



THE EPISTLE

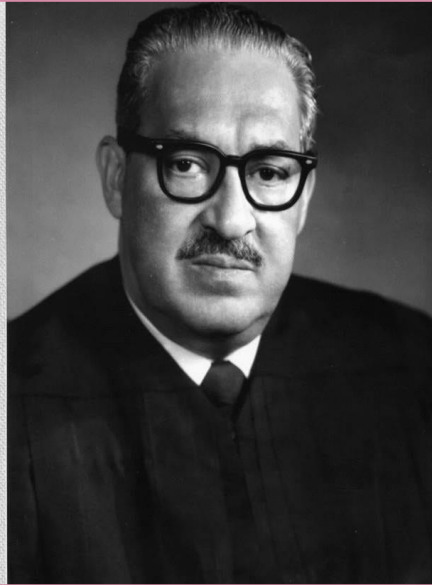


February 2025



Thurgood Marshall

“We will only attain freedom if we learn to appreciate what is different and muster the courage to discover what is fundamentally the same.”



Thurgood Marshall

(7/2/1908-1/24/1993) He was the Supreme Court's first African-American justice. *Marshall* was an active member of St. Philip's *Episcopal* Church in Harlem, serving on the Vestry and as Senior Warden and Deputy to the 1964 General Convention.

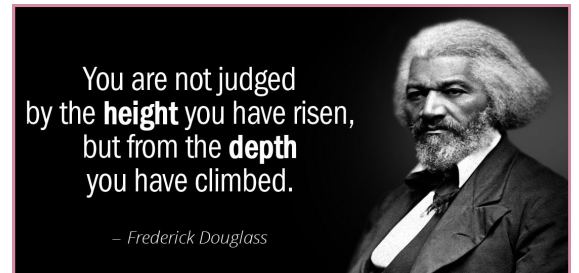


Anna Pauline (Pauli) Murray (11/20/1910-7/1/1985). She became an ordained priest in 1977, among the first generation of women priests and the first African-American woman to be ordained as an Episcopal priest.



James Theodore Holly (10/3/1829-3/13/1911) was the first African-American bishop in the Protestant Episcopal church.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:	PG.
A Note from Tom	2
Holly's Notes	3
Absalom Jones	4
Communities of Faith	5
Much Fine Gold Bible Study	6
Announcements, Middle East Peace Vigil	7
Annual Meeting, Movie Night	8
Why Don't They Walk Away Symposium	9
Liturgy Schedule, Birthdays, & Anniversaries	10
Vestry & Staff, Homebound, Attendance	11



You are not judged by the **height** you have risen, but from the **depth** you have climbed.

– Frederick Douglass

Frederick Douglass

(2/1818 -2/20/1895) He became the most important leader of the movement for African-American civil rights in the 19th century.



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



A NOTE FROM TOM

Recently, the Trump administration repeated a threat to fulfill a campaign promise of mass deportations of undocumented immigrants, possibly including raids in churches and schools. Previous presidents have considered these locations off-limits in the enforcement of such immigration laws. As I said in my sermon last week, this news became real for me when my daughter-in-law's elementary school was locked down in what was, in fact, an immigration action within the school.

First, let me say that I generally support some tightening of immigration restrictions in the United States. The reason I support such restrictions is because I believe that *excessive* immigration tends to lower wages for middle class Americans.

President Trump, however, has instead described immigrants from our southern borders like this; "They're not humans. They're animals." (<https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/donald-trump/trump-degrading-language-immigrants-rcna171120>).

In my twenty years teaching school in Capac, I encountered many Mexican and Latino students. *None* of them were animals. All of them were good, decent young people who never gave me an ounce of disciplinary trouble. Many of my Mexican students had highly supportive parents – I remember well having authentic Mexican tamales waiting for us after our football games. And these students basically mirrored American students' achievement levels; some were very high achieving, some really struggled, and most were somewhere in-between. But none were criminals, none were rapists, and none were, "...eating the dogs" or "...eating the cats."

What I did see in my time at Capac (and during the first Trump administration) was a young man, Danny, whose mother was deported during his 11th grade year. Another student, Omar (if memory serves), who was pulled over for a burned-out headlight, was then arrested and sent to county prison for *a month* while waiting for an immigration hearing. He was eventually allowed to stay.

Ultimately, there is a big difference between border tightening and rounding up people who are already here and deporting them. My experience has shown me that folks who have risked their lives because they want a better life for their children are in fact, kind, loving people. They also tend to be very devout Catholics. And they should not be deported.

With every blessing...

Tom+

HOLLY'S NOTES

This month the Bell Choir will play "Get on Board, Little Children" as we highlight African American culture.

There are two versions of this song, one written in 1872 by Baptist Minister, John Chamberlain, and another version that was sung during the Civil Rights movement.

Get on board, little children
Get on board, children, children
Get on board, children, children
Get on board, children, children
Let's fight for human rights

verses:

I hear the mob a-howlin'
They're comin' round the square
Gonna catch those freedom fighters
But we're gonna meet them there

As fighters we go hungry
Sometimes no sleep or eat
But when you fight for freedom
In the end, you'll be free

As fighters we are aware of the fact
That we may go to jail
But when you fight for freedom
The Lord will go your bail

Both are important to our country's struggle for freedom and equality. The Fisk Jubilee Singers first sang the song in 1882, although it is thought it was first sung in 1863.

It saddens me that we are still struggling for human rights, but march and fight on we must for equality, freedom, and justice for all.

Get on board
Get on board, little children
There's room for many a-more

verses:

The gospel train's a-coming
I hear it just at hand
I hear the wheels a-rumblin'
And rolling through the land

I hear that train a-coming
She's coming round the curve
She's loosened all her steam and brakes
Straining every nerve

The fare is cheap and all can go
The rich and poor are there
No second class aboard this train
No difference in the fare

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



The Reverend Absalom Jones
Portrait by Raphaele Peale, 1810



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A Church with Heart in the Heart of the City

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

711 S. SAGINAW STREET, FLINT 48502

150 YEARS AT THE INTERSECTION OF SAGINAW STREET
& THIRD STREET



HONORING ABSALOM JONES AT ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2025, 10:00 AM HOLY EUCHARIST FOLLOWED BY LUNCH

AN INVITATION TO JOIN US

Along with the national Episcopal Church, every February St. Paul's remembers the life and service of Absalom Jones, the African-American abolitionist and clergyman. As part of our observance of Black History Month, on February 9th, we will mark the month of his death with a guest preacher and a parish luncheon. Please join us for this free event.

ABSALOM JONES

Absalom Jones was born into slavery in Delaware at a time when slavery was being debated as immoral and undemocratic. He taught himself to read, using the New Testament as one of his resources.

At 56 years old, Absalom Jones became the first black American priest. Inasmuch as African Americans were excluded from attending public school, he continued to be a leader in his community, founding a day school, the Female Benevolent Society, and an African Friendly Society. In 1800 he called upon Congress to abolish the slave trade and to provide for gradual emancipation of existing slaves.

Jones died in 1818.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church: Open doors, welcome neighbors, share gifts, build community

Communities of Faith

January 2025

In the past month many things have changed, my friends. Both in the world and even for myself and my role here at St. Paul's. As part of a larger focus on coordinating not just our assistances and resources, but coordinating our own efforts Father Tom has changed my title from Assistances Coordinator to Ministries Coordinator. What that means and how it changes will only be known as time goes on.

My main focus remains, of course, our role in our community and our position as a church with heart in the heart of the city. My goal with that remains to strive towards growing the ministry through grants and fundraising. If you have ideas for fundraisers, would like to organize one for/ with me, or just know of a relevant grant please reach out to me. I will be speaking a bit more about what this ministry means to me on February 16th, when Father Tom has given me the opportunity to speak a little more fully during the service.

As far as Communities of Faith goes, I continue to strive towards growing our cooperation with other churches and their leadership, both lay and ordained. One way that I'm seeing this forward is inviting other churches and their congregations to the peace vigil on February 28th, and giving them the first opportunity to participate.

That's about it as far as actual updates, as always, if you have questions, comments, concerns, or want to just sit down and talk, my email is rayna@stpaulschurchflint.com and you can also find me in the middle office from 10-3 on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Rayna

Need	Request	Given	Date
Hardware	\$25	\$25	1/2/2025
Housing	\$60	\$60	1/2/2025
Housing	\$500	\$500	1/17/2025

**Congratulations
Rev. David Powell
on your ordination
to the Deaconate!!**



**Music in the Heart of the City
Trio Rubato**





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

***Book Study:
Join Us***

**Much
Fine Gold**
The Revised Common Lectionary

**WEDNESDAYS IN THE LIBRARY
STARTS JANUARY 29 @ 12:45PM**

St. Paul's shares an afternoon of study and reflection in the Library every Wednesday following the noon Eucharistic service.

Everyone is welcome.

*Starting on January 29, the weekly Bible Study will focus on the book, 'MUCH FINE **GOLD**' by Gail Ramshaw. Led by Tim Grant, the study group will work through a six week series to explore how the Revised Common Lectionary enriches worship. All will consider both the beauty of worship and Episcopal ethical commitments.*

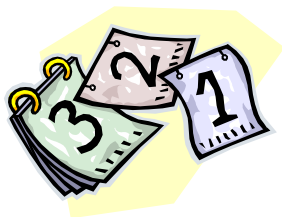
YOU ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN ONE OR ALL OF THE SESSIONS.

St. Paul's Artwalk
Friday
February 14TH ~ 6 PM

Featured Artist:
Eric Jones



Featured Musician:
Rafeal McDaniel-
Walker



MIDDLE EAST PEACE VIGIL

711 S. Saginaw St. Flint, MI | February 28, 2025 | 6 PM
With Fellowship and Discussion to Follow

"Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced." - James Baldwin

With: Dr. Thalia Pachiyannakis
who worked at Nasser Medical Complex in
Gaza

Streamed live at:
[facebook.com/SaintPaulsChurchFlint](https://www.facebook.com/SaintPaulsChurchFlint)



Streamed live on Facebook



**NORTH and SOUTH –
*Never shall the two meet***

**COMMUNICATION NEWS:
OUR ADDRESS IS
711 S. SAGINAW STREET**

As our parish grows, more ministries are planning services, activities, and events in our building. With that, more information is being communicated verbally and electronically about the location of our beautiful grounds.

As you communicate the address of St. Paul's, please make sure that you include South as part of the address. Our address is 711 S. Saginaw Street.

NOTE: If the SOUTH is left from our address, the possibility exists that visitors will end up at Michigan Works, whose address is 711 N. Saginaw Street. Some navigation apps and internet inquiries will send our guests to that location if the address that is searched is 711 Saginaw Street, omitting the 's'.



The 2025 Annual Meeting was convened



CNVFILL Tom Manney led the Meeting.

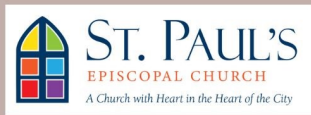


"Zzzzzzzzz"

The Annual Meeting of St. Paul's Episcopal Church was held on Sunday, January 19, 2025.

Three new vestry members were elected, and two recipients were awarded the Rector's Cross.

One parishioner was not interested in the proceeding



Barbara Mannor and Dr. Elizabeth Jordan were awarded the Rector's Cross

Welcome!

Congratulations to our new & re-elected Vestry members!!

TaMara Oertel, Karen Schaefer, Rebecca Bennett, Jan Bugbee,

Robert Cuthbertson, Zan Milner, Heather Gagnon



St. Paul's Movie Night

Come out and enjoy a movie with us!

Wednesday, February 19, 2025

Meet at 5:30 pm, Movie at 6:00 pm.



"Marshall"



"WHY DON'T THEY JUST WALK AWAY?"

In a partnership with Court Street United Methodist Church, First Presbyterian Church of Flint, and Sanctum House, St. Paul's Episcopal Church hosted a one day symposium. Focusing on the facts, issues, and challenges of HUMAN TRAFFICKING, we met to raise awareness regarding the signs that someone's child, sister or brother, niece or nephew, grandchild or neighbor is being trafficked and why they don't just walk away.

Saturday, January 11th, was a "Don't Miss." Sixty-seven people from 22 different cities braved a frigid, snow-filled day and unpredictable highways from as far away as Grand Rapids, to honor pain's sacredness and the voices of those victimized, who have much to teach us. Together, we leaned into a deeper understanding of vulnerability, grooming, signs that should raise questions, the trauma of trafficking, and the journey of healing.

Joyce Dixon-Haskett, LBSW, LMSW, and SAP is a woman of courage who had been entrapped in the sinister world of trafficking. Victimized and rendered helpless by life lived in trenches unimaginable, Joyce's story reflects many forms of imprisonment. For Joyce, one included incarceration for 17 years, until everything shifted. Her story is compelling as is her faith in God; her willingness to be transparent, and her refusal to be silenced taught us what to notice, the questions to ask, and how to shape conversations with children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and others woven into our lives. Joyce's voice, wisdom, expertise, and influence continue to create journeys of healing, hope, and restoration for our victimized sisters and brothers, educating each of us with the awareness we need to stop the grooming of Human Trafficking in its tracks.

Karen Moore, Executive Director of Sanctum House, and Irene Faxaini, Sanctum House Resident Advisor, were a dynamic duo empowering us to become movers and shakers when we feared we were powerless. Their tenacity and warrior love stood strong, relentlessly dismantling brick-by-brick the walls of pain, shame undeserved, and hopelessness that wounds the spirit.

Together, Karen and Irene conveyed the hope women experience in their 2-year residential sanctuary that includes therapy, health care, and life skills that become avenues of healing. The work of their hands and heart is sacred, wrapping women in compassion, strength, encouragement, and the healing they need to embrace their dreams and teach the world what it looks like to rise as heroes.

If you would like to learn more about human trafficking and Sanctum House, visit their website at <https://sanctumhouse.org/>.



February's Liturgy Schedule

Dates		Lector 1	Lector 2	Intercessor (Prayers of the People)
2-Feb-2025		Tim Grant	TaMara Oertel	Rebecca Bennett
9-Feb-2025	G	TaMara Oertel	Barb Mannor	Eloise Jordan
16-Feb-2025	B	Rebecca Bennett	Kim Ramirez	Lanie Nix
23-Feb-2025		Rajaad Twine	Elizabeth Jordan	Tim Grant

Dates		Eucharistic Minister	Crucifer	Verger	8:00 AM
2-Feb-2025		Erynn Ford	Mike Farver	R. Cuthbertson	Ed Walthers
9-Feb-2025	G	Rayna Hauter	Bill Johnson	Ed Walthers	Rayna Hauter
16-Feb-2025	B	Tim Grant	Erynn Ford	Ed Walthers	Becky Bennett
23-Feb-2025		Jelesia Geraghty	Ed Walthers	Mike Farver	Tamara Oertel

February 2025

Birthdays

02/01	LEMAN, Marion
02/03	REYNOLDS, Joan
02/11	BENNETT, Rebecca
02/12	BAILEY, Patrick
02/15	FARIS, Pamela M.
02/16	BOMMARITO, Debora
02/16	HUFFMAN, Barb
02/18	LOSEY, Suzanne
02/25	HALEK, Alison



Anniversaries

2/13	KUSKY, William & Dcn. Donna
------	-----------------------------

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!

Philippians 4:13

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"



Your Vestry:

(all at stpaulschurchflint.com)

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

Karen Schaefer, Junior Warden
(juniorwarden@)(Outreach)(karen@)

Jan Bugbee, Treasurer/Clerk of the Vestry (Finance) (treasurer@)(clerk@)

Rebecca Bennett (Rebecca@)

Heather Gagnon (Pastoral Care)
(heather@)

Robert Cuthbertson (Liturgy)
(Robert@)

Zan Milner (Stewardship)
(zan@)

Staff:

The Rev. Thomas Manney
Rector

rector@stpaulschurchflint.com

Karein Russell

Administrative Assistant

Editor; The Epistle

STPOffice@stpaulschurchflint.com

Rayna Hauter

Assistance/Ministry Coordinator

(Rayna@)

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 Lemman, Richard Wooten, Greg
Vanucci, Russ Matar

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