



THE EPISTLE



January 2025



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NEW YEAR

NEW BLESSINGS! 2025



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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



A NOTE FROM TOM

To be honest, we do so much here at St. Paul's that I oftentimes cannot keep track of all we do. Each year at annual meeting time I try to remember our events and I simply cannot do it. I have to look back at our church calendar to find events – significant events – about which I had completely forgotten.

And I am often congratulated after many of the successful events we have, although to many I reply, "Thank you. I had absolutely nothing to do with it."

So many of our events and programs come about because of the inspiration and leadership of our congregation. We are blessed to have a diverse church family who have the spirit to envision and enact many of these events – events that I would never have had the vision to create myself.

Lysa Fischer has organized one such event that is coming up soon. On Saturday, January 11, St. Paul's will host a symposium on human trafficking called, *Why Don't They Just Walk Away?* Among other issues related to trafficking, the symposium will explain how people become trapped, and how they are often unable to "walk away". The symposium will feature noted keynote speaker, Joyce Dixon-Haskett. It will also include a catered lunch, and up to five CEU's that are available for social workers.

Registration is available online. Simply use your cell phone to take a picture of this QR code:



Or click this link:

<https://sanctumhouse.networkforgood.com/events/78941-why-don-t-they-just-walk-away>

Why Don't They Just Walk Away? is our first event of 2025. Please sign up and let's kick off another great year at St. Paul's!

With every blessing...

Tom+

HOLLY'S NOTES

Do you have a favorite Christmas Carol? Or Song? Or style of Christmas Music? Music often evokes memories either from childhood or a special time, place or person. I definitely have some favorite music, Baroque music is my favorite music to listen to, especially when I am having an emotional day. I really love music that has close harmony. There are many lovely lullabies written for the baby Jesus, they are quiet, lovely, and reflective. Many of these songs are from countries from all around the world. My hope for you is that you will find quiet and peace as you continue to celebrate the birth of Christ, the Lord.

Austria "Still, Still, Still" <https://youtu.be/5rflf6NEQ6I>

Poland "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" <https://youtu.be/plKS6HHEeq4>

Basque "The Infant King" <https://youtu.be/6GpqnlFpEvg>

German "O Little One, Sweet" https://youtu.be/_5N8iTaG4VQ

Flemish "Cradle Song" <https://youtu.be/F7c97E36rwg>

American "Sweet Little Jesus Boy" <https://youtu.be/tR8bZPRhoOg>

There are of course more, and maybe these are not familiar to you, but they all tell the story of the birth of Jesus. Father Tom baptized two of the babies of our congregation in December and I am sure that when Christ was born there was joy and quiet hope. Maybe that is why Christmas is so important, because of the hope and peace we feel as we sing the songs, light the candles, and give each other gifts, as if we were giving gifts to Jesus.

Although the world has moved on from Christmas, for us we are in the middle of Christmas, may we keep the joy, peace and hope that Christmas is for the entire season, until we enter Lent, March 5.

Merry Christmas,
Holly Richardson, Director of Music

Worship at St. Paul's
Sunday: 8:00 am & 10:00 am
Wednesday: 12:10 p.m.

Join us for insight into fighting Human Trafficking and thoughtful education with Joyce Dixon-Haskett, LMSW, ACSW, SAP and Karen Mopore, Executive Director of Sanctum House. Social workers attending who are eligible, will qualify for 5 CEU's; others attending will receive a certificate validating their presence. Parking is available on Saginaw Street, behind St. Paul's Episcopal, and behind First Presbyterian Church, directly across from St. Paul's.

Hosted by St. Paul's Episcopal Church Diversity Committee

WHY DON'T THEY JUST WALK AWAY?

A Symposium on Human Trafficking

SATURDAY JANUARY 11th, 2025

9:00AM-2:30PM

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

Tickets: \$30 | High School Students \$20

Tickets include: lunch, light refreshments,
and *5 CEUs (for eligible attendees)

*Contact Lysa Fischer for more details
about CEUs for this event
(lysafischer@gmail.com)

Register Now!



SANCTUM HOUSE

Proceeds to benefit Sanctum House

Building Communities of Faith

December 2024

Thanks to everyone who has reached out to me over the last few months of writing these up to let me know that this is being read. As always I am more than happy to sit down and discuss any of the things that are happening as a result of this ministry. I am also happy to sit down and talk with anyone who just wants to do that as well.

This has been a short, but long, month with Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, and all of the services and activities that those bring to us. That means it has also been a short month for a lot of families who live outside of the blessings of community and family. As you can see from the table, it has also been a relatively busy time for the assistances ministry as well. Several things have been undisclosed either for privacy, Father Tom personally handling the situation, or because we were blessed with some extra help that was earmarked specifically for those purposes (which, Father Tom also handled personally).

I have been asked by many people since I came into this role “How can I help?” And often my answer is either “I’m not sure” or “I don’t really need anything at the moment.” Truth be told, I love what I’m able to do here in this ministry. Helping out a family with rent and letting them know I’d be delivering a check to their landlord and hearing the relief in their voice just over the phone and having them say “Merry Christmas” and hear their kids also shout it, that’s a blessing beyond words and measure. The only help and assistance I can think of is that if you hear that I’m doing something that you think would be cool, reach out then - I’ve got a couple of things planned for the new year that I know I’ll need help with. And if you have contacts, resources, or knowledge with any other community organizations in the area, please send them my way and I am always willing to have introductions made between myself and people that you may know. If anyone is aware of any other social service or poverty alleviation focused grants, please send them my way.

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

Rayna Hauter

Need	Request	Given	Date
Undisc.	133	133	11/22/24
Undisc.	50	50	11/24/24
Rent	1400	Resources*	12/3/24
Undisc.	40	40	12/17/24
Undisc.	200	200	12/17/24
Rent	388.50	388.50	12/17/24
Rent**	300	300	12/18/24

*Denotes a promise of further help if other organizations and churches are able to also help.

**Denotes a person who previously asked for help but we were unable to help until now



Meghan Cherry and Brent Beckman, presenting their daughter Miriam.

Miriam's baptism with her brother Jack.



Father Tom baptizing Miriam with the assistance of Tim Grant (below).



Welcoming Rayna Regine Judith Hauter at the name changing ceremony (above and to the right).



St. Paul's Bell Choir!



St. Paul's Groups & Leaders

Art walk	Audrey Stephens
Building & Grounds	Rebecca Bennett
Capital Campaign	Barb Mannor/George Gibson
Common Threads	Jan Bugbee
Diversity	Quiara Dones
Education	Tim Grant
Episcopal Kaleidoscope	Rebecca Bennett
Finance	Jan Bugbee
Hospitality	Velesia Ford
Liturgy Committee	Rev. Tom Manney
Music in the Heart of the City	Holly Richardson
Order of St. Luke	Donna Kusky
Outreach	Edythe Peake
Pastoral Care	Rebecca Bennett
Stewardship	Rev. Tom Manney (Acting)
Technology Committee	Celeste Lord-Timlin
Vestry	TaMara Oertel



New Signs
look great
at St. Paul's



January's Liturgy Schedule

Dates		Lector 1	Lector 2	Intercessor (Prayers of the People)
5-Jan-2025		Susumu Inoue	Velesia Ford	Tim Grant
12-Jan-2025	G	Velesia Ford	Shane Geraghty	Elizabeth Jordan
19-Jan-2025	B	Shane Geraghty	Rayna Hauter	Edythe Peake
26-Jan-2025		Rayna Hauter	Rajaad Twine	Ed Walthers

Dates		Eucharistic Minister	Crucifer	Verger	8:00 AM
5-Jan-2025		Tim Grant	Ed Walthers	Mike Farver	Rayna Hauter
12-Jan-2025	G	Jelesia Geraghty	Shane Geraghty	Ed Walthers	Becky Bennett
19-Jan-2025	B	Tamara Oertel	Rayna Hauter	B. Cuthbertson	Tamara Oertel
26-Jan-2025		Ed Walthers	Bob Cuthbertson	Mike Farver	Tim Grant

January 2025

Anniversaries



1/4	LEES, Douglas & Sherry
1/26	BUGBEE, Ken & Jan

Birthdays

1/4	FORD, Erynn
1/11	LEES, Sherry
1/20	RICHARDSON, Bruce
1/23	POWELL, David
1/25	KOLADE, Esther

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!

Congratulations!

David Powell will be ordained as The Reverend Deacon David Powell on January 25th in Arizona.



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)

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Zan Milner (Stewardship)

(zan@)

Karen Schaefer (Outreach)

(karen@)

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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)



St. Paul's Attendance

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Weekend</u>	<u>Avg.</u>
2024	3452	66.4
2023	3101	59.6
2022	Unavailable	
2021	Unavailable	
2020	COVID	
2019	4128	79.4
2018	3913	75.3
2017	4332	83.3
2016	3996	76.8
2015	3535	68.0
2014	Unavailable	
2013	3556	68.4
2012	4934	94.9
2011	4911	94.4
2010	5345	102.8
2009	5925	113.9
2008	6361	122.3

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."



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