

Senior Warden's Report to the Vestry

October 25, 2023

GRATITUDE

This past month has been filled with opportunities to share our gifts, and I am grateful for the part that each ministry and each of you have played in those efforts. Last month, we agreed to engage more intentionally in the identification of specific ministry goals, objectives, and outcomes, living into the commitment we made together in our Letter of Agreement (LOA) with Father Tom.

My hope is that we can resist the urge to approach this work as something new, as though we are starting from scratch. As you will see below, St. Paul's has always, and continues to be a busy place, with people engaging in the life and work of the parish in varied and important ways. Although we hope to implement a more structured way of tracking and reporting our progress and challenges, the actual work of mission and ministry continues. I am grateful for each ongoing and newly identified opportunity to **OPEN DOORS, WELCOME NEIGHBORS, SHARE GIFTS, AND BUILD COMMUNITY.**

MISSION PRIORITIES WORKGROUP

When we met last month, the vestry authorized the establishment of an ad hoc workgroup, tasked with identifying and documenting a set of ministry goals, objectives, and targets. Although the group has yet to meet, I'd like to share a few thoughts on the work.

1. The LOA obligated us to engage in this work of establishing and managing ministry priorities, goals, and objectives. Information about the formation and engagement of the workgroup has been shared with the diocese. We are on our way!
2. Our early work will likely relate to learning about and collecting solid data and information about the work that we do and the impact of that work on building community. The raw material of performance improvement is always data and information; developing an understanding of our current successes and challenges.
3. I anticipate that our first meeting will take place this month, and the agenda will focus on picking a few areas in which to begin collecting and organizing data. There are many areas that present low hanging fruit, where collecting data should be relatively easy. Examples might include weekly attendance in worship, the number of community groups that use our space, or the number of individual community volunteer hours/episodes undertaken by our parishioners.
4. The specific language of the LOA defines one of the mission priorities as follows:

'St. Paul's, Flint will continue the work it has begun in building a deeper relationship with the community surrounding the church building.'

My hope is that our workgroup can revise the language in order to more reflect that which we've been using throughout the 150th project; Open Doors, Welcome Neighbors, Share Gifts, Build Community.

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The statement above doesn't reflect our position and responsibilities as a member of the community. Rather it could be seen as describing us as separate from it. In short, it seems appropriate that our attention might better be drawn to the work of actually becoming and building community, whether within or beyond these stone walls.

BUILDING COMMUNITY – WHAT WE DO!

If you haven't looked at the Parish Calendar on our website, I encourage everyone to scroll through. St. Paul's is a busy place, engaging in the work of building community as mentioned above. Although there are dozens of wonderful examples of this work that aren't necessarily reflected on the calendar, it provides an at-a-glance picture of the vibrant life and work of the parish. There are good things and good work taking place every day at St. Paul's. **Have a look for yourself!** <https://stpaulschurchflint.com/elementor-638/>

BUILDING COMMUNITY - HIGHLIGHTS THIS MONTH!

(SERIOUSLY, CHECK OUT THE CALENDAR!)

Sloan Exhibit – Extended through October 31

Michigan Museums Association – Annual Conference/Tours at St. Paul's

Breast Cancer Walk – Community Event

Music in the Heart of the City

Flint Residents for Stronger Neighborhoods – Monthly Meeting at St. Paul's

The Art Class – Meeting at St. Paul's

New Century Chorale Concert

Crossover Volunteers – Food Distribution at Court St. Methodist Church

Family Promise Volunteers

St. Andrews Soup Kitchen Volunteers

Artwalk

Sunday and Wednesday Worship

Weekly Bible Study

Weekly Ministry Announcements

Terence Celebration

Movie Night

Common Threads

Upcoming: Glenwood Event – Second Annual All Saints' Event, November 5!

Peace and Many Blessings,

Walt