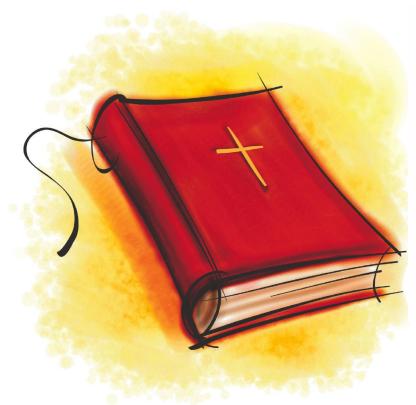


THE EPISTLE



March 2025





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Fasting, a Hunger for Christ!

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A NOTE FROM TOM

"O lord, make this Lenten season different from the other ones. Let me find you again. Amen."
-Henri Nouwen

As the snow slowly melts we are once again on the doorstep of Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the season of Lent. It feels like this entire year has been Lent, all of us dealing with the considerable changes in our nation. During Lent, we typically veil our crosses, and in many ways we ourselves have been wearing veils, blindly wandering through life attempting to navigate the pitfalls of the world.



But as Henri Nouwen reminds us, Lent is not really about sacrificing things and draping purple veils over our crosses. Lent is about finding God. It really doesn't matter how you do it. Whether you sacrifice food in the form of a fast, or commit yourself to a disciplined daily prayer, the point of anything we do is to find God. To reach out, to recognize our shortcomings, or to simply seek God's presence in our lives, Lent about us and God.

So please bear this in mind as we prepare our spiritual selves for this most holy of liturgical seasons. To reflect the importance of the season of Lent, we will be using some Rite I prayers for our liturgies. The hope is that this itself might present us an opportunity for spiritual growth. We will surely have to pay careful attention to the words of our liturgy. I hope that you—like me—will find beauty in the Elizabethan language of Rite I. And if you were an Episcopalian before 1979, our Lenten services might be a nice trip down memory lane.

The Season of Lent is upon us. Prepare the way of the Lord.

With every blessing...

Tom+



HOLLY'S NOTES

I was reminded last week of the song "Rescue the Perishing" words by Fanny Crosby and music by William Doane. It was written by Crosby after visiting a mission in New York City for men. A minister who I often played services for when I was in my teens loved this song, and he would often request it for services. The words struck me as particularly meaningful right now:

Rescue the perishing, Care for the dying,

Snatch them in pity from sin and the grave;

Weep o'er the erring one, Lift up the fallen,

Tell them of Jesus the mighty to save.

Rescue the perishing, Care for the dying;

Jesus is merciful, Jesus will save.

Though they are slighting Him, Still He is waiting,

Waiting the penitent child to receive; Plead with them earnestly,

Plead with them gently; He will forgive if they only believe.

Down in the human heart, Crushed by the tempter,

Feelings lie buried that grace can restore;

Touched by a loving heart, Wakened by kindness,

Chords that are broken will vibrate once more.

Rescue the perishing, Duty demands it;

Strength for thy labor the Lord will provide;

Back to the narrow way, Patiently win them;

Tell the poor wand'rer a Savior has died.



Fanny Crosby became blind at 6 weeks of age after suffering from an eye infection and treated by someone claiming to be a physician. She was an accomplished musician, and studied at the New York School for the Blind, where she met her husband and they both were teachers at the school after their graduation. She wrote over 8500 texts and collaborated with Doane for over 1000 tunes. Crosby also wrote: "Blessed Assurance" "To God Be the Glory". Here is a link to the tune: Rescue the Perishing https://youtu.be/K6D6T-BLbDQ

Holly Richardson, Director of Music



Communities of Faith



Hello everyone!

Lots of things going on this month both from a community and a ministry perspective!

On February 28th (Friday), at 6PM we will be hosting Dr. Thalia Pachiyannakis, Dr. Elizabeth Jordan's daughter-in-law, as speaker for a Peace Vigil. Dr. Pachiyannakis served at Nasser Medical Complex last year during the height of Israel's invasion of Palestine. It should serve to be a good discussion, and she has graciously agreed to do Q&A afterwards in Barth Hall.

On March 2nd (Sunday), at 2PM Court Street Methodist will have held a "Shelter From the Storm" event that will be featuring a discussion from a pastor from Detroit who heads a sanctuary church. The discussion will be focusing on how we can respond as a Christian community to the ongoing persecution of our neighbors.

On March 8th (Saturday), at 10am there is a Lecter training session open to all readers and people interested in becoming a reader for our Sunday services.

As you may or may not have heard by the time you're reading this, we will have a Ministry Fair on the 16th of March, that's the 3rd Sunday of the month. Each ministry will, hopefully, have a table and information regarding their ministry for people to learn more about what they're doing as we look to serve our community, our church, and our God. This is the perfect opportunity for anyone who has wanted to get involved but hasn't quite known the how. If you lead a ministry and I have missed you somehow as I step into this role, please reach out to me either in person or via email to let me know. I miss things a lot of the time, so may have missed on a change in leadership or a ministry I didn't know about.

In addition to all of these ministry related things, as always, our assistance ministry continues to do our best to help our community members in need. This month, thanks to a private donation we were able to help a family that we otherwise would not have been able to help due to monetary constraints. If anyone is aware of community assistance based grants or funding, please send them my way. I am always building my folder of resources and trying to find unique ways to stretch and increase our budget.

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
Housing	\$300	\$300	1/30/2025
Housing	\$280	\$280	2/6/2025

St. Paul's Artwalk





Youth Arts: UNLOCKED brings artists and arts workshops to justice-involved youth in Flint and Genesee County. Their goal is to introduce artistic concepts and techniques as a means of *connecting, expressing, learning,* and *discovery*. They offer workshops in the visual arts, spoken word poetry, theatre, dance and yoga. Workshops take place inside the Genesee County Juvenile Justice Center (GCJJC) and at the Learning Co-op in Flint, Michigan.

Featured Musician:

Rubato was formed in 2019 and is dedicated to entertaining and educating audiences on a wide variety of music from all genres. In addition to performing existing works and commissioning new repertoire for their unique ensemble, the trio also transcribes and arranges works written for other instruments to perform. Rubato's repertoire ranges from jazz to classical to music of other cultures and modern works, and their performances are infused with musicality, expressive playing and energy. The joy the musicians get from making music together is reflected through their conversational music style and interactive playing, which engages audiences of all ages.

Rubato founding member, flutist and Artistic Director **Mary Procopio** has been an active performer, educator, clinician and adjudicator throughout Michigan and New York. She was flutist, founder, and Artistic Director of the *London Trio*, a group that performed throughout Michigan as part of the Michigan Arts and Humanities Touring Program, including two appearances at the East Lansing Arts Festival.

Saxophonist **Dirk Nieuwenhuis** has been an active performer throughout Michigan as a soloist and ensemble member in both jazz and classical ensembles. His jazz trio, *Moments Notice*, played throughout the Greater Flint area for various jazz and community events. Dirk is a founding member of *Rubato* and performs on alto, tenor and soprano saxophone.

Pianist **Pat Cronley** joined *Rubato* in 2022 and has been a professional musician since age sixteen. While in high school Pat studied piano with Larry MacDonald, and credits that experience as the most influential of his musical career. While his main focus is jazz, Pat's unique pianistic approach lends itself to many styles. Pat also composes – primarily for Public Television – including a work that won him an Emmy Award in 2011.

The joy the musicians get from making music together is reflected through their conversational music style and interactive playing, which engages audiences of all ages.

Children of St. Paul's

Many of us remember learning Bible stories as a child. We at St Paul's have a class each Sunday morning from 10 - 10:30 am for children to learn those beloved stories found in the Bible and learn of Jesus's love. We meet in the library and welcome all ages. The children return to the sanctuary carrying a cross and banners, leading the ushers and presenters of the bread and wine to the alter. Then the children join their families for communion. Interested in helping or want more information contact Barbara Mannor 810-513-8098 or mannortb@aol.com.

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so; Little Ones to Him belong; they are weak, but he is strong.

Yes Jesus Loves me!

Diversity Ministry

The Episcopal Church celebrates diversity. "We are young, old, male, female, gay, straight, [transgender], single, married, divorced, widowed, Anglo, African-American, Latino, African, Asian, ... employed, unemployed, student and teacher, rich and poor. We worship together, study and ask questions as we move more deeply into the mystery of God, we honor tradition and strive to live by the example of Jesus Christ, welcoming the stranger and outcast, helping our neighbors and offering love and forgiveness we want our communities to be better because the Episcopal Church is here." - Episcopal Diocese of Texas.

Diversity is a reflection of God's creativity and love. The Diversity Ministry of St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Flint Michigan strives to celebrate diversity in a way to advance God's kingdom. In Christ we are all the same. "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3:28 is quite clear. In Christ we are all the same – we are equal with one another.











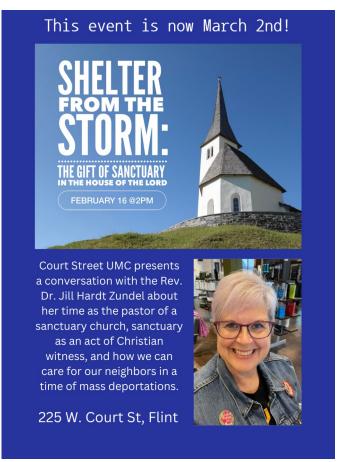


VAN DRIV

Lent Begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5th

Holy Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes at 12:10 pm and 6:00 pm Preacher: Lysa Fischer







Crew

Back by Popular Demand

PANCAKE SUPPER

Make plans to join us on Shrove Tuesday for a parish pancake supper. This is a St. Paul's tradition to celebrate a day of pre-fasting indulgence.

TUESDAY MARCH 4, 2025

5:00 pm - 7:30 pm in Barth Hall

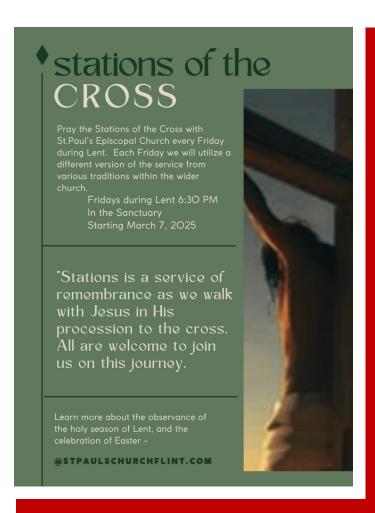
SHROVE TUESDAY:

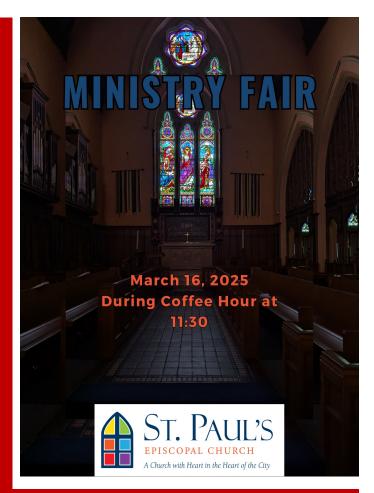
PANCAKES & SAUSAGE: CONTINUING OUR PARISH TRADITION

Celebrated the day before Ash
Wednesday, Shrove Tuesday (also called
"Pancake Tuesday") is the final day before
the 40-day period of Lent begins. Its
name comes from the Germanic-Old
English word "shrive," meaning absolve,
and it is the last day of the liturgical
season historically known as Shrovetide.









Lector Formation

Saturday, March 8, 2025

A lector formation session will be held on Saturday, March 8 at 10:00 AM in the upstairs conference room. Led by Tim Grant, we'll invite any questions about the nuts and bolts of proclaiming the word, but most of our time will be spent studying the readings from the next day, the first Sunday of Lent on March 9.

It can be difficult to see how the readings support and interpret each other, but spending time with them opens up a richer appreciation of the way they speak to us.

Whether or not you are an active lector, please consider joining us on Saturday, March 8.



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

LECTOR TRAINING SESSION

For new readers and experienced ones - Study together

Saturday, March 8, 2025 10:00 - 11:30 am

Romans 10:8 "The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart"

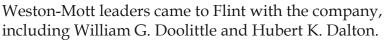
- What do you hear in your assigned reading, and how do you proclaim it?
- What is the role of the lector?
- How to approach and leave the lector area
- How to project your voice with the microphone
- Other practical aspects of being a lector



From the Archivist

A Parish House!

C. S. Mott first moved his company to Flint in 1906, and by the following year Mr. Mott and his family were living in a rented home on Kearsley Street, in the city's toniest neighborhood. It was business that brought the family to Flint, the Weston-Mott Company, manufacturer of automobile axles. Mr. Mott had first been courted to move his company here from Utica, NY to Flint in 1905 by one by one of history's most influential entrepreneurs, William C. Durant. Durant and his partner J. Dallas Dort had built carts and carriages here since 1886, but everything changed when Buick came to Flint in 1904.





Mr. Dalton had an apartment in the old Brooks-Penfield building on Kearsley, and Mr. Doolittle moved into the Dresden Hotel, just across the street from St. Paul's. When Mr. Doolittle looked out of the window of his room, perhaps he saw St. Paul's stone building, tower, and the steeple topped with a Cross made by another automobile manufacturer, William Paterson. But he wouldn't have seen the existing parish house or today's Barth Hall, as neither had been added to the old church yet. What he did see next to the church was a very old house, once owned by Charles N. Beecher (yes that Beecher), which stood on the lot when St Paul's first acquired the property in 1872. It was a very old house, which was moved just a bit south on the from the corner of the lot to make room for the 'new' church building.

When the church was finished, the old house became the 'Rectory', home for the priest and his family. Chronically plagued with heating, plumbing, roofing and all sorts of expensive problems, the former rector, Rev. R.E. MacDuff (1888-1902) once wrote sadly of his living quarters... described his quarters as resting,

"under a perpetual cloud of black smoke from the chimneys of a great factory belching forth a continual rain of black soot which penetrates every nook and corner of both church and rectory, falls into food being cooked for the family, and is swallowed in every glass of water; out from the dining-room windows is presented the pleasing spectacle of the rear premises of a meat market, a tobacco factory, piles of ashes, tobacco stems, empty vegetable cans pitched out from upper kitchens, and teams (horses), left hitched at the convenience of their owners, creating stenches and drawing flies which enter and caper about the table while the rector's family eats. More utterly unsanitary conditions in which to live it would be difficult to find in the whole city; besides, the rectory and its occupants being permanently exposed to any business that may be put into adjoining property, within six feet of the rectory windows."

Soon after these words were written, and after the Rev. Mr. MacDuff resigned due to his health, the vestry decided to build a new Rectory. So in 1904, a lot was purchased on E. Kearsley Street and a home was built.... right next door to the house that C.S. and Ethel would move into when they arrived in 1907.

The old house next to the church was repurposed and outfitted to serve as 'Parish House' where clubs met and events took place. Mr. Mott, having lived in Flint for just a year, was elected to St. Paul's vestry at the annual meeting April 20, 1908, held in the old, troubled house. The seat he filled was that of William A. Atwood, who'd died just days before the meeting. Along with the vestry election, two condolence resolutions were passed during the meeting, one for the family of Mr. Atwood who'd served on the vestry for many years, and one for C.S. Mott's partner and friend William G. Doolittle who died in January. As it turns out, Mr. Doolittle was a particularly faithful Episcopalian who had served on the vestry of Grace Church in Utica before he moved to Flint.

It took a while, but in the winter of 1915, vestryman, C. S. Mott who led the effort to erect a new parish house. He offered up the name of an architect for the project, Mr. Herbert E. Davis of Davis, McGrath, and Keissling, NY, NY. It is probably no coincidence that Mr. Davis had also been the architect on the Mott family's first Flint house in 1909. And it was certainly no coincidence that Mr. Davis was at the same time, working on plans for Mr. Mott's new home, Applewood! The two had a long history together. They were friends, shipmates on the USS Yankee (during the Spanish-American War), and eventually became brothers-in-law, when Davis married Mr. Mott's sister, Ethel.

The ambitious priest, the Rev. J. Bradford Pengelly had been called as Rector in 1913, and he took up residence at 412 E. Kearsley Street in the late summer that year. The vestry had voted unanimously on his selection, but Mr. Mott was the only one who was also voting to select his new neighbor. By this time, C. S. Mott was a vestryman at St. Paul's, Mayor of the City of Flint, and he'd just sold the rest of Weston-Mott to GM (where he'd serve on the company's board of directors for 6 decades.)

It seems that Mr. Mott and Mr. Pengelly shared a vision for a new, modern, Parish House, to serve the community and operate as a center for civic education and progress. And so, in the summer of 1916, the old house was demolished and work began on remodeling the church and erecting the new Parish House in accordance with the plans of Mr. Davis. Mr. Mott also took the lead in organizing the associated capital campaign to raise \$70,000. He made the first gift! In July of 1916, Mr. Mott offered the church 30 contracts, worth \$40,000 for the sale of homes, likely in the Oak Park neighborhood near the factories. Among the dozens of families listed as donors to the effort, were some of the city's most recognizable names, Dort, Bishop, Mott, Pierce, Atwood, Kenworthy, Whiting, and Chrysler.

On September 17, 1916, moments before the cornerstone for the new building was set in place by C. S. Mott and J. Dallas Dort, on September 16, 1916. The Reverend J. Bradford Pengelly offered the following thoughts to the assembled crowd of friends and neighbors:

But there is more to a city than politics, sanitation and social work. There is the inner spiritual life, the <u>soul of the city</u>. It is from the city's soul that our literature, science, art, and spiritual longings flow.

We yearn therefore to do much to deepen the spiritual life, to bring us all nearer to God the creator and father of us all. This building is rising up in the very center of this busy growing city to be a thing of beauty and utility. It holds the same relation to city as the heart does to the body, it is in the midst of this civic body. We hope to make it what in purpose what it is in location. We want it to be a heart pumping good political blood good health blood good moral blood and good spiritual blood into every part of Flint through the Christian intelligence, earnestness and service of this congregation and their friends. We want it to be a heart pumping good political blood good health blood good moral blood and good spiritual blood into every part of Flint through the Christian intelligence, earnestness and service of this congregation and their friends.

This is going to be a large and well-equipped building. It will be capable of giving us much pleasure. But God forbid that we of Saint Paul's and our friends should use it in a selfish way, just for our own comfort and entertainment. No! We here and now dedicate it to the larger uses of the Kingdom of God and the needs of our city.

Friends, one and all, the clergy of Saint Paul's, the vestry and the members of this church are your servants. The building is yours, not ours. Give us your kindly advice, sympathy and cooperation, and demand of us an intelligent, sympathetic and earnest service.

A Parish House - The Soul of the City - In Purpose, what it is in Location!

Absalom Jones Sunday

St. Paul's Episcopal Church was proud to celebrate the important legacy of Absalom Jones, the first black American priest.

Music was provided by our phenomenal Gospel Choir, under the direction and accompaniment of Rafael McDaniel Walker.

We were honored to welcome Dr. Pamela Pugh, the President of the Michigan State Board of Education, who offered inspiring words 'in the name of God's children.'









2024 BIBLE STUDY

BOOK TITLE	AUTHOR
Borders and Belonging	Padraig O'Tuama and Glenn Jordan
The Last Week	Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan
Colossians and Philemon	N.T. Wright
A Call to Justice	Kevin Perrotta
A Guide to the Sacraments	John Macquarrie

*BIBLE STUDY IS HELD EVERY WEDNESDAY AFTER MASS

St. Paul's Movie Night



Come out and enjoy a movie with us! Wednesday, March 19, 2025 Meet at 5:30 pm, Movie at 6:00 pm.

2023-25 Movies

MOVIE DATE	MOVIE TITLE
21-Jun-23	For the Bible Tells Me
19-Jul-23	The Way
16-Aug-23	Of Gods and Men
20-Sep-23	In the Heights
18-Oct-23	The Wonder
15-Nov-23	Babette's Feast
20-Dec-23	The Bishop's Wife
17-Jan-24	Doubt
21-Feb-24	One Night in Miami
20-Mar-24	Belfast
17-Apr-24	White Like Me
15-May-24	The Mission
19-Jun-24	Boys Don't Cry
21-Aug-24	Come Sunday
18-Sep-24	The Greater Glory
13-Nov-24	Elmer Gantry
18-Dec-24	The Bells of St. Mary's
15-Jan-25	Novitiate
19-Feb-25	Marshall

Upcoming Scripture Lessons for Worship

March 2nd - Last Sunday after the Epiphany

Exodus 34:29-35 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2 Luke 9:28-36, [37-43a] Psalm 99

March 5th - Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2,12-17 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 Matthew 6:1-6,16-21 Psalm 103 or 103:8-14

March 9th - First Sunday in Lent

Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Romans 10:8b-13 Luke 4:1-13 Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

March 16th - Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 15:1-12,17-18 Philippians 3:17-4:1 Luke 13:31-35 Psalm 27

March 23rd - Third Sunday in Lent

Exodus 3:1-15 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 Luke 13:1-9 Psalm 63:1-8

March 30th - Fourth Sunday in Lent

Joshua 5:9-12 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 Psalm 32



March's Liturgy Schedule

Dates		Lector 1	Lector 2	Intercessor (Prayers of the People)
2-Mar-2025		Elizabeth Jordan	Edythe Peake	Joel Arnold
5-Mar Ash Weds. *		Edythe Peake	Ed Walthers	Pat Emenyonu
9-Mar-2025	G	Ed Walthers	Pat Emenyonu	Tom Shriver
16-Mar-2025	В	Joel Arnold	Eloise Jordan	Susumu Inoue
23-Mar-2025		Eloise Jordan	Lanie Nix	Velecia Ford
30-Mar-2025	G	Lanie Nix	Kim Ramirez	Shane Geraghty

Dates		Eucharistic Minister	Crucifer	Verger	8:00 AM
2-Mar-2025		Ed Walthers		B. Cuthbertson	Tim Grant
5-Mar Ash Weds. *		Rayna Hauter	Shane Geraghty	Ed Walthers	Ed Walthers
9-Mar-2025	G	Erynn Ford	Rayna Hauter	Mike Farver	Rayna Hauter
16-Mar-2025	В	TaMara Oertel	Bob Cuthbertson	B. Cuthbertson	Becky Bennett
23-Mar-2025		Tim Grant	Mike Farver	Ed Walthers	Tamara Oertel
30-Mar-2025	G	Jelecia Geraghty	Bill Johnson	Mike Farver	Tim Grant

March 2025

Anniversaries

03/26 GAGNON, Heather & Robert



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!



Birthdays

03/01	RAMIREZ, Kim
03/03	HAMILTON-WELCH, Barbara
03/03	LIM, Anita C.
03/08	FORD, Velecia
03/10	JOHNSON, William
03/21	BUGBEE, Kenneth
03/22	WHARRY, Tiffani
03/23	INOUE, Susumu
03/24	ARTER, Ed
03/25	DONES, Quiara
03/26	HALL, Roy
03/29	FARVER, Michael
03/29	MITCHELL-BEREN, Mary
03/30	EMENYONU, Pat
03/31	BECKMAN, Brent
03/31	SUCCESS, Moses

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 (Diversity)

(Robert@)

Zan Milner (Stewardship)

(zan@)

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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, 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."



EPISCOPAL CHURCH
ST. PAUL'S

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