



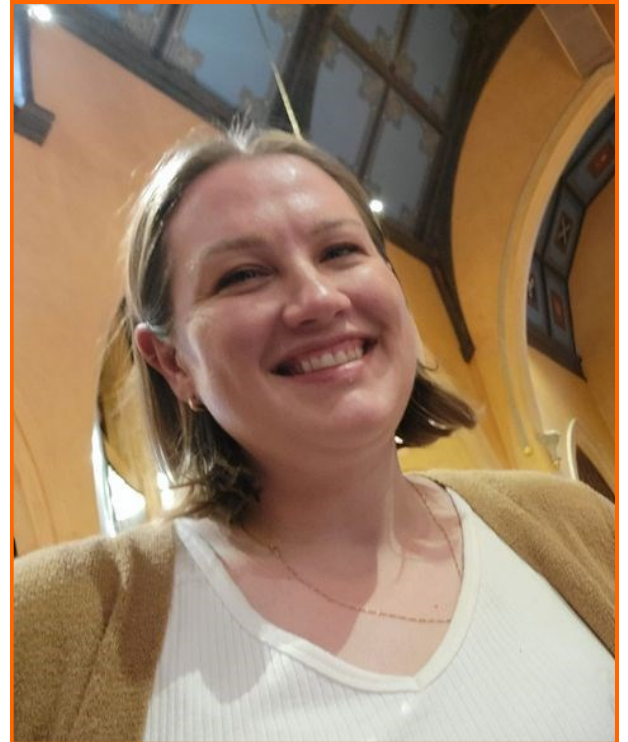
THE EPISTLE



October
2023



St. Paul's Episcopal Church was honored to have guest preacher, Canon Katie Forsyth at our service on Social Media Sunday.



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

711 South Saginaw St., Flint, Michigan 48502
810.234.8637 www.stpaulschurchflint.com



A Note from Tom

'It's like deja vu all over again.'

So said the great New York Yankee, Yogi Bera. He had Mickey Mantle in mind when he said it, but he could have had the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan in mind as well.

The recent resignation of Bishop Prince Singh is, however, no laughing matter. His departure throws into turmoil the effort to join our Diocese of Eastern Michigan with the Diocese of Western Michigan. Known as "juncture", the merger of the two Episcopal dioceses has been in the planning stages for some four years now. With a vote scheduled for March 2024, the departure of Bishop Singh seems like a cruel joke played on the Episcopalians of the State of Michigan.

But it's nothing new to us. Bishop Singh was our 5th bishop in 5 years. And whomever takes over—in 2024—will likely be our 6th bishop in 7 years. That's a lot of turmoil for us in Eastern Michigan.

And yet, because of that very turnover in the office of the bishop, I personally believe that our leadership is in good hands. The Standing Committee and the Diocesan Council of Eastern Michigan are used to "running things" in the absence of a bishop. They did it for an entire year in 2020 (during Covid) when Bishop Hougland was suspended. And those two leadership groups each feature a member of our own congregation. Jelesia Geraghty is a member of the Standing Committee and Elizabeth Jordan is a member of Diocesan Council. Furthermore, our diocesan staff is also strong. So I believe that the leadership of our diocese is in good hands, despite the absence of a bishop.

At our annual meeting in January, we will elect four delegates to the diocesan convention. These delegates will be representing St. Paul's and will be tasked with voting on Juncture. It is my hope and my prayer that the absence of a bishop does not impact our delegates' decisions.

Because we've seen this before.

It's like déjà vu all over again.

With every blessing...

Tom+

HOLLY'S NOTES

Words matter, we often hear that, but to guard what we say so that it is always uplifting, and kind is something many of us struggle with. Text matters too, whether we are praying, or singing. I have a devotional called *Common Prayer Reflections on Episcopal Worship* edited by Pagano & Richter that offers some amazing insight into the importance of worship. The chapter entitled, "Let Light Perpetual Shine upon Them" by Hammon was especially significant to me this week. The author talks about the "liturgical songs with mysterious lyrics and melodies" I realize when I change the service music some of you struggle learning new melodies. There is nothing wrong with the ones we have always done, but to keep it interesting I think it is good to change a little. The words remain the same, the melody is different. The words matter, they are familiar, they offer comfort and peace when we are struggling with life. Our community is what creates comfort and safety when privately we are struggling.

The song "Depth of Mercy"

1 Depth of mercy! Can there be mercy still reserved for me?
Can my God His wrath forbear? me, the chief of sinners, spare?
2 I have long withstood His grace, long provoked Him to His face;
would not hearken to His calls, grieved Him by a thousand falls.
3 I my Master have denied; I afresh have crucified,
oft profaned His hallowed name, put Him to an open shame.
4 There for me the Savior stands, shows His wounds and spreads His hands.
God is love! I know, I feel; Jesus weeps, but loves me still!
5 Now incline me to repent, let me now my fall lament;
now my foul revolt deplore! weep, believe, and sin no more.

The Hebrew word for "mercy" means to "get inside another's skin". Let us all show mercy and speak kindly to one another as we travel forward on life's journey.

<https://youtu.be/RI3kYnhNyIk>

Holly Richardson, Director of Music



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

October Artwalk

A CREATION OF ARTS

Come out and experience St. Paul's Artwalk. Each month an artist presents beautiful art. Our Artwalk will be held from 6:00-8:30 PM on Friday, October 13, 2023. This month there will be several artists.

ARTWALK ARTISTS

Brandon Emmons, I am a traditional artist based out of Holly and I have almost completed my associate's degree at Mott Community College. I mainly practice art with oil paints and dry media such as charcoal and graphite. Some of the things that inspire my work are old fantasy illustrations and horror movies. However, recently I've started taking inspiration from mundane daily tasks or the people I see and talk with.

Juliana Churchman of Fenton, Michigan is a student at Mott Community College in Flint, Michigan. Juliana is currently pursuing an Associate of Fine Arts degree in Studio Art and typically prefers to create oil paintings.

Samantha Crow of Clio, Michigan is a student at Mott Community College in Flint, Michigan. Samantha is currently pursuing an Associate of Fine Arts degree in Studio Art and prefers to create drawings and sculptures.

Kobe Gilbert from Michigan is a student at Mott Community College in Flint, Michigan. Kobe is currently pursuing an Associate of Fine Arts degree in Studio Art and typically prefers to create drawings and painting.

Patience Jones of Flint, Michigan is a student at Mott Community College of Flint, Michigan. Patience is currently pursuing an Associate of Arts degree in Studio Art, and typically prefers to create graphic and oil paintings.



MUSIC



**Our musical performers for this
month's Artwalk will be
Mott Community College Jazz Band**

From Diversity...

October is **Domestic Violence Awareness Month**, and we will be doing our part to educate and inform on all the statistics and ways DV impacts our communities. Every single person has the right to live safely in their home, and it's important to provide safe spaces when that is not possible. An awareness of what is happening around us and how to help properly and safely for all parties is important, as we are charged with loving one another.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month is also a focus for October, and as we have done many times in the past, we will have a team of walkers to participate in the walk on 2nd Saturday, October 14th. A signup sheet is already placed on the Welcome Center, and we hope many will join us in the fight. As far as donations are concerned you may donate directly using the fundraiser link available, or donate the day of the walk at the donations collection table located on the Flat Lot. Or if so inclined, you may donate directly to Jelecia Ford-Geraghty via the meals link on her and others' Facebook pages or financially via cash or use of her CashApp info. Whichever way feels right to you is acceptable. Because it hits home so deeply this year, we hope you'll do whatever is in your power to help in this fight.

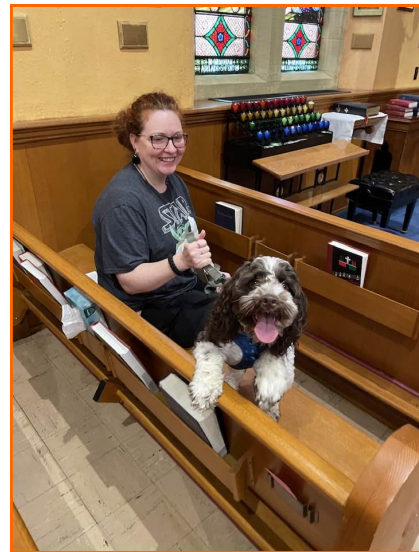
In other Diversity news –

- September was **Gospel Music Heritage Month**, and we acknowledged and celebrated the importance and impact of Gospel Music in our lives.
- **Hispanic Heritage Month** began on September 15th and will run through October 15th. Diversity provided the movie *In the Heights* for Movie Night, as well as the delicious meal which consisted of Mexican, Puerto Rican, and Cuban cuisine (special thanks to Lanie and her team for all her hard work with securing the meal). Also, the **Ofrenda** is up in **Five Sisters Chapel** and should remain up through Dia de Los Muertos/All Saints-All Souls Day Nov 1-2. Anyone may display a photo or other items in remembrance of a loved one at this time.



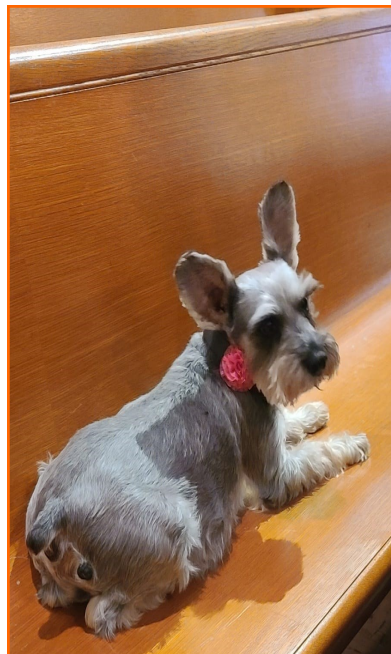
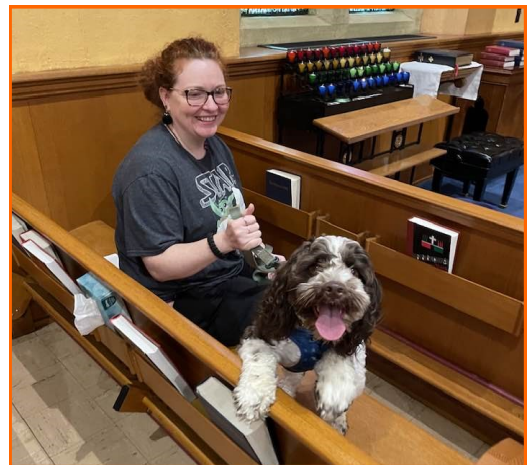
PET BLESSING

BLESSING OF THE PETS

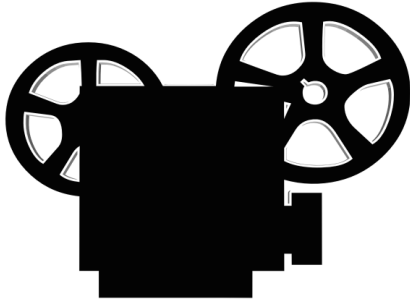


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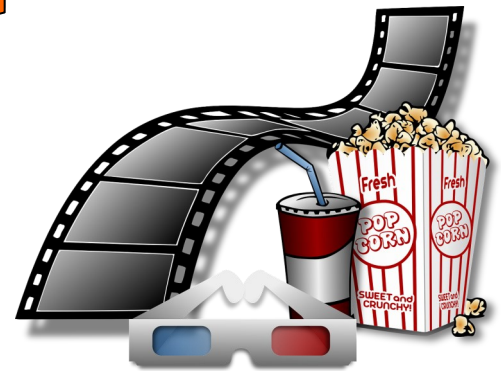
BLESSING OF THE PETS



MOVIE NIGHT



at St. Paul's



Come out and enjoy a movie with us!



A tale of two strangers who transform each other's lives, a psychological thriller, and a story of love pitted against evil.

"The Wonder"

Set in The Irish Midlands in 1862, the story follows a young girl who stops eating but remains miraculously alive and well. English nurse Lib Wright is brought to a tiny village to observe eleven-year old Anna O'Donnell.

Is the village harbouring a saint 'surviving on manna from heaven' or are there more ominous motives at work?

Meet at 5:30 pm

Movie at 6:00



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2023



MOVIE NIGHT

Movies are on the 3rd Wednesdays of the month. St. Paul's Episcopal Church



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Evensong, a special service being held on Saturday, November 4, 2023 at 4:00 pm. Come join us!



October's Liturgy Schedule

Dates		Lector 1	Lector 2	Intercessor (Prayers of People)	Eucharistic Minister	Crucifer	Verger
10/01/2023		Susumu Inoue	Tim Grant	David Taylor	Tim Grant	Maddie Cherry	Ed Walthers
10/08/2023	G	David Taylor	Elizabeth Jordan	Edythe Peake	Jelesia Geraghty	Tim Grant	Ed Walthers
10/15/2023	B	Mike Farver	Susumu Inoue	Susumu Inoue	Ed Walthers	Bill Johnson	
10/22/2023		Barb Mannor	David Taylor	Ed Walthers	Tim Grant	Erynn Ford	Ed Walthers
10/29/2023	G	Eloise Jordan	Edythe Peake	Mike Farver	TaMara Oertel	Tim Grant	Ed Walthers

Ministry Announcements

Invitation

Some of you may recall pledge seasons of the past, when various parishioners went to the lectern to share their thoughts on stewardship, generosity, and abundance. Somehow, we've gotten away from that practice. This year, the Stewardship Ministry hopes to bring it back for our 2023 Campaign.

Our campaign season begins on September 17th and includes 11 Sundays through the Last Sunday after Pentecost. **Our hope is that each ministry group might take responsibility for sharing a 5-minute announcement on one of those Sundays.** If your group decides not to do an announcement, no worries... no pressure. This is simply an opportunity to take a few minutes (5 tops) for someone in the ministry to help the congregation understand your ministry.

The Episcopal Network for Stewardship offers a new theme and appropriate passage that we use each year to guide and organize our annual pledge campaign. The scripture passage this year is from **Jeremiah 17:7-8**

"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."

10/1 - No Announcement (Pet Blessing Sunday)

10/8 - Worship and Liturgy

10/15 - Pastoral Care/Hospitality

10/22 - Diversity

10/29 - Education

11/5 - Building and Grounds

11/12 - Finance

11/19 - Open

11/26 - Vestry

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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Rafael McDaniel, Gospel Choir Director

(gospel@)

Ed Arter, Organist (organist@)

Terence Whitehead, Sexton

Edythe Peake, Web Editor

(webeditor@stpaulschurchflint.com)



For our Homebound Parishoners:

Joy Fusi, Judy Stoerman, Doris Carroll,
Marion Leman, Richard Wooten, Greg
Vanucci, Russ Matar

St. Paul's

ATTENDANCE TOTALS

Average Weekend Attendance

2022

54.8

2023*

44.9

*As of September

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."



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