgy) is growing! Last week there were 17 communicants, including a number of guests, who gathered for worship near the Columbarium!
- 3. Likewise, the Wednesday Book Study (Education Ministry) is growing! The group has grown from 3 members to 14! They have outgrown the confines of the library and now meets upstairs in the newly reconfigured 'Vestry/Conference Room'.
- 4. Glad Spirits Gardening Day/Group (Building and Grounds/Outreach) led our spring cleanup event, with 13 parishioners and visitors helping to tidy up the yard. The group is also consulting local gardeners to develop a plan and budget for ensuring our best stewardship of the yard and gardens.
- 5. Our first 'Video Night' was a huge success, with an audience of 15! The film in June was 'The Bible Tells Me So', and attendance far exceeded expectations. We plan to make this a regular activity.
- 6. St. Paul's was well-represented at Flint Pride (Diversity) with 18 volunteers working the St. Paul's table. It was a lovely day of celebration and fellowship!
- 7. In the last month, we have also been blessed to welcome literallu hundreds of our neighbors into our abundant space!
- Artwalk: 187 parishioners and visitors!
- Broadway Bound Theater Rehearsals: 55 students from across Genesee and Lapeer Counties
- Burton Senior Center Church Tour: 16 members of the senior center.
- Child Welfare Society Regular Meeting

- Flint Residents for Stronger Neighborhoods: 20 Flint residents working to build community!
- Greater Flint Toast Masters
- Master Singers Rehearsal: 30 choir members
- Michigan State University Internship Church Tour: 10 students and faculty members
- Pride Service (Diversity/Worship and Liturgy): St. Paul's welcomed 42 parishioners and neighbors into our space for our Second Annual Pride Service of Love.

#### St. Paul's Ministry Groups/Chaplains

As we focus on our ministry priorities and the work of each committee/ministry, my hope is that we will continue to find ways to collaborate, communicate, and share the fun with each other.

It is easy to get caught up in the urgency of the day, anxiously working to respond to each perceived need, issue, or idea that arises. My hope is that we can take time to consider our place and location, recognize the abundance around us, and grow in our relationships with each other, our ministries, and our community.

Tim Grant has long served as the 'chaplain' for the Stewardship Ministry. Each meeting begins with prayer, a reading from scripture, and 3 or 4 reflection questions. The practice has helped the group to avoid getting caught up in the perceived urgency of planning, problem-solving, and brainstorming. The process creates room for members to recognize and remember that we are rooted in indeed abundance!

I know that most ministry meetings already begin with prayer and scripture, but my hope is for each group to identify its own 'chaplain' to lend some consistency between the groups. Tim has offered to help or provide materials for anyone who might be interested in serving as a ministry chaplain.

Upcoming Community Collaborations, Activities, and Events Open Doors, Welcome Neighbors, Share Gifts, Build Community!

Blood Drive at St. Paul's: July 7, 2023, 11AM – 4:45PM (Stewardship Ministry) Sign up now!

Back to the Bricks: Concessions/Tours: 8am-4pm (Hospitality?/150<sup>th</sup>)

Bobby Crim - Blessing of the Runners: August 26, 2023 @ 5:30am (Worship & Liturgy)

150th Anniversary Worship/Social: Sunday August 27, 2023 (All Hands)

All Saints' at Glenwood November 5, 2023(Worship & Liturgy)

Our 'Reverend Brown Ploughman' is still on offer at Hoffman's Deco Deli until June 30. If you haven't tried one, time is getting short. Proceeds benefit Crossover Outreach.

Our '150 Years at the Intersection' exhibit will continue to run at the Sloan Museum of Discovery until early September.

Peace, Walt

#### **Your Vestry:**

(all at stpaulschurchflint.com)
Walt Peake, Senior Warden
seniorwarden@stpaulschurchflint.com
Dr. Elizabeth Jordan , Junior Warden
(Building and Grounds)(juniorwarden@)
(Diversity) (Member of Diocesan Council)
(elizabeth@)

Jan Bugbee, Treasurer (Finance) (treasurer@)

Tina Morrison, Clerk of the Vestry (clerk@) (Worship)

**Heather Gagnon** (Pastoral Care) (heather@)

Joel Arnold (Intersection 150 & PSP) (joel@)

Celeste Lord Timlin (Outreach)
(celeste@)

Zan Milner (Stewardship)
(zan@)

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**For our Homebound Parishoners:** 

Liz Barnhart, Joy Fuzi, Judy Stoerman, Doris Carroll, Marion Leman, Richard Wooten, Donna Henneke, Donald and Elaine Kaye, Sandy Ryder, Greg Vanucci, Russ Matar

#### **Prayers Wanted:**

Please add your prayer requests to the clipboard on the counter at the welcome center.

This list will be updated weekly.



**FYI:** Father Tom will be on vacation from July 27th - August 3rd. On Sunday, July 30th, the Rev. Harold Schneider will be with us to celebrate Holy Eucharist.

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#### Remember St. Paul's in your will:

Please consider helping the mission and ministry of St. Paul's by remembering the church in your will. You can do so by using the following wording:

"I hereby give, devise, and bequeath to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, a non-profit church, with the current address of 711 S. Saginaw, Flint, MI 48502, and its successor, the greater of \$\_\_\_\_\_\_, or \_\_\_\_\_percentage of my gross estate, to be used in such manner as determined by its vestry."



EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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