



THE
EPISTLE



JANUARY
2024



HAPPY NEW YEAR!



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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



A Note from Tom

As the year draws to a close, and as I reflect back, I can honestly say that 2023 has been a remarkable year. For the first time in my ordained life, I am not, at year's end, lamenting the effects of the Coronavirus. Instead I am filled with thoughts of the blessings I have received. Blessings of family, friends, and ministry are at the forefront of my mind. And chief among them is the beginnings of my ministry here at St. Paul's.

Ministry transitions, I have learned, are not easy. But coming over to St. Paul's has been, I think, among the best decisions I have ever made. St. Paul's has easily exceeded my expectations. Ours is a dynamic church. So many members of our congregation do so much, that I cannot help but be inspired. And I say with great confidence that I have never experienced a church so in touch with its community. With an eye on its rich history, St. Paul's looks continually toward the future. Toward a future that is promising, and filled with potential.

Although I don't for a moment expect it, it bears mentioning that a church that rests on its laurels is a church in trouble. In spite of all that we are, and all that we have done, 2024 beckons us, not only to maintain momentum, but to increase it. More programs, more ministry, more activity will lead us to the place we want to be: a vibrant and healthy center of faith and service.

And that would be our charge for 2024. That we continue to build on all that we have done, all that we have been given, and all that we know that we can be. The ceiling at St. Paul's is a high one. We do a lot and ours is a great church. But it can be greater. In 2024, let us make it so.

With every blessing...

Tom+



HOLLY'S NOTES



Merry Christmas! People always say they love Christmas music, but there are many forms of Christmas music. Do you love the secular "Rockin' Round the Christmas Tree" or do you love "Silent Night". It is interesting to me that people are willing to blur the lines between church and state during the holiday season. As a k-12 choir director, I never had any issues with children singing about Christmas, Hanukkah or Kwanzaa but any other time of the year, we want a clear line between secular and holy.

As part of the Christian community the beautiful music of Christmas is a very short season. One of the songs we did this past month is a Native American Song "Twas in the Moon of Wintertime" pg. 114

'Twas in the moon of wintertime,
when all the birds had fled,
that mighty Gitchi Manitou (that God the Lord of all the earth)
sent angel choirs instead;
before their light the stars grew dim,
and wandering hunters heard the hymn:

Refrain:
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born,
In excelsis gloria.

2. Within a lodge of broken bark
the tender Babe was found;
a ragged robe of rabbit skin
enwrapped his beauty round,
but, as the hunter braves drew nigh,
the angel song rang loud and high:

3. The earliest moon of wintertime
is not so round and fair
as was the ring of glory on
the helpless infant there.
The chiefs from far before him knelt
with gifts of fox and beaver pelt.

4. O children of the forest free,
the kin of Manitou, (the angel song is true)
the holy child of earth and heaven
is born today for you.
Come kneel before the radiant boy,
who brings you beauty, peace and joy.

Our hymnal has changed some of the words, taking out the Native American words out and putting other words in, those are in parenthesis above. Below is a beautiful recording, may the joy of Christmas not leave us too soon, before we begin Lent.

<https://youtu.be/4TuD7jvXyo>

Holly Richardson, Director of Music

Holly Richardson
Director of Music, St. Paul's Music in the
Heart of the City
Flint, Michigan
810.234.8637 ext. 100 - office



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Family Promise Day Center is open and welcoming families to their new home on the second floor of St Paul's. The families are usually at the Day Center on Sundays and have joined us during worship and /or coffee hour. The center is open Sunday-Friday 10am-3pm. Everyone is welcome to visit and meet the families.

After Covid, Family Promise (FP) developed a new model. FP rents a three bedroom house and has two travel trailers. The trailers travel to different churches every two weeks between April and September. The house is open year round.

Due to limited parking space at St Paul's we support the trailer parked at St Dunstan's Episcopal in Davison, MI. St Paul volunteers join with volunteers from St Dunstan's and St Jude's Episcopal in Fenton, MI to provide evening meals for the two weeks the trailer is parked in St Dunstan's parking lot.

How can I get involved? Our first host dates are Jan 11, 12 and 13, 2024. We will get information about the family a week before. It will include their names, ages and dietary allergies and foods they like. We prepare a meal for the family to be served starting at 5:30pm.

Because we house the Day Center at St Paul's, we have several options to host at the house.

If you like to bake, you can make items now and we can store them in St Paul's freezer. Same thing with a casserole. Just include the ingredients so we can avoid a specific food allergy. Can deliver to the church but not the house? No problem FP drives the families to the house everyday. The FP driver can take the food for the evening meal. Want to treat the family to a restaurant meal. Have one delivered to the house.

Family Promise is a ministry of the Outreach Committee. We meet the first Thursday each month at 6:30 pm. All our welcome to join. You do not have to be a part of the committee to help with Family Promise. Contact Barbara Mannor to volunteer or get more information about FP. mannortb@aol.com or 810-513-8098 (call or text).

Christmas Tea

The Christmas tea turned out to be an enjoyable affair. Against a backdrop of ministry Christmas trees, lace tablecloths, polished silver and positively delightful treats, parishioners relaxed and socialized.

As one of the members of this parish who carries memories of teas long ago, I thought it would be a nice thing to honor our past members by using some of the heirlooms they have left in our care to recreate one of those memories for the holiday season.

Thank you to all of you who allowed my indulgence and made my dream come alive! Special thanks to Father Tom for supporting the event, and to everyone who attended and brought their families. To Barb Mannor, Maggie Hart, Joan Reynolds, & Mary Mitchell Baron who showed up to clean and polish the silver, find table linen, set up, and help make food, tea, and coffee. Velevia Ford, Jelevia Geraghty, and Quiara Dones for making a wonderful festive punch, and Audrey Stephens for pouring the tea. Special shout out to Edie Peake for making a flyer, Facebook posts and her deviled eggs that vanished so fast we ran out of them. I am grateful to Walt and Susumu for clearing and washing dishes which I admit I totally forgot needed to happen.

Of course, the tea could not have happened without Terence who manned the oven, coffee pot and ice water station as well as set up tables, chairs etc. and who opened the door to the garden so that we could be comfortable.

Words cannot express my thanks! It takes a village to raise a child and a parish to make a tea!

Blessings and best wishes to all of you for 2024!

D. Elizabeth Jordan Ph.D.
Retiring Junior Warden



2024 Proposed By-Law Amendments

All have been approved by vestry to be brought forward for vote at annual meeting.

1. Move to approve a motion to amend Article IV Section 1 of the St. Paul's By-laws to read "The Vestry shall be made up of ~~six (6)~~ **seven (7)** members." This amendment shall take immediate effect.
2. Move to approve a motion to amend Article IV Section 2 of the By-Laws to read: "The terms of office of Vestry members shall be three (3) years, and the Vestry shall be divided into three (3) equal **(or near equal) classes**, one class leaving office each year.
3. Move to approve a motion to amend Article II Section 1 Clause C Line 4 to be thus changed:

From: "To be elected, a Nominee must be voted for on a majority of the ballots cast. However, if it appears the election cannot be determined by majority vote, the Annual Parish Meeting may, by majority vote, decide that elections will be carried by plurality vote."

To: "To be elected, a **vestry** Nominee must be voted for on a majority of the ballots cast. **If a vote results in no candidate (or not enough candidates) receiving a majority, then additional votes will be conducted with either those having already received a majority or the candidate with the least number of votes on the previous ballot removed from the ballot. Delegates and alternates to Diocesan Convention shall be elected by plurality vote with the highest four vote recipients elected as delegates and the next four elected as alternates.**" ~~However, if it appears the election cannot be determined by majority vote, the Annual Parish Meeting may, by majority vote, decide that elections will be carried by plurality vote."~~

Rationale/Explanation

1. Increasing the vestry membership total to 7 will create an odd number of votes and thus reduce the likelihood of tie votes. The vestry has seven members currently.
2. The language regarding the election of three classes of three people each year dates to the traditional nine person vestry. The vestry classes would now have to be elected in classes of two, two, and three.
3. The St. Paul's By-Laws have always called for elections by majority, but this new language would indicate more clearly how the votes would be conducted. This new language also calls for a single, plurality vote for delegates and alternates to diocesan convention.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS – COME WALK THE WAY WITH US IN 2024

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

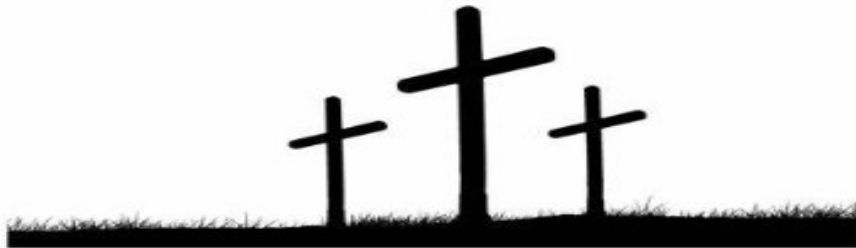
During the season of Lent this February and March, we will look for meaningful ways to pray the Stations of the Cross. In our own time and place, we seek to bear witness at the core of our way of Christian believing. Each Friday during Lent, starting on February 16 through March 29, we will challenge ourselves to consider how Christ can be seen and served in our day-to-day experience, and to welcome our whole community and their concerns into the heart of our life of hope and neighborly love. Join in on one or more Friday evening services during Lent.

PLANNING FOR 2024

In addition, for our observance of Stations of the Cross in 2024, we are inviting 14 local artists to interpret one of the 14 Stations with a work of their own choosing, using the medium that best expresses their artful depiction of the journey of Jesus. Their artwork will be shared during the Friday evening service during ARTWALK on March 8th in Barth Hall.

Come walk the Way with us!

If you are an artist, or are so moved to display one of your pieces of art on March 8th, please contact Tim Grant or Edythe Peake. We welcome the involvement of our church community in collaboration with our artist friends.



INTERESTED IN TECHNOLOGY?



**St. Paul's New Technology Committee Will
Have Its First Meeting On Wednesday,
January 10th At 6pm In The Parlor.**

BLOOD DRIVE

Friday, January 5, is the Blood Drive at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. I'm wondering if you would please do two things:

First, sign yourself up. Here is a link to the website. Scroll down on the left and you will find the link to St. Paul's date (Jan 5).

Second, please share this link with family and friends, or at least tell them about the date. Pre-scheduled appointments save time, but walk-ins are okay too.

As they say at the Red Cross, "Give blood and give the gift of life".



Blood Drive St. Paul's Episcopal Church

711 Saginaw Street, Flint

Friday, January 5, 2024
9:30 a.m. to 3:15 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.



Make a Legendary Impact! Come give Dec. 18 thru Jan. 5 for NEW long-sleeved Red Cross Tee, 10 qty!



Schedule your blood donation appointment today!

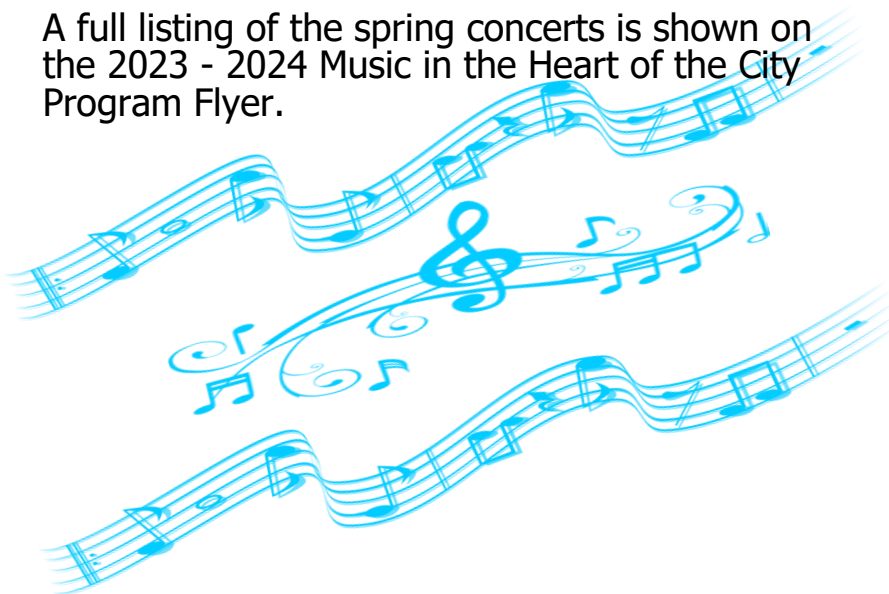
1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?order=DATE&range=10&zipSponsor=48502>

The **Music in the Heart of the City** Concert Series returns in January. Make plans to see the concert on Sunday, January 28 at 4:00 pm, featuring our artist-in-residence, Michael Idalski, accompanied by Heidi Joosten Caitlyn in 'Broadway Backwards'.

A full listing of the spring concerts is shown on the 2023 - 2024 Music in the Heart of the City Program Flyer.



2023 - 2024 CONCERT SERIES

MUSIC IN THE HEART OF THE CITY

Art Songs of America
Michael Idalski & Tyler Kivel
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2023 4:00PM

The Musicians of St. Paul's
Edward Arter, Rafael McDaniel, Holly Richardson
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2023 4:00PM

Organ Recital
Matthew Benkert
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2023 4:00PM

Broadway Backwards
Michael Idalski, Heidi Joosten Caitlyn
SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2024 4:00PM

Jazz with Jimmy
Jimmy Leach
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2024 4:00PM

Singin' Some Sondheim
Michael Idalski, Tyler Kivel
SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2024 4:00PM

Michael Idalski, Artist in Residence for 2023-2024 Season

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH • 711 SOUTH SAGINAW ST. • FLINT, MI (810) 234-8637

The flyer features a background image of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. A portrait of Michael Idalski is included on the left side.

St. Paul's Movie Night

**Come out and enjoy a
movie with us!**

**Wednesday, January 17,
2024 Meet at 5:30 pm,
Movie at 6:00 pm.**



A Catholic school principal
questions the ambiguous
relationship between a priest
and a troubled student.

This is a mesmerizing,
suspenseful drama elevated by
four riveting Oscar-nominated
performances from Meryl
Streep, Philip Seymour
Hoffman, Amy Adams and
Viola Davis. DOUBT will have
you pinned to the edge of your
seat.

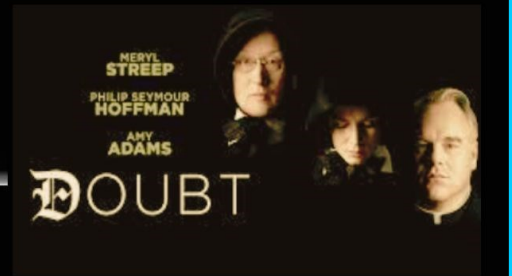


ACADEMY AWARD NOMINEE

MOVIE NIGHT

"Doubt"

**Meet at 5:30 pm
Movie at 6:00 pm
January 17, 2024**



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

NO 2ND FRIDAY ARTWALK THIS MONTH



REMINDER

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
does not display art in the month of January.
Stay tuned for updates about future events in the spring.

WE WILL BE BACK!



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

LECTOR TRAINING SESSION

First Session of 2024

February 10, 2024 10:00 am -
Saturday 11:30 am

This session is for new readers, and for
experienced ones - Study together:

- What do you hear in the reading, and how do you proclaim it?
- What is the role of the lector?
- How to approach and leave the lector area
- Other practical aspects of being a lector
- The role of the vergers



St. Paul's

Episcopal Church

ANNUAL MEETING

184TH ANNUAL MEETING
AND LUNCHEON OF
ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2024
IMMEDIATELY AFTER CHURCH IN
BARTH HALL
NOMINEES NEEDED FOR VESTRY AND
DELEGATES TO THE DIOCESAN CONVENTIONS

January's Liturgy Schedule

Dates		Lector 1	Lector 2	Intercessor (Prayers of People)	Eucharistic Minister	Crucifer	Verger
07-Jan-2024		Ed Walthers	Rebecca Bennett	Elizabeth Jordan	Tim Grant	Maddie Cherry	Mike Farver
14-Jan-2024	G	Tom Shriver	Tim Grant	David Taylor	Jelecia Geraghty	Bill Johnson	Ed Walthers
21-Jan-2024	B	Barb Mannor	Elizabeth Jordan	Edythe Peake	Ed Walthers	Erynn Ford	Mike Farver
28-Jan-2024		Eloise Jordan	David Taylor	Tom Shriver	Tim Grant	Bill Johnson	Ed Walthers

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@)

Staff:

The Rev. Thomas Manney

Priest-in-Charge

rector@stpaulschurchflint.com

Karein Russell

Administrative Assistant

Editor; The Epistle

stpoffice@stpaulschurchflint.com

George Gibson,

Director of Finance (directoroffinance@)

Holly Richardson,

Director of Music (directorofmusic@)

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



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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