



THE
EPISTLE



July 2024



Celebrate Love,
Life & Unity



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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



A Note from Tom

It is a beautiful morning here in Louisville, Kentucky. Episcopalians from across the country (and parts of the world) have gathered here for the 81st General Convention of the Episcopal church. It's a fun experience, but not one that comes with a lot of free time. During our week here, the deputies will – among other things – confirm the election of a new presiding bishop, elect (or re-elect) a president of the House of Deputies, elect a new vice president of the House of Deputies, and finally, review and vote on – by my count – 290 separate resolutions.

Many of the resolutions are no-brainers. #C001 recognizes the leadership of the Most Reverend Michael Bruce Curry, our retiring presiding bishop. The agenda must be approved each day (I guess we'll approve it), and there's even a resolution to approve the standing committee of the new Diocese of Haiti (whose Cathedral Church, by the way, has been destroyed no fewer than six times (most recently by earthquake in 2010)).

But most of the resolutions are much more intense and require a great deal of reflection. #D003 calls for Ending Apartheid Against Palestinians. #D029 commits the church to the 30x30 Initiative for biodiversity. #D036 considers adding a healing sacrament within the context of our worship services.

But the resolution I'm most excited about is #C025, Juncture of The Episcopal Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan.

There is little doubt that the resolution will be approved, clearing the way for us to gather in Mt. Pleasant this October as the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes. And would you believe it, when I think about reaching this point in the process, I actually get a little choked up.

It has been – and let me be clear about this – an exceptionally challenging process. Since its inception, generally thought to be around the time of Bishop Todd Ousley's departure (2017), the process has had to first be approved by Eastern Michigan, then by Western Michigan. Once that occurred, it wasn't long before the Covid pandemic hit. This slid the juncture process to the back seat. In summer of 2020, Bishop Wayne Hougland was suspended (for a year – he eventually resigned). The two dioceses next called Bishop Prince Singh, who was likewise suspended from ministry and resigned.

Throughout all this, the people of Eastern and Western Michigan continually stood up and provided leadership to the juncture process (and everything else). Meetings were held, disagreements were resolved, and we got to know each other. Plans were forged, a vote was held (83% approval), and the resolution to the General Convention was submitted for approval.

So you can see why I am a bit emotional this week. God has blessed and inspired us to get to where we are. If anyone would like to see the Holy Spirit in action, they should check out the new *Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes*. Great things are in store for the Michigan Branch of the Episcopal Church!

With every blessing...

Tom+

HOLLY'S NOTES

Many thoughts are flowing through my mind this early Tuesday morning about what to write about for July. I have grandchildren in my house as June ends and July starts, and it is joyous, but a lot of work. I always wanted more children and with the five of them running around the house and in and out of the pool, it is fun and work! Then I look at my grown children and realize this is a very short space of time, when all of them will be at Grandmama's house. I think of the verse in Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it. I have heard many sermons about training a child in the way they are bent or I take that to mean to me their skills and strengths. All five have different strengths and interests and so we try to do activities that each child will enjoy and learn from.

One of my favorite hymns is in LEVAS, "Children of the Heavenly Father"

1 Children of the heav'nly Father,
safely in His bosom gather;
nestling bird nor star in heaven
such a refuge e'er was given.

2 God His own doth tend and nourish;
in His holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things He spares them;
in His mighty arms He bears them.

3 Neither life nor death shall ever
from the Lord His children sever;
unto them His grace He showeth,
and their sorrows all He knoweth.

4 Tho' He giveth or He taketh,
God His children ne'er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely
to preserve them pure and holy

This hymn was written by the Swedish Hymn writer, Carolina Sandell and Jenny Lynn the great Swedish Soprano paid to have it published. It strikes me that God loves us more than we can possibly love our own children and grandchildren. He protects and keeps us safe. May all of our summers be safe and full of learning, enjoying the people around us. Remembering that as much as we love our children and grandchildren, God loves each of us more than we can understand.

<https://youtu.be/P2MGI6jtOT0?t=5>

Holly Richardson, Director of Music



*Holly Richardson
Director of Music,
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Artistic Director, St. Paul's Music in the
Heart of the City
Flint, Michigan*

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

"Did You Know"

Did you know Charles and Anna Barth? Have you heard the name?

Probably not since they were members at St. Paul's Episcopal Church from around 1920 to the late 1950's. They moved to Flint in 1917 where Charles was the senior executive officer at Chevrolet and developed many of the production methods used in those days. Charles was a very civic minded individual who was closely involved in the Whaley Foundation, YMCA, Red Cross, St. Paul's and Rotary Club. By all accounts, he was a very quiet unassuming individual who was well liked by all who knew him. Charles passed away in 1959 while his wife died in 1941.

So, the question is: Why are we still blessed today by someone's that was a member at St. Paul's some 75 years ago?

Back in the early 1940's, Charles and Anna felt so strongly about St. Paul's that they decided to include St. Paul's in their estate planning. Charles and Anna went to a local bank and set up 6 trust funds with St. Paul's as the primary beneficiary. To this day, St. Paul's receives monthly distributions from these trusts and will continue to do so forever. These distributions help St. Paul's aid the sick and needy, support the upkeep of our building, provide for flowers and support outreach to the community. Their objective was to make sure St. Paul's was there for the long haul.

What started out as small trusts has grown substantially over the last 80 years. The monthly distributions will total some \$170,000 in 2024. In years where the stock market does well, this number increases even more.

It should be noted that Charles and Anna set up many trusts for other churches and organizations.

Thanks to Walt Peake for researching the history of Charles Barth.

THOUGHTS FROM THE OLD CELT

The Republic of Ireland is a smaller land mass than the state of Michigan. There are 32 abbeys in Ireland, many of them hundreds of years old. There is one fully functioning abbey in Michigan.

In future columns I will share the contributions of the Celts to Christianity. Much of the material will be from a class once offered at the University of Maine: Celtic spirituality 400 BCE to 664CE from Spain to Whitby. There was no clear demarcation in Ireland, between Celtic paganism and Christianity. In some respects we are still in this transition. "The second is like unto it. Thou shalt love they neighbor as thyself. On those two commandments hand all the Law and the Prophets." The Celts have taught us that our neighbors include all the flora and fauna that share this earth with us.

In months to come, we will learn:

- ⇒ The migration of the Milesians from Spain to Ireland.
- ⇒ How the Irish changed the practice of Confession
- ⇒ St. Patrick and the first celebration of the Easter Vigil in 432 C.E. in Country Meath, Ireland
- ⇒ St. Brigid
- ⇒ St. Columcille
- ⇒ Iona
- ⇒ The four seasons of the ancient Celts, and how they fit with lunar celebrations; and later, Saints Days of the church.

I am looking forward to our future columns.

Slan Tamail agus Beannacht Dé

Tomás





Diversity

May was Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month, and it was packed with information and activities. On May 19th, Susumu gave a wonderful presentation about his Japanese heritage, and we wish there had been more time for him to speak. Susumu, Mary, and Lanie provided a meal that incorporated cuisine from various Asian regions that was quite delicious.

On May 24th we were blessed with yet more Asian cuisine provided by Lanie and Josh. In addition, origami papers and designs were placed on tables for all to try, and I saw several people working diligently on their cats, dogs, fish, horses, penguins, and rabbits. Semi-daily information was also posted on the News & Notes page.

June was Pride Month. Important information regarding the tragedies and triumphs of LGBTQIA+ people through history was posted on the News & Notes page. The annual Pride Service took place on June 29th, with lunch provided after service and before the official Pride Ceremonies begin at the Riverfront.

Looking ahead, July brings the annual **Hot Dog & Ice Cream Social on July 14th** following mass. We will be highlighting Disability Pride Month. August will focus on National Wellness Month and Gastroparesis Awareness Month.

We welcomed Don Stanley to the committee and look forward to his contributions.



Hot Dog & Ice Cream Social

Sunday, July 14th

ART WALK

Our St. Paul's Artwalk is truly amazing. The Artwalk is open to everyone with many participating organizations. Our July Artwalk will be held from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. on Friday, July 12, 2024.

This month's artist is Taura Williams

Born and raised in Flint, Tei is a visionary artist whose journey into collage art began in 2022 out of a quest to reimagine and repurpose Black Victorian photos into modern artistic expressions. Their work blends elements of afrofuturism with a profound focus on Black women and their interconnectedness with feminism. Through a dynamic fusion of abstract art, geometric shapes, and vivid scenery, Tei's collages evoke a powerful narrative of identity and empowerment.

Driven by a desire to evoke raw, visceral emotions in viewers, Tei seeks to create art that transcends boundaries and resonates deeply with its audience. Their unique approach not only revitalizes historical imagery but also challenges perceptions and sparks conversations about representation, culture, and the intersectionality of identities.

With each piece, Tei invites viewers to embark on a journey of discovery and introspection, where the past converges with the future, and where the essence of Black womanhood is celebrated through a lens of creativity and innovation.

Music Performance



MOMENT'S NOTICE JAZZ QUARTET

Dirk Nieuwenhuis - Saxophone

Pat Harris - Bass

Rich Haering - Trumpet

Reichlin Small - Guitar

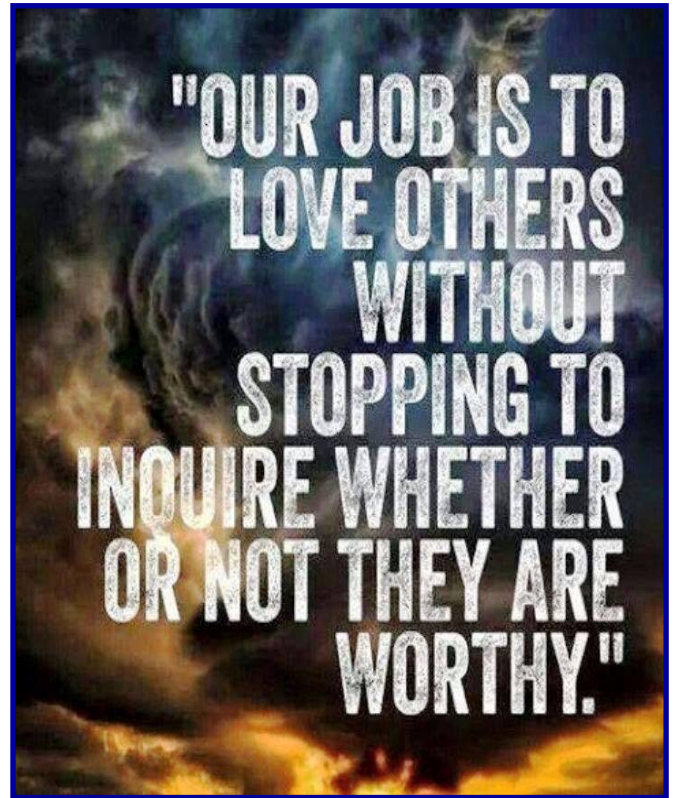


MINISTRY GROUPS

Art Walk
Bell Choir
Capital Campaign
Chancel Choir
Common Threads
Episcopal Kaleidoscope
Gospel Choir
Music In the Heart of the City
Order of St. Luke
Spiritual Development Group
Wednesday Walkers

COMMITTEES

Building & Grounds
Diversity
Finance Review
Liturgy & Worship
Outreach
Pastoral Care
Stewardship
Technology Committee
Vestry



Capital Campaign

The capital campaign committee has hired THA Architect Engineers, to complete a building assessment of St Paul's. We will be working with Dave Bennett. THA is located in Flint and has worked on many different projects in the city including the Berston Field House. To learn more about THA and their other projects, visit their website <https://tha-flint.com>.

May this be a place of true worship, thanksgiving and praise. May this be a place of hope and healing, a place of joy and peace. (Psalm 22:3)

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Mannor



Upcoming Scripture Lessons

for Worship

The Revised Common Lectionary: Year B

July 7

Seventh Sunday of Pentecost

Proper 9

Ezekiel 2:1-5

Psalms 123

2 Corinthians 12:2-10

Mark 6:1-13

July 14

Eighth Sunday of Pentecost

Proper 10

Amos 7:7-15

Psalms 85:8-13

Ephesians 1:3-14

Mark 6:14-29

July 21

Ninth Sunday of Pentecost

Proper 11

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Psalms 23

Ephesians 2:11-22

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 28

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Proper 12

2 Kings 4:42-44

Psalms 145:10-19

Ephesians 3:14-21

John 6:1-21

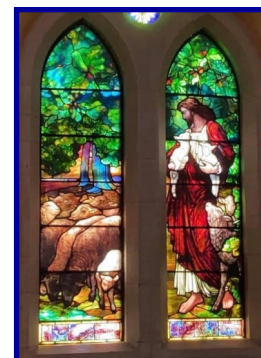
Calendar of Events

July 2024

TUE	2 nd	11:30 pm - Building & Grounds 6:30 pm - Gospel Choir
WED	3 rd	5:30 pm - Episcopal Kaleidoscope
TUE	9 th	6:30 pm - Gospel Choir
WED	10 th	5:30 pm - Technology Committee
THUR	11 th	11:00 am - Order of St. Luke 3:30 pm Buckham Alley Theatre 5:30 pm - Stewardship Committee
FRI	12 th	12:00 pm - Capital Campaign 3:30 pm - Buckham Alley Theatre 6:00 pm - St. Paul's Art Walk
SAT	13 th	5:00 pm - Buckham Alley Theatre
SUN	14 th	11:30 am - Diversity Ministry
MON	15 th	11:00 am - Pastoral Care Monthly Zoom Meeting
TUE	16 th	6:30 pm - Gospel Choir
THUR	18 th	1:00 pm - GHS Trans Support 5:30 pm - Spiritual Development
SAT	20 th	5:00 pm - Buckham Alley Theatre
TUE	23 rd	6:30 pm - Gospel Choir
WED	24 th	6:30 pm - Vestry Meeting
THUR	25 th	5:30 pm - Liturgy Committee
TUE	30 th	6:30 pm - Gospel Choir

The link below will take you to the St. Paul's Parish Calendar

<https://stpaulschurchflint.com/elementor-638/>



July's Liturgy Schedule

Dates		Lector 1	Lector 2	Intercessor (Prayers of People)
7-Jul-2024		Rayna Hauter	Kim Ramirez	Susumu Inoue
14-Jul-2024	G	TaMara Oertel	Rebecca Bennett	Velesia Ford
21-Jul-2024	B	Rebecca Bennett	TaMara Oertel	Shane Geraghty
28-Jul-2024		Tim Grant	Elizabeth Jordan	Rayna Hauter

Dates		Eucharistic Minister	Crucifer	Verger	8:00 AM
7-Jul-2024		Jelesia Geraghty	Tim Grant	Mike Farver	Rayna Hauter
14-Jul-2024	G	TaMara Oertel	Jelesia Geraghty	Ed Walthers	Tamara Oertel
21-Jul-2024	B	Maddie Cherry	Ed Walthers	Mike Farver	Tim Grant
28-Jul-2024		Erynn Ford	Shane Geraghty	Ed Walthers	Ed Walthers

Anniversaries

Birthdays

7/12	MANNOR, Theodore & Barbara
7/13	SNELL, John & Mary
7/24	KENNEDY, Michael & Sheryl

July
2024

7/4	DAVIS, Carole
7/6	KUSKY, William
7/9	ARNOLD, Joel
7/13	WALTHERS, Laura
7/15	VANUCCI, Greg
7/23	HIKLE, Sue
7/28	HABTE-GABR, Eyassu

FRIENDLY REMINDER:

There will be no movie night in July, movie night will resume in August.

Your Vestry:

(all at stpaulschurchflint.com)

TaMara Oertel, Senior Warden
(Education) (Finance)
(seniorwarden@)

Jan Bugbee, Treasurer (Finance)
(treasurer@)

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

Heather Gagnon (Pastoral Care)
(heather@)

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

Celeste Lord Timlin (Outreach)
(celeste@)

Zan Milner (Stewardship)
(zan@)

Karen Schaefer (Outreach)
(karen@)

Staff:

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Editor; The Epistle
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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



Worship at St. Paul's

Sunday: 8:00 am & 10:00 am

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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