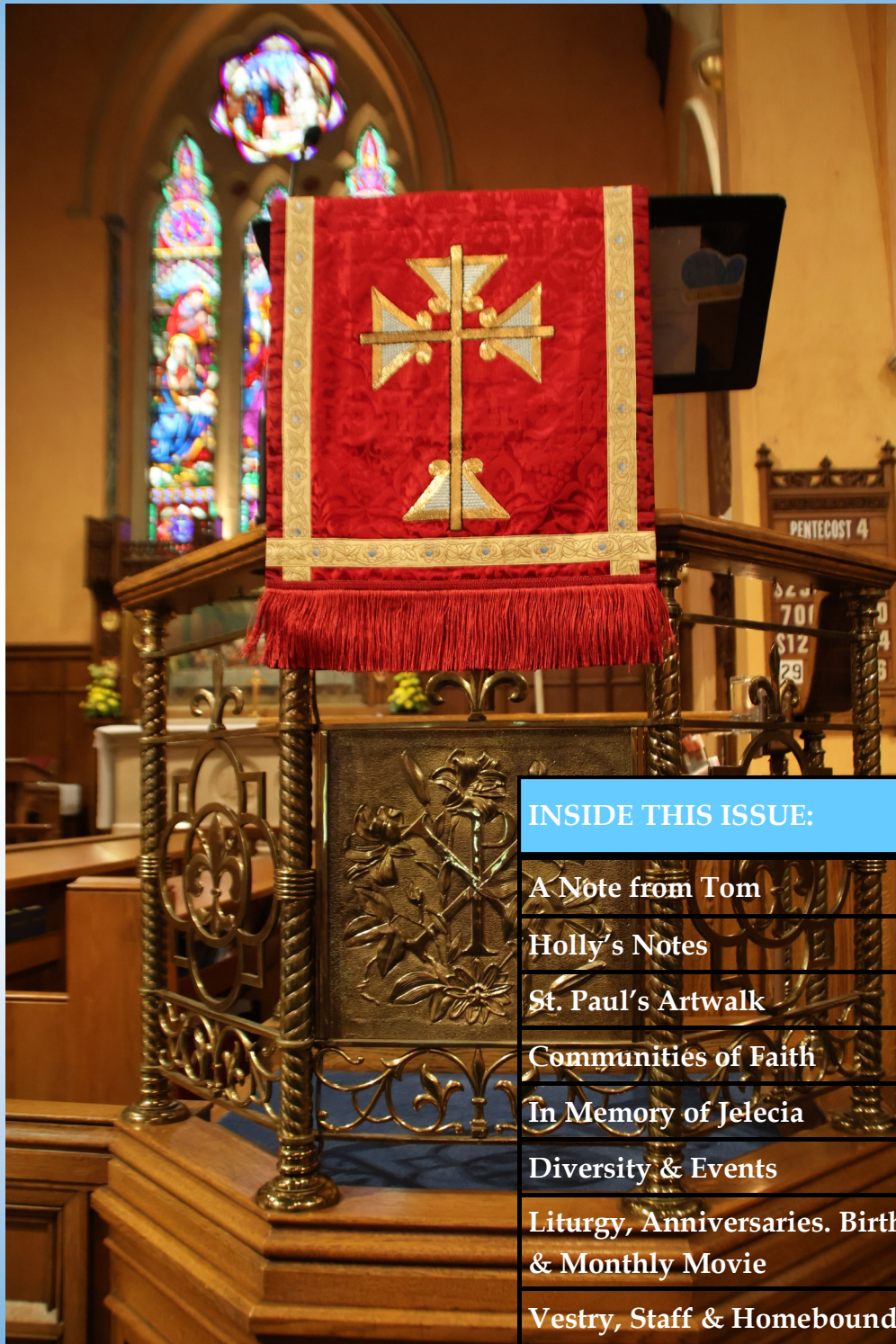




THE EPISTLE



September 2025



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711 South Saginaw St., Flint, Michigan 48502
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A Note from Tom



Is it better to be healed or to be blessed?

The funeral of Jelevia Geraghty was a fitting tribute to a woman who was a beloved member of our St. Paul's family. Jelevia was a woman of many talents, and she used them well. She had deep convictions, and was a passionate advocate of her church. She loved her family, and was loved in return. Jelevia was loyal to her Lord, and she served God well.

And she was so very faithful to St. Paul's. She and I frequently worked together, and together we dreamed great dreams. But Jelevia was not just a dreamer. She was a person who rolled up her sleeves, and did the work necessary to make the dreams a reality. Jelevia knew how to do that.

And for the last two years, as most of you know, she has fought valiantly and bravely. And in spite of her long illness, her indomitable spirit was never defeated. And so, her journey has come to an end, much to the heartbreak of our entire congregation.

But in reality, Jelevia's struggle was a great victory. Although disease shortened the length of her life among us, Christians know and believe that it is the *quality* of life that counts. And the quality of life is measured in blessedness.

Because, although Jelevia was dealt a tragic blow, it did not stop her from sharing her love for us—her family and friends. Although she suffered great physical pain, it did not stop her from doing good things and living her life with passion. Although she endured major surgeries and intense medical treatments, we could still see God at work through her. And that is blessedness.

Jesus said, "blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness." What a fitting description of Jelevia's life. With God at her side, she led her life fighting for what she believed in. God was with her. And through God she has left a legacy of inspiration.

Is it better to be healed or to be blessed?

I believe and I affirm this day, giving thanks to God, that it is better to be blessed.

With every blessing...

Tom+



Holly's Notes



There is an old gospel hymn called, "I Stand Amazed" and it is certainly one of my dad's favorite songs. I can remember him gustily singing it as I was standing next to him in the pew. The words are pretty spectacular.

I stand amazed in the presence Of Jesus the Nazarene

And wonder how He could love me, A sinner condemned, unclean

How marvelous, how wonderful And my song will ever be

How marvelous, how wonderful, Is my Saviour's love for me

He took my sins and my sorrows He made them his very own

He bore the burden to Calvary He suffered and died for me

Forever I will sing Your praise Jesus, Risen King

Oh my God I stand amazed that You loved me

When with ransomed in glory His face I at last shall see

It will be my joy through the ages To sing of His love for me

How marvelous, how wonderful And my song shall ever be

How marvelous, how wonderful Is my Saviour's love for me

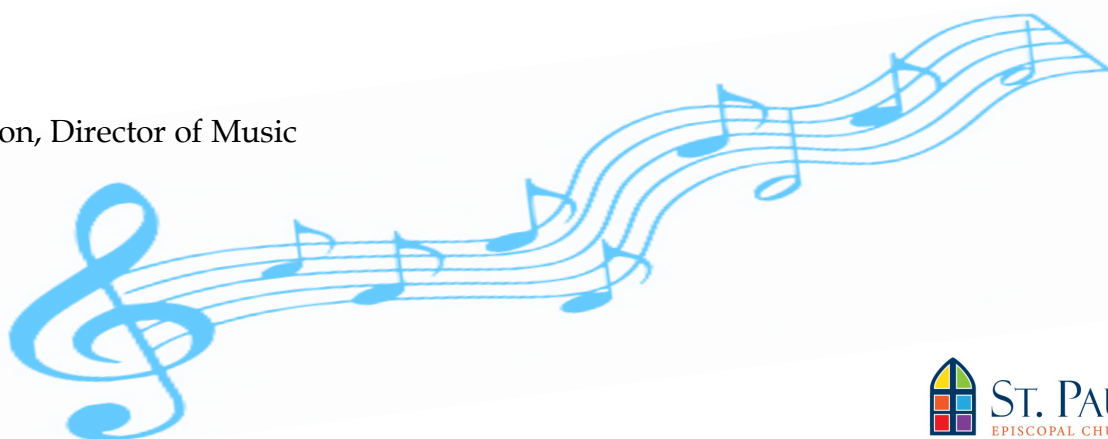
I Stand Amazed

Source: [Musixmatch](#)

It is absolutely amazing the love Christ has for us. I pray that our congregation grieves that we feel the mighty arms of God around us and remember that He has taken our sorrows and made them His own. [I Stand Amazed how Marvelous by Bill & Gloria Gaither \(UHD with Lyrics/ Subtitles\)](#)

In Peace,

Holly Richardson, Director of Music



St. Paul's Artwalk

St. Paul's Artwalk is on Friday, September 12th at 6pm and it's open to everyone! Come and experience it for yourself!

Featured Artist:

Crystal Turner & Friends – Spoken Word

Kirei is an Emmy Award-winning poetry slam champion, speaker, author, and BIPOC event curator from Flint. She shares spoken word to spark mindfulness, resilience, and connection. In July 2025, she released her complete collection of poetry and her next release is set for winter of this year.

Shea "Phire" Cobb is a phenom. As an artist, mother and master student, she is a founder of the prestigious collective, "The Sister Tour," a platform that promotes female artistry, from a kinetic sphere of positive influence, that exudes heart. Through the sound of music, and the titanium pen of her poetry, does she shine as a prolific writer and producer, whose message resonates the strong women and resilient community of Flint, Michigan.

Isis Seraphis is a multifaceted spiritual author and poet whose work centers on themes of personal transformation, healing, and ascension. Her book *Light in the Dark Corner of My Mind* (Evolution of a 5D Being) delves into the intense human experiences of pain, pressure, and re-birth—encouraging readers to birth themselves again into empowered, evolved states of being. Her work blends poetic expression with spiritual guidance, aiming to uplift individuals on their personal and spiritual journeys.

“Nyota is a multifaceted artist whose music blends soulful vulnerability with experimental edge. Rooted in storytelling, her sound bridges R&B and minimalism while carrying both power and intimacy. More than a musician, Nyota creates an experience, inviting listeners into a space of honesty, transformation, and connection.”

Featured Musician:

Professor Joe Wright & Friends

Saxophone journeyman Professor Joe Wright, accompanied by virtuosos Nick Calandro on bass and Jim Bach on lead guitar and harmonica, will join Stu Selesky, along with his fun vocals and rhythm guitar, to please you with an evening of enjoyable jump blues and jazz.



MUSIC



Communities of Faith

September 2025

I want to take a moment to thank everyone who made Back to the Bricks, the CRIM, and, most importantly, Jelesia's funeral service the events that they were this month. None of us could have done it without one another, and it is a testament to the love and support that we have for one another that we were able to make Back to the Bricks and the CRIM as successful as they were, and were able to come together to support and surround Jelesia's family and friends with love.

This upcoming month is a little bit quieter, which means it's time to revisit an idea that I've been putting on hold. How do we continue to help our community and help folks that ask us for help? I sat down with Tiffani from Family Promise this week, and we've decided to hold a fundraiser at the end of the month to support both Family Promise and the St. Paul's Assistance Fund. The fundraiser will consist of a yard sale on September 26-28 (Friday-Sunday), with anything that is not sold by Sunday being donated to area organizations. That means, if you're interested in donating something to be sold during the yard sale, please see Tiffani or I no later than Sunday, September 21. We are planning to pre-check everything that comes in, that way we can make sure that an organization will take it just in case. Items we are looking for are:

Clothes

Records

Small household items

Baked goods

Anything that can be fit into a car and easily transported

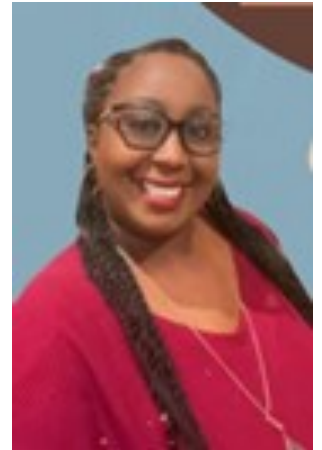
Family Promise of Mid Michigan and the St. Paul's Assistance Fund will be splitting the money made from the event, and then everything left over and not sold will be donated elsewhere. So whatever you bring will be used for a good cause. So far this year, I have had 30 people make over 25,000 in requests, with many more phone calls that were unable to be returned or helped. Between the funding from St. Paul's, the Barth Mission Trust, and private donations from parishioners, we've been able to help with nearly 7,000 in requests. So thank you, so much for everything that you do here which enables us to provide welfare in the city, and to act as a church with heart.

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	Total Requested	Total Given	Date
Housing	\$3,437	\$900	21572.89	6351.43	8/6/2025
Medical	\$3,500	Resources*	25072.89	6351.43	8/7/2025
Consumers	\$55	\$55	25127.89	6406.43	8/13/2025
Housing	\$300	\$300	25427.89	6706.43	8/27/2025
Consumers	\$386	Resources*	25813.89	6706.43	8/29/2025

IN MEMORY OF JELECIA FORD GERAGHTY



Notes from the Diversity Committee

September 2025

Hello everyone!

September is Sickle Cell Awareness month, last year we had Dr. Susumu Inoue present a presentation down in Barth Hall talking about Sickle Cell as that is a field he has spent his whole life working in. Through that we learned that it is a disease that disproportionately affects African American and Sub-Saharan African populations. Approximately 90% of cases in America are either African-American or Black Hispanic peoples, with it occurring in 1 in every 365 births.

This month will also see the beginning of Hispanic Heritage Month, and that means the return of the Ofrenda. If you have something belonging to a loved one who has passed away, please bring that in to be put with the Ofrenda in the Sister's Chapel. With it being Hispanic Heritage Month please keep at the forefront of our minds our Hispanic siblings facing oppression not just in California or Texas or Florida, but here in Flint as well. Over 50 people have been detained by ICE agents in our city. If you'd like to learn more about the issues surrounding immigration and the Southern border, I encourage you to read *Bishops on the Border* which you can find a copy in the library to read in your free time.

Rayna

CONGRATULATIONS

Dr. Robert Cuthbertson-Twine

For successfully completing the Vergers' Guild training course and becoming eligible to be recognized as a Fellow of the Guild at their annual conference on October 9-12, 2025. Dr. Robert Cuthbertson-Twine will be formally recognized as having completed the Training Course and will be awarded his completion certificate.

The Vergers Guild of the Episcopal Church (VGEC) is a service organization that supports the ministry of vergers, sacristans, worship leaders, altar guild members, and more.

Family Promise

2025

FAMILY PROMISE OF MID MICHIGAN

CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Join us for a fun day filled with prizes!

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 13

LAPEER COUNTRY CLUB
3786 HUNT ROAD
LAPEER, MI

Check-in: 8:00 am
Shotgun starts 9:00 am

\$125 - Per Player
\$500 - 4 Person Team

All proceeds 100% goes to support Family Promise of Mid Michigan

Register now, space is limited!
<https://bit.ly/fpmmgolfforefamilies>

Scan here to register & more info




5TH ANNUAL GOLF FORE FAMILIES CHARITY TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2025
Check-in: 7:00 am | Shotgun starts 8:00 am

LAPEER COUNTRY CLUB
3786 HUNT ROAD LAPEER, MI

4-PERSON SCRAMBLE (INCLUDES CART, LUNCH & DINNER)
\$500 PER TEAM

Rain or Shine | Cash Bar | On Course Bar

Please check all that apply

- ☐ Sponsor \$_____
- ☐ Combo Hole Sponsorship/Foursome - \$650
- ☐ Foursome - \$500
- ☐ Individual Hole Sponsor - \$150

<p>Registration</p> <p>Individual or Organization (PLEASE INCLUDE Contact Name if not the same)</p> <p>Contact Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____ State _____ Zip _____</p> <p>Primary Phone _____ Email _____</p> <p>Dinner/Donation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Unable to golf, but will attend the awards dinner</p> <p># of guests _____ x \$30 = \$_____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Unable to attend, please accept my donation \$_____</p> <p>Payment Method</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Visa, MasterCard, Discover, American Express</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Check Enclosed (Make payable to Family Promise of Mid Michigan)</p> <p>Name on Card _____</p> <p>Card Number _____</p> <p>CVV Code _____ Exp. Date _____</p> <p>Signature _____</p> <p>Scan to Register</p>  <p>For more information please contact Nicole Breslin 810.234.9444</p>	<p>Golfer Name(s)</p> <p>1. _____</p> <p>Email: _____</p> <p>2. _____</p> <p>Email: _____</p> <p>3. _____</p> <p>Email: _____</p> <p>4. _____</p> <p>Email: _____</p> <p>Complete & Return this form with payment by Sept 1, 2025. FPM - P.O. Box 4519 Flint, MI 48504 OR register online</p> <p>100% of proceeds supports Family Promise of Mid Michigan</p> <p>https://bit.ly/fpmmgolfforefamilies</p> 
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Back to the Bricks



Charity Yard Sale



**Help Family Promise of Mid Michigan and the St. Paul's
Assistance Fund in their missions to prevent
homelessness and provide aid.**

Friday September 26, 2025 1p-7p

Saturday September 27, 2025 10a-4p

Sunday September 28, 2025 12p-2p

(Donation only on the final day!)



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A Church with Heart in the Heart of the City



**711 S. Saginaw St.
Flint, MI 48502**

September's Liturgy Schedule

Dates		Lector 1	Lector 2	Intercessor (Prayers of the People)
7-Sep-2025		Eloise Jordan	Tom Shriver	Robert Cuthbertson-Twine
14-Sep-2025	G	Justin Wetenhall	Velesia Ford	Margaret Powell
21-Sep-2025	B	Shane Geraghty	Kim Ramirez	Mary Hammond
28-Sep-2025		Joel Arnold	Velesia Ford	Pam Bailey

Dates		Eucharistic Minister	Crucifer	Verger	8:00 AM
7-Sep-2025		Tim Grant	Dylan Baade	Ed Walthers	Becky Bennett
14-Sep-2025	G	Ed Walthers	Ed Walthers	Brandon Adams	Tamara Oertel
21-Sep-2025	B	Tim Grant	Shane Geraghty	R. Cuthbertson	Tim Grant
28-Sep-2025		Rayna Hauter	Dylan Baade	Ed Walthers	Ed Walthers

September 2025

Anniversaries

9/24	MITCHELL-BEREN, Mary & Susumu Inoue
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Birthdays

09/04	MANNEY, Teri
09/05	POWELL, Margaret
09/13	GAGNON, Heather
09/21	BINGHAM, Jane M.
09/21	STRUCK Jr., Lawrence
09/30	NAUGHTON, The Rev. Dcn. Sharon

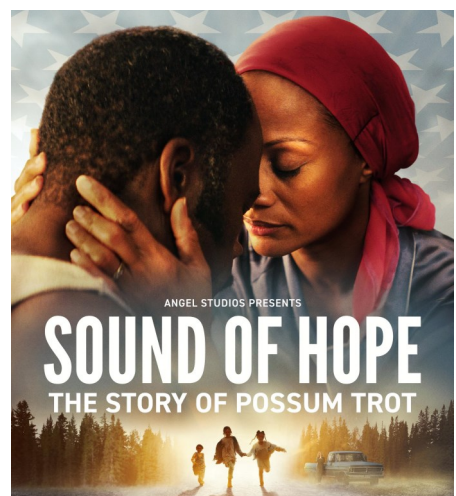
St. Paul's Movie Night

Come out and enjoy a movie with us!

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

Meet at 5:30 pm,

Movie at 6:00 pm.



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-Twine (Diversity)
(Robert@)

Zan Milner (Stewardship)
(zan@)

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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)

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!



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