



THE EPISTLE



November
2024



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FOR HE IS
GOOD!



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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



A Note from Tom

It is done.

The Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes became official at the recent convention in Mt. Pleasant with the approval of the new constitution and canons. The map of our diocese now looks like this:



And so, we have more than doubled in size. We're no longer a small, grass roots diocese, we've chosen to get bigger. Are there advantages to this? I hope so. Among them: Increased support for congregations, increased offerings and opportunities for Michigan Episcopalians, more mission and ministry.

But most of these "advantages" lie in the future. Will the new diocese offer more programs and services? Will the EDGL (Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes) achieve a new mission and increase its ministry? Or will it be stagnate, with only a new map and a bigger bank balance to show for the effort.

As with everything, the answer lies with us. It lies with our willingness to get involved and roll up our sleeves to make the Episcopal experience in Michigan a meaningful one. Several members of St. Paul's have done this already. If you are interested in serving at the diocesan level, let me know and I will facilitate your involvement.

May God bless the "now official" Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes!

With every blessing...

Tom+



ANNOUNCING: THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF THE GREAT LAKES

After years of shared discernment and countless prayers, the legacy Episcopal Dioceses of Eastern & Western Michigan officially became the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes!

The final work to blend the two separate dioceses took place last weekend. Leaders from throughout Michigan, including several delegates from St. Paul's Episcopal Church, gathered at a convention in Mt Pleasant to reach agreement on a Constitution, Canons, and finances.

You can learn more about the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes on Wikipedia, or on their Facebook page.



Jelesia Geraghty and Erynn Ford with President of the House of Deputies, Julia Ayala Harris.

HOLLY'S NOTES

November is a time of deer hunting, Thanksgiving and in the music world, preparation for Christmas. While Advent doesn't begin until December 1, in choir, it starts now.

We Gather Together is a great Thanksgiving Hymn, and it is hopeful. Hope is what Advent is also about. Hope is always a vision of a better tomorrow, next week, or next year.

1 We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
He chastens and hastens His will to make known;
the wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.
Sing praises to His name, He forgets not His own.

2 Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine;
so from the beginning the fight we were winning:
the Lord was at our side- the glory be Thine!

3 We all do extol Thee, Thou leader triumphant,
and pray that Thou still our defender wilt be.
Let Thy congregation escape tribulation;
Thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!



The words to this hymn make a beautiful prayer. It praises God, it asks for defense, and it asks for freedom from oppression and tribulation. Let us sing and pray and ask for the Lord's blessing on this next season of family time, for the lonely who don't have family or see their family. Let's make this next month a time of reflection on the glory of Christ and His blessings and reach out to those around us and show the love of God through our empathy, understanding and love of each other and the world around us.

We Gather Together to Ask the Lord's Blessing

Holly Richardson, Director of Music

Trip taken to the Ziibiwing
Center with some of
St. Paul's Finest!



Art Walk

Ciara Bowers is our Artwalk artist for November.

Ciara Bowers is a Michigan artist who graduated from the University of Michigan-Flint with a bachelor's degree in Fine Arts and a minor in Art History. She has a passion for watercolor, drawing, and printmaking. As well as cemetery restoration and animal rescue.

Music Performance

Kim Streby, Soprano and Dr. Quincy Dobbs, Piano are our Music artist for November.

Kim Heath Streby is a graduate of Albion College where she received a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance. After graduating from Albion College, Kim went on to further pursue vocal studies at Indiana University. Kim has received a Somatic Levels 1, 2 and 3 in Commercial Contemporary Music, the Somatic Voice, LoVetri Method. Most recently, Kim received an M.A. in Education from the University of Michigan-Flint.

Professionally, Kim is an in demand soprano soloist having sung with the Flint Festival Chorus, Grand Blanc Messiah, Saginaw Choral Society, Opera Workshop, Kearsley Park Players, Flint Community Players, among others. Kim is the owner of DIVA Institute of Vocal Arts in Flint, MI and has taught voice privately for 25 years. She currently is an Elementary Music Educator with Saginaw Township Community Schools. When she isn't teaching or singing, Kim enjoys gardening, trivia night, and traveling with her husband Paul.

Dr. Quincy Dobbs was on the road September 11, 2001 to take a position at Woodside Church, Flint, Michigan as Music Director/Organist. He began teaching at the Flint School of Performing Arts in 2022 where he continues to teach and administer as Piano Department Chair. His studio is filled with students from all the keyboard instruments, piano, organ, harpsichord and accordion. Active in the community providing music for all occasions. Currently, he is Music Director/Organist at All Saint Episcopal Church, East Lansing. His love of Flint and its many amazing musicians and artists provides his inspiration to be as involved as he can.

Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson at St. Paul's (w/ Dr. Pamela Pugh of the State Board of Education)!



CONGRATULATIONS, to our very own!

TaMara Oertel who was elected to The Standing Committee and Jelesia Geraghty who is now Vice President of The Standing Committee.

AND THE NOMINEES ARE:

Join the Flint & Genesee Group on Thursday, Nov. 7 for the 10th Annual Art of Achievement Awards. On that night, they will recognize business leaders, community champions, and hospitality professionals who have achieved notable success and outstanding accomplishments in their respective fields of industry.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church has been nominated in the category of NONPROFIT IMPACT!

The Awards Ceremony:

6:00 p.m. - Doors open with red carpet arrival
7:00 p.m. - Awards program

Location: FIM Capitol Theatre
140 E. 2nd St.
Flint, MI

Fees/Admission
\$10/person

Let's have a great showing at the Awards Ceremony from the congregation, where it all happens!

To register, use this link:

<https://flintandgenesee.chambermaster.com/eventregistration/register/18353>

A poster for the Nonprofit Impact Award. The title "Nonprofit Impact Award" is at the top in a large, serif font. Below it is a smaller line of text: "Recognizes a charity, church or nonprofit making great strides to positively impact any facet of the Flint & Genesee community." The next line is "2024 Nominees". Below this is a list of 20 nominees, arranged in two columns. The list includes: Boys & Girls Club of Greater Flint, Bridging Boundaries, Catholic Charities of Shiawassee & Genesee Counties, Communities First, Inc., Flint Freedom Schools Collaborative, Flint Rocks Youth Empowerment, Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, Friends of McFarlan Park, Genesee County Free Medical Clinic, Genesee County Habitat for Humanity, Genesee Health Plan, Goodwill Mid-Michigan, Grace Emmanuel Baptist Church, Grand Blanc Chamber of Commerce, Impact100 Genesee County, Insight Research Institute, Kettering University, St. Paul Episcopal Church, Sunrise Family Cares, Inc., The Way Coffee Co., Total Life Prosperity Community Development Corporation, and The What's Up Downtown Project. In the bottom right corner is a logo for "the Art of Achievement Awards" with the word "Art" in a large, stylized font.

Food for thought - Stewardship

As we start our fall season, St Paul's is beginning to prepare it's 2025 Operating Budget.

A big part of this is the financial support that its members provide with their pledges/donations each year. There are many different options on how members can handle their pledge support. Here are the most common methods:

Cash/checks

These can be placed in the collection plate on Sunday, mailed to the church or dropped off anytime you are around the church. If dropped off on non-church days, simply put the check in an envelope, seal it and place it in the mailbox for George Gibson, the Financial Director in the mailroom.

For those members who prefer to donate cash, please put your donation in an envelope on Sunday with your name on it. That way you will be given credit.

ACH (electronic bank to bank transfers) from your account to the St. Paul's account based on what you wish to donate. This is usually done once a month, around the 5th. Your information is kept private and safe. You will need to provide your bank information to George Gibson, who will set up the transfer. There is no bank fee for using this method.

Credit Card

Your credit card is processed once per month (around the 10th) based on what you wish to donate. Again, your credit card information is private and transactions are safe. You will need to provide your credit card information to George Gibson, who will set up the transaction. St. Paul's pays a fee of approx. 3.5%.

Tithely and Paypal

These are two online payment methods where you can make donations to St. Paul's Episcopal Church. These can be made automatically each month, or randomly based on your preference. Assistance with using these is available if needed. St. Paul's pays a fee of approx. 3.5%. These can be a single time or set up on a regular basis of your choice.

If any of your donations are for special purposes such as Music in the Heart of the City, Camp Chickagami, Angel Tree or others, please to indicate the purpose on your check so it may be recorded properly.

One last thought:

Please take the time to complete and return your pledge sheet for 2025 regardless of the amount. It is a great help for us to have as many pledge sheets as possible when we complete our work on the budget.

If you have any questions about any of the above, please contact George Gibson, You may email at: admatstpauls@ameritech.net, at the church on Tuesday or at the church phone 810-234-8637 or my cell phone 989-751-8018. If you do not get thru, please leave your name/number and a brief message.

Pictures taken at Camp Chickagami with Rev. Tom and other St. Paul's Parishioners.



THOUGHTS FROM THE OLD CELT

Two days before Easter; Patrick and his men began their trek in and up the River Boyne. They came to the village of Slane as night was coming. Looking for a good location for their Easter Vigil, they walked up the Hill of Slane. It was now Easter Even, 432. At this time, King Laoghaire (Leary) was in the fourth year of his reign as the High King of Ireland, and he and his entourage of druids and soldiers were camped on a distant hill. As Patrick and his followers built their fire for the Vigil, the light was observed by Laoghaire and his men, who were celebrating on the hill known as the Royal Hill of Tara. The king became furious that someone else had lit a fire before him. His druids told him that the new blaze should be extinguished immediately, or it would forever outshine all other fires in Ireland and they would be conquered forever. The king ordered his soldiers to bring Patrick and his followers to Tara.

As Patrick realized what was about to happen, he composed a sacred lorica called Faed Fiada (the Cry of the Deer). This chant for protection (our Hymn 370) is still considered to be the first hymn in Gaelic. As the king's soldiers hid in wait, they saw no pilgrims walking by. Instead, they saw a doe and twelve fawns. Upon arrival at Tara, Patrick and his men again regained their human form. The king had his druids perform many magical feats, including bringing on darkness. However, Patrick topped all of them each time. He then made the darkness become light. His performance was attributed to his faith and prayers to the Trinity. Following all of these demonstrations, Patrick preached to all assembled. Dubthach (The king's druid poet) and Erc, who later became a bishop, became Patrick's first Christian converts at Tara. Laoghaire did not convert, but he gave Patrick the freedom of his whole realm to preach whenever and wherever.

Patrick spent the next 28 years traveling all of Ireland, converting the inhabitants to Christianity, and beginning churches. He died in 460. Following his death, there was a nation-wide two day wake known as the Days of Lamentation. In future issues we will describe a few of Patrick's most well known writings.

Slan tamail agus Beannacht De,

Tomas

TRANSGENDER REMEMBRANCE: ECUMENICAL SERVICE

This will be an intimate time of prayer and reflection, where we will celebrate the individuals we love, and honor the lives lost in the past year.

TO HONOR, REMEMBER, & PROTECT

**Wednesday
November 20, 2024
6:00 PM**

at St. Paul's Episcopal Church
711 S. Saginaw Street, Flint

This Ecumenical Service will be observed by the clergy and members of
The Peoples Church and St. Paul's Episcopal Church
ALL ARE WELCOME

Just because we are not all the same, doesn't mean that we are not all equal



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



MAKE THIS YEAR SPECIAL





THE STOCKINGS WILL BE STUFFED

ANGEL TREE

HELP US HELP FAMILIES AND KIDS HAVE A NICE CHRISTMAS!



THE ANGEL TREE IS ALMOST UP!





PLEASE PURCHASE GIFTS THAT ARE APPROPRIATE TO THE AGE AND GENDER OF THE CHILD YOU SELECT

ST. PAUL'S PARISHIONERS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN GENEROUS SUPPORTERS OF THIS MINISTRY. THE NEEDS OF THESE CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES IS GREATER THAN EVER.

THE ANGEL TREE WILL BE SET IN THE PARLOR IN MID NOVEMBER THRU THE BEGINNING OF DECEMBER.

SELECT A KEEPSAKE ORNAMENT THAT SPECIFIES THE AGE AND GENDER OF YOUR CHILD. PURCHASE A GIFT OF CLOTHING OR A TOY, AND RETURN IT TO CHURCH BY DECEMBER 14TH.

IF YOU PREFER TO MAKE A MONETARY GIFT AND HAVE US PURCHASE A PRESENT ON YOUR BEHALF, PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, AND NOTE: 'ANGEL TREE'. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE SEE ONE OF THE ANGEL TREE VOLUNTEERS, OR SEND AN EMAIL TO INFO@STPAULSCHURCHFLINT.COM.

We are partnering with Crossover Outreach to provide toys and clothes to area kids

ST. PAUL'S IS A PARTNER



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
A Church with Heart in the Heart of the City

Help Crossover Outreach – AGAIN This Year

Each Thanksgiving, Crossover Outreach serves 100 families and 20 senior citizens and/or special needs adults with a Thanksgiving dinner box. This provides the food needed to celebrate with family and friends and to give thanks.

Please share the love of the holiday season by donating the extra items that will complete the traditional Thanksgiving boxes provided by the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan. Items needed include: canned cranberries, powdered or canned gravy mix, canned sweet potatoes, canned green beans, canned corn and stuffing mix.



Bring your Thanksgiving food donations to St. Paul's on the next two Sundays
November 2 and November 9

All food items will be delivered to Crossover by Friday, November 15.

If you prefer to make a monetary donation, please make checks payable to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, and make note that the funds are for Crossover Thanksgiving.

Crossover Outreach is a nonprofit that St. Paul's supports in partnership with First Presbyterian Church of Flint, Every Nation Church, Court Street United Methodist Church.

For more information:
CROSSOVER OUTREACH
414 W. COURT STREET
FLINT, MI 48503
PHONE: 810-234-2479
www.crossoveroutreach.org



Building Communities of Faith

As some of you may or may not know, I've taken on the role of "Assistances Coordinator" here at St. Paul's. The main thing I've done since taking on this role has been accumulating resources from around the community, whether that be from other churches, our faith partners like Family Promise and Crossover, or the governmental agencies and nonprofits that help people in need in Flint and Genesee County. I've also been doing my best to work with the people who do my job at other churches, like Mary Fox at People's Church, so that we can all allocate our resources and talents effectively in a way that helps our community.

Part of building these communities of faith is to start doing a write up that allows everyone to peek behind the curtain to see what is needed in the community and *how* we've been able to help – or, more importantly, the places that we've failed to help for one reason or another. As of writing this, I've had a budget of \$300 a month to work with, which I've had to steward and use sparingly in favor of helping people out by coordinating resources from other places for them. A major part of what happens is when people are experiencing crisis, they don't know where to go to receive help when they need it the most.

Collecting resources, information, and guiding people to the most helpful resources has been, to be honest, tough at times. Not only because I want to be able to just help people ourselves, but because many resources are locked behind paywalls, educational walls, and lack of volunteer-walls. A lot of the resources that flooded into Flint and Genesee County in the wake of both the water crisis and COVID are beginning to dry up, along with it having been the end of the fiscal year, a large number of people were not able to get help. The \$300 a month that I have to allocate doesn't make a difference when people need twice that to get their power turned on, or to move in the wake of a house fire, or get into permanent housing.

Four out of the six people that actually filled out applications for help ended up having needs that I could not assist with, or we were not the correct place to seek help in the first place. Thankfully, some of these people were able to receive help via the resources we gave them, and others were able to get their water turned on or get into a new, *safe*, home.

What isn't included in the table is the people that just needed someone to talk to, someone to listen, someone to help them get a meal, or point them in the right direction. This is something we can all do, take a second and listen to people, give them a hug, and break bread with them.

My goals and plans for this next month include continuing to do outreach with other churches, to build a network of faith based people who are willing to do the work and find each of our niches. First Presbyterian focuses on getting people their licenses and IDs with the Secretary of State, what could our niche be? What could the niche of Court Street Methodist be? This is part of an overarching vision for where I can help build our community into. Applying for grants through the social services ministry grant program of the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes and through the Barth Trust. These grants will, hopefully, give me the flexibility to be able to help more people and help more directly, as well as build upon the resources that we have available to us throughout the city of Flint.

If anyone has any questions at all, please let me know. You can either find me here most Sundays and Wednesdays, or when I have my office open on Tuesdays; or email me at rayna@stpaulschurchflint.com I am always happy to talk about ways that we can help our community, answer questions about what it is that I am doing, or just provide a listening ear if you need someone to talk to.

Rayna Hauter

Need	Request	Given	Date
Utilities	346.85	Resources	8/16/2024
Water	604	200	8/27/2024
Rent	800	Resources	8/29/2024
Housing	Resources	Resources	9/3/2024
Security Deposit	498	198	9/10/2024
Consumers	2000	Resources	10/22/2024

November's Liturgy Schedule

Dates		Lector 1	Lector 2	Intercessor (Prayers of the People)
3-Nov-24		Pat Emenyonu	Pam Bailey	Tom Shriver
10-Nov-24	G	Shane Geraghty	Elizabeth Jordan	Susumu Inoue
17-Nov-24	B	Rayna Hauter	Edythe Peake	Velesia Ford
24-Nov-24		TaMara Oertel	Ed Walthers	Shane Geraghty

Dates		Eucharistic Minister	Crucifer	Verger	8:00 AM
3-Nov-24		Ed Walthers	Jelesia Geraghty	Mike Farver	Tim Grant
10-Nov-24	G	TaMara Oertel	Bill Johnson	Ed Walthers	Tamara Oertel
17-Nov-24	B	Erynn Ford	Ed Walthers	Mike Farver	Rayna Hauter
24-Nov-24		Rayna Hauter	Shane Geraghty	Ed Walthers	Ed Walthers

November 2024

Birthdays

11/1	EMENYONU, Sir Ernest
11/1	SPRAGUE, William
11/3	BOMMARITO, Mike
11/4	MANNOR, Ted
11/4	HART, Maggie
11/13	FISCHER, Lysa
11/14	PEAKE, Walter
11/20	ROLLINS, M. Minette
11/30	WALTHERS, Ed

FRIENDLY REMINDER:

SUBMISSION TO THE EPISTLE

When submitting articles to *The Epistle*, please submit via e-mail to: STPOffice@stpaulschurchflint.com.

When sending in articles please make sure they are in a simple format to copy and paste.

Submission reminders go out on the 15th of every month.
Submission deadlines are the 25th of every month.

Thanks!



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@)

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Directory Update!

Heads Up! We are updating the directory and putting it out in January. If your information has changed please submit an update form and email it to:

STPOffice@Stpaulschurchflint.com or mail it. All updated information must be received by December 15, 2024. If no information is received your information will remain the same as it is. Thank you!

Worship at St. Paul's

Sunday: 8:00 am & 10:00 am

Wednesday: 12:10 p.m.

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

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

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."



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

