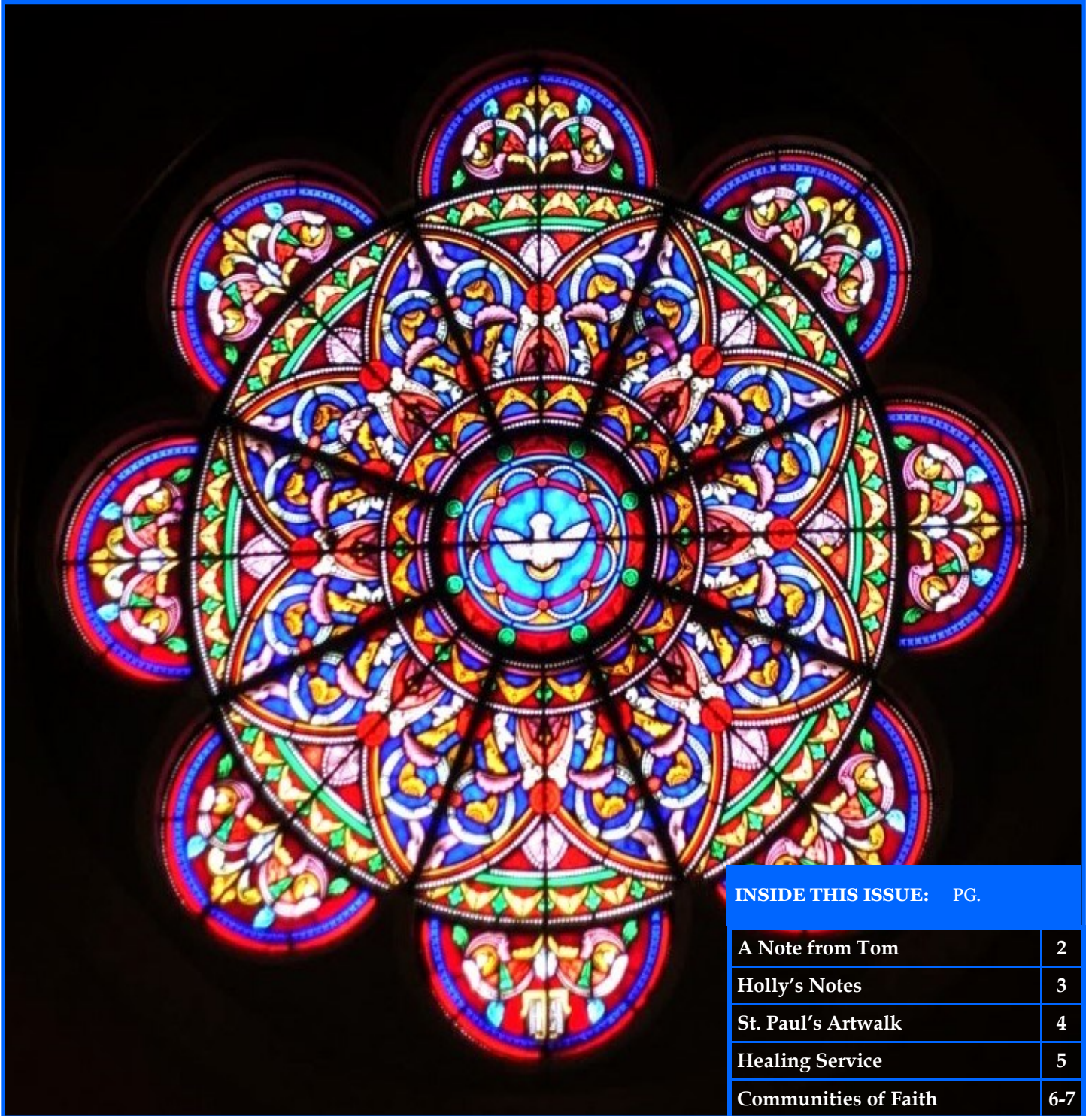




# THE EPISTLE



## July 2025



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## A Note from Tom

This month, I have decided to do something of a smorgasbord of topics about which I would like to share a few thoughts:

**Pope Leo:** I was, as I told several people, amazed at the election of an American Pope. *Never*, in my lifetime, did I expect to see a Pope with not only American Heritage, but *Michigan* heritage (Pope Leo attended high school in western Michigan, at the now-closed St. Augustine Seminary High School in Holland) as well. But I was further surprised that the 267th pope, the former Cardinal Robert F. Prevost, has Black family roots in New Orleans, Louisiana. Both of Leo XIV's maternal grandparents are described as Black or mulatto in several census documents. "It's clear," said one genealogist, "that the Pope has centuries-long ties to free people of color in Louisiana." Pretty cool.

**Murder of Minnesota Legislators:** It was with great sorrow that I read of the stalking and murdering Minnesota House of Representatives Speaker Emerita Melissa Hortman and her husband, in addition to stalking and shooting Minnesota State Senator John Hoffman and his wife. In response to the violence, The Rev. Rev. Craig J. Loya, Bishop of Minnesota, shared these words:

As Christians, we proclaim as Lord the one who met a murderous and vindictive empire, not with retributive or self-protective violence, but with immovable love. That love, though he died for it, was not a passive resignation to evil, but a refusal to engage it on its own terms.

**Bombing of Iran:** The president's decision to bomb three Nuclear facilities in Iran while Iran is in the midst of a war with Israel means that the war is being expanded. One might ask – as several polls have already – whether to support this decision or not. My reaction is the same, I support peace. Rather than picking sides between combatants, or picking sides of a decision, I always support peace because, I firmly believe, there is no room for war in the Christian faith.

**Independence Day:** As we approach the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday, I would urge that we all celebrate our country's history. The Founding Fathers were in many ways like we are today. They were, first of all, *divided*. Some, but not all, supported the independence movement, while others sought the political freedoms they felt were granted by God. Second, the Founding Fathers were *visionaries*. They saw the country, not for its flaws, but for its possibilities. Third, the Founding Fathers were brave. In the face of a short-sighted and contemptuous *king*, they put their lives quite literally at risk, as they took the bold steps necessary to effect real and lasting change. Said Benjamin Franklin at the signing of the Declaration, "we must all hang together, or most assuredly we shall all hang separately."

I wish you all a peaceful and relaxing July. May God bless us, ourselves and our ministries, and our country.

With every blessing...

Tom+

## Holly's Notes

The Choir sang the hymn "Nearer My God to Thee" Sunday, June 22, and I just can't get it out of my mind. I know I have probably talked about this hymn before, because it is one of my personal favorites. Everytime I sing it, or read it, it calms my spirit and I just long for that calming sense of being one with God. There is nothing like it, there isn't a calm as the calm that God provides for us. It is said this is the last hymn the band on the Titanic played as the ship went down. My ship is not going down, but my need for solace, comfort and reassurance is real.

Nearer, my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee!  
E'en though it be a cross that raiseth me;  
Still all my song shall be nearer, my God, to Thee,  
Chorus: Nearer, my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee!  
Though like the wanderer, the sun gone down,  
Darkness be over me, my rest a stone;  
Yet in my dreams I'd be nearer, my God, to Thee,  
Nearer, my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee!  
There let the way appear steps unto heav'n;  
All that Thou sendest me in mercy giv'n;  
Angels to beckon me nearer, my God, to Thee,  
Nearer, my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee!  
Then with my waking thoughts bright with Thy praise,  
Out of my stony griefs Bethel I'll raise;  
So by my woes to be nearer, my God, to Thee,  
Nearer, my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee!  
Or if on joyful wing, cleaving the sky,  
Sun, moon, and stars forgot, upwards I fly,  
Still all my song shall be, nearer, my God, to Thee,  
Nearer, my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee!  
There in my Father's home, safe and at rest,  
There in my Saviour's love, perfectly blest;  
Age after age to be, nearer my God to Thee,  
Nearer, my God, to Thee, nearer to Thee!

Sarah Flower Adam wrote the first verses, later Edward Henry Bickerseth wrote the last verse. It is reported that she wrote it for the passage of scripture in Genesis 28: 11-12 "So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night because the sun had set. And he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep. Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it..." it certainly fits with the story of Elijah that we heard last week when Elijah flees into the desert from Queen Jezebel and is ministered to by angels. It also goes with the idea that Joy comes in the Morning after a time of woe, being one with God, and "nearer" to him brings perfect love, and songs of peace, safe and at rest.

Peace,

Holly Richardson, Director of Music



# St. Paul's Artwalk

St. Paul's Artwalk is on Friday, July 11th at 6pm. Come check it out and experience it for yourself!

## **Featured Artist: Sam Selou, Abstract Impressions**

My name is Sam Selou. I was born in Nineveh, Iraq and grew up in Baghdad. I left Iraq in 1977 and followed my passion for art to Europe. Later, I immigrated to the United States to seek a better future. I arrived in the United States in 1979 and my dream was to go to art school. Although I wasn't well-versed in English, I was able to attend Mott Community College in Flint, Michigan, and I especially enjoyed painting and sculpture. I received a great amount of satisfaction being able to continue my dream in this country's wonderful institutions.

One of my highest achievements was sculpting a full-sized statue of William Ballenger, who was one of the founders of The Buick Company. Mr. Ballenger did many great things for his community, and this statue now appears in Ballenger Park. I also produced a statue for the Catholic Church in Detroit to honor one of the Saints. In addition to that, I created two sculptures of ancient Babylonian Art permanently displayed in the Chaldean Cultural Center located at Shenandoah Country Club in West Bloomfield, MI. One example of my published work is featured in the book *The Flint Sit-Down Strike of 1936-1937: Witnesses and Warriors*. There are also large private collections in several private buyers' homes.

Currently, I paint, sculpt, and work producing abstract wood-working sculptures. I've had multiple showings in various art galleries throughout the United States. I have lived in the Flint area for over 40 years and continue to work to improve my art, and to serve the community.



## **Featured Musician: Jasmine Turman, Vocalist**

Jasmine Turman is currently a Sophomore at Mott Community College. She is a vocal performance major and is a recipient of the fellow and music scholarship. Her experiences include, being a soloist in Vivaldi's Gloria, performing at Wisconsin's Summerfest, singing for multiple weddings and small events, along with being in multiple choirs and her own band. Jasmine hales from the great state of Wisconsin where she has done a fair share of her singing and also won multiple state awards including; WSMA (Wisconsin School Music Association) Musical Theater solo Exemplary Performance Award, WSMA Soprano Solo Exemplary Performance Award, Wisconsin Young Choral Directors Award, WPMC State Winner Musically Advanced III \*Art Song. In her free time Jasmine enjoys composing and writing her own songs along with poetry.



# • *Healing Service*

• *for our sister, Jelesia Ford Geraghty*

Wednesday,  
July 2, 2025 | 6:00 pm



*Sermon: Lysa Fischer*

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

*Episcopal Prayer to Turn Sickness into Strength:  
O God the Strength of the Weak, in Your compassion, turn  
sickness into strength for our sister in the faith. May Your  
goodness rest upon her..*



# Communities of Faith

July 2025

Hello everyone!

Another busy month awaits us. In July we have four different relatively major events happening

- July 2nd at 6 pm we will be doing a Public Service of Healing for Jelesia.
- July 13th during coffee hour we will be meeting outside for the Hot Dog and Ice Cream Social. If you haven't seen the sign up sheet and want to bring something in, please check that out for what we're missing!
- July 18th we will be going with St. John's in Dryden to a Lugnuts baseball game, there is a sign up sheet on the welcome desk, if you have questions see Father Tom for details.
- July 19th at 11am is our Pride Service. Flint Pride is in July this year, starting at 2pm, and so we've also moved our service to coincide. We will have a table again, and have new swag from the Diocese as well. If you're interested in working for an hour or two at the table showing a friendly face to everyone, please let me know and I'll add you to the list. When I get back from St. Louis, I'll even have a sign up sheet for it as well. So if you want first choice, reach out to me.
  - In addition to having a table at Pride and a service, we will be having a guest preacher - Pastor Matthew Hogue-Smith from People's Church of Flint will be giving his sermon he's titled "Fireproof and Fabulous" focusing on Daniel 3:16-28. If you missed his Good Friday sermon at Court Street you won't want to miss this one.

In addition to all of this, July is National Independent Retailers Month, meaning it's an important time to support our local businesses and ensure our local economy and community are strong.

If you noticed I said I'd be in St. Louis next week, I will be attending a Campus Ministry Conference put on by our Lutheran siblings in Christ along with other Episcopalians from Province V, Methodists, and Presbyterians. Once I return from that, expect to see quite a bit more regarding Campus Ministry and our preparations.

Finally, and my apologies to Karein for the length of this, as you can see from the table below, we have been very busy with helping folks out this month. The help we've given and the help I've promised to folks for once they come up with the missing portions, is only possible both through God's Grace and Him working through each and every one of you. It is only through the gifts of abundance that this church community has been blessed with that I am somehow staying below budget.

I'll be honest, there were several months where I was having to deny help to people because it wasn't in the budget. But over the past couple of months we have been below budget *and* helped more people because I've received generous gifts from the congregation. For that I am eternally grateful, and if you ever question whether the money you give to St. Paul's or give to this ministry is being put to good use, this year we've been able to help people with nearly \$4,000, allowing them to stay in their homes or keep their power turned on. This would normally have been impossible for us to do, my budget wouldn't have been anywhere near that amount, and yet, we've been able to help a lot of people this year.



As always, if you have questions, comments, concerns, or want to just sit down and talk, my email is [rayna@stpaulschurchflint.com](mailto:rayna@stpaulschurchflint.com) and you can also find me in the middle office from 10-3 on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Need	Request	Given	Date
Rent	\$4,044	\$300	5/26/2025
Rent	\$156	\$156	6/4/2025
Utilities	\$2,000	Resources*	6/11/2025
Consumers	\$259	\$259	6/11/2025
Mortgage	\$780.18	Resources*	6/18/2025
Rent	\$2,050	Resources*	6/18/2025
Consumers	\$543	Resources*	6/19/2025
Rent	\$899	Resources*	6/20/2025

"What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead."

A stylized illustration of a woman with dark hair, wearing a white ruffled collar and a red skirt, holding a large rainbow flag high above her head. The background is a light blue gradient with a large, dark blue, wavy shape on the right side.

# AN ECUMENICAL PRIDE SERVICE

LOVE  
WINS

JOIN IN PERSON OR ONLINE

11AM July 19, 2025

Join us at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in downtown Flint as we kick off Flint Pride with an ecumenical service with guest preacher The Reverend Matthew Hogue-Smith from People's Church of Flint

711 S SAGINAW  
FLINT, MI 48502

as always!

# MOVIE NIGHT



**WEDNESDAY, JULY 16**

**MEET AT 5:30**

**movie starts at 6:00**

**THE THIRD WEDNESDAY  
OF EVERY MONTH**





*St. Paul's*

THE PARISH OFFICES WILL BE  
CLOSED ON  
FRIDAY, JULY 4, 2025

# Don't Forget! HOT DOG SOCIAL

Sunday, July 13, 2025

**DURING COFFEE HOUR**

Please see Rayna Hauter if you would like to sign  
up to bring something or have questions

**JOIN THE  
FUN**



# July's Liturgy Schedule

Dates		Lector 1	Lector 2	Intercessor (Prayers of the People)
6-July-2025		Mary Hammond	Edythe Peake	Pat Emenyonu
13-July-2025	G	Pam Bailey	Mary Hammond	Tom Shriver
20-July-2025	B	TaMara Oertel	Rajaad Cuthbertson-Twine	Susumu Inoue
*27-July-2025		Rebecca Bennett	Eloise Jordan	Velesia Ford

Dates		Eucharistic Minister	Crucifer	Verger	8:00 AM
6-July-2025		Tim Grant	Shane Geraghty	Robert Cuthbertson-Twine	Ed Walthers
13-July-2025	G	TaMara Oertel	Ed Walthers	**	TaMara Oertel
20-July-2025	B	Maddie Cherry	Rayna Hauter	Robert Cuthbertson-Twine	Tim Grant
*27-July-2025		**	Maddie Cherry	Ed Walthers	Rayna Hauter

## July 2025

### Anniversaries

7/1	ARTER, Edward & Julie
7/12	MANNOR, Theodore & Barbara
7/13	SNELL, John & Mary
7/24	KENNEDY, Michael & Sheryl



### Birthdays

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



## **Your Vestry:**

(all at [stpaulschurchflint.com](mailto:stpaulschurchflint.com))

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(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-Twine** (Diversity)  
(Robert@)

**Zan Milner** (Stewardship)  
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Director of Music (directorofmusic@)

**Rafael McDaniel**, Gospel Choir Director  
(gospel@)

**Ed Arter**, Organist (organist@)

**Terence Whitehead**, Sexton

**Edythe Peake**, Web Editor

(webeditor@stpaulschurchflint.com)

## **SUBMISSION TO THE EPISTLE**

When submitting articles to *The Epistle*, please submit via e-mail to: [STPOffice@stpaulschurchflint.com](mailto: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 15<sup>th</sup> of every month. Submission deadlines are the 25<sup>th</sup> of every month.

Thanks!



### **For our Homebound Parishioners:**

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."



**ST. PAUL'S**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

