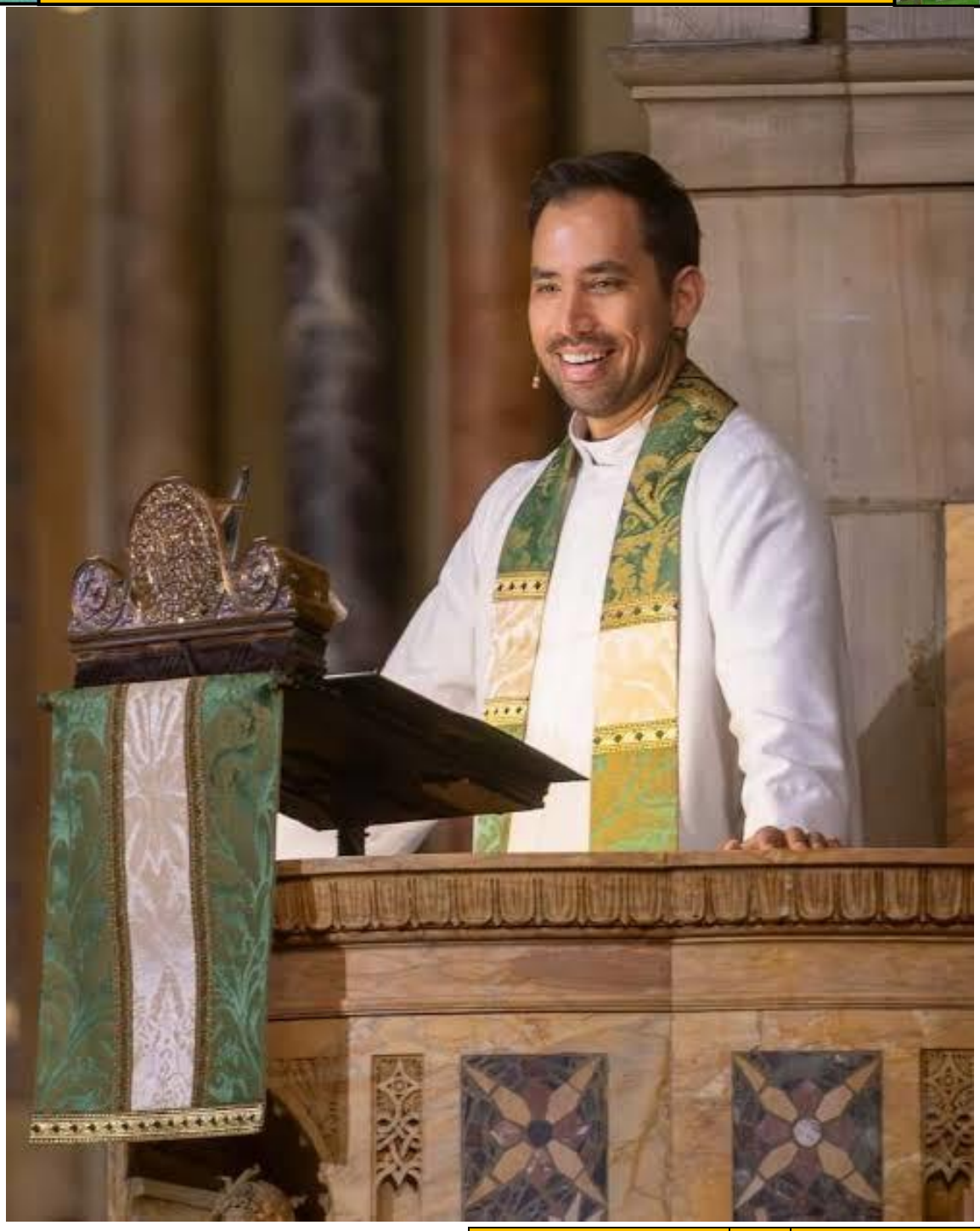
THE EPISTLE

NOVEMBER 2026





ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

711 South Saginaw St.
Flint, Michigan 48502
810.234.8637

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A Note from Tom

First, let me say that I understand that it is illogical to do a November Epistle article on the subject of Halloween, which is of course ***October*** 31. But that's what I'm doing.

Halloween—as I think most of you know—is an amalgamation of the phrase *All Hallows Eve*. This a reference to the fact that Halloween is—by virtue of its date—the night before *All Saints Day*, a principal feast in the Christian (and Episcopal) Church. All Saints Day is November 1st—always. It is what's known as an *immovable* feast, like Christmas (always December 25).

What I have always wondered is how (or why) did the Evening before All Saints Day get mashed up with our American version of what we now call Halloween? At what point did families begin thinking that converting their front yards to a simulated cemetery was an appropriate way to recognize this hallowed tradition? What exactly is the history of Halloween in America?

Well for one thing, Halloween has traditionally been associated with pagan superstitions. In fact, the holiday was banned in Puritan New England during the American Revolutionary era. By the time of the Great Depression, Halloween had become associated with rowdy, nighttime behavior—the "trick" in trick or treat. For an example of this, one needs look no farther than the film *Meet Me in St. Louis*.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rT8Q0O80Nbo

Gradually, Halloween chaos morphed into a much friendlier version of the holiday in the years following World War II. Candy companies embraced Halloween, as did popular movies like *It's the Great Pumkin, Charlie Brown*. Recently, traditional "trick or treating" seems to be diminishing in popularity due to the rise of new forms of celebration, such as "**trunk** or treating". In fact, our new ministry partners, *The Recovery Alliance Project*, has planned a Trunk or Treat party at St. Paul's on the night of October 30th, or as I like to call it, All Hallows Eve Eve.

Today, Halloween is the second largest commercial holiday of the year. Any connections to historical All Saints Day have been largely forgotten. But I love that most families celebrate it as a kid-friendly night of fun. I can do without the zombies and skeletons, but generally speaking, it seems like an okay addition to the Feast of All Saints.

With every blessing…



Tom+

Directory Update



Heads Up! We are updating the directory and putting it out in January. Please submit an updated form even if your information has not changed as well as a picture you would like to be in the directory. Please email it to: STPOffice@stpaulschurhflint.com or mail it. All updated information must be received by December 15, 2026. Thank you for your cooperation.

Holly's Notes

Fall is my favorite time of year and it was Bruce's too. For the last 24 years we have hunted together, watching the leaves fall, spending Thanksgiving up at his cabin. Visiting other camps, looking at their harvest and sitting out in deer blinds watching leaves slowly fall and listening to birds singing in the trees while squirrels gather acorns, Peaceful, quiet but together talking first on walkie talkies and then later texting. I will miss this, there is something so very omnipresent about sitting in woods and seeing the nature that God has created, and the beauty in the stillness as you observe life. These last two months have been more difficult than I could have imagined.

I used this song at Bruce's funeral because it seemed to fit both of us so well, taken from Psalm 42:1. As the Deer Panteth for the Water (My Heart's Desire)

Verse 1



As the deer panteth for the water
So my soul longeth after Thee
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship Thee
You alone are my Strength, my Shield
To You alone may my spirit yield
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship Thee.

Verse 2

You're my Friend and You are my Brother
Even though You are a King
I love You more than any other
So much more than anything
You alone are my Strength, my Shield
To You alone may my spirit yield
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship Thee.



Verse 3

I want You more than gold or silver
Only You can satisfy
You alone are the real joy-giver
And the apple of my eye
You alone are my Strength, my Shield
To You alone may my spirit yield
You alone are my heart's desire
And I long to worship Thee.

We always saw God in nature, and this song says it all. Have a blessed Thanksgiving and Fall.

Holly Richardson, Director of Music

St. Paul's Artwalk

Friday, November 13th at 6:00 p.m.

Featured Artist: Thomas Smith

Thomas Smith – My art career started early in my life at about 9 years of age. My parents enrolled me in the Famous Artists School for Young People. It was a correspondence course that was started by Norman Rockwell for young people. As a teenager I began to think about my career and decided to pursue Landscape Architecture for my vocation. I attended Ohio State University and graduated in 1978 with my Bachelor of Science in Landscape Architecture. I moved to Michigan and worked in the Landscape industry for 10 years. I went to Michigan State University and completed my Master of Science in Agriculture and Extension Education. I started teaching Landscape Architecture and Construction at Oakland Schools Technical Center and Oakland Community College. I spent 30 years teaching. In the past 3 years I found time to get back to my roots in art and have been creating landscapes. I have tried also to incorporated wildlife into my paintings. Both Acrylics and Oils are my mediums. I try to capture a sense of calm, quietness and natural beauty in my paintings.

Featured Music Artist: Cainaen McGhee

Cainaen McGhee - When Cainaen McGhee steps onstage with his acoustic guitar, he often slips into what he describes as "the zone," a place where chords, lyrics and emotion come together in real time.

But the path to that place has been years in the making.

The 32-year-old Flint-area musician has been playing music since he was a child. He first picked up a guitar around age eight and began taking music seriously by his mid-teens. Much of what he knows today came through self-teaching, building on a few early lessons from his uncle.

Today, McGhee performs regularly in the local music scene, including semi-monthly appearances at Queens' Provisions in downtown Flint. His style blends elements of country, pop, folk and R&B, shaped by artists known for strong songwriting and acoustic guitar work.

Angel Tree

Beginning Sunday, November 8, Deb Nelson and Cindy Hall will be in the parlor with ornaments for the children at Crossover. They will be available for the next three weekends following November 8th as well. Thank you for helping us spread the word!









AN INEPT YOUNG PRIEST-IN-TRAINING IS DECLARED A SAINT WHEN HE BEGINS FLOATING ABOUT THE MONASTERY DURING PRAYER SERVICE.

WEDNESDAY
11/18/2026
5:30 PM

Communities of Faith

November 2026

Hello everyone!

As you are reading this we will have elected our first Diocesan Bishop. However, as I write this I've not even left for convention yet. So I cannot speak with anything other than the trepidation of joy at what might be.

And we've lived through joy this month, we invited FedUp Ministries and other community organizations into our building earlier this month where we were able to serve around 60 community members in need. As they were leaving they asked when they could come back, which tells me that we did a great job hosting and welcoming them.

This coming month seems to be leaning towards being a tad bit quieter with just a few things happening. On November 20, we will once again, be remembering the names of those who have lost their lives for their gender identity, this year Trans Day of Remembrance will be hosted at Court Street United Methodist at 6PM. A couple of days prior on Wednesday the 18th, UM-Flint will be hosting their TDoR event in the campus library from 6-8PM.

The weekend of November 6-8 we will be hosting folks from across Province V along with brothers from the Society of St. John the Evangelist, as we discuss Resonance over Relevance and how we approach Young Adult and Campus Ministry. We are the first of three locations that will be hosting similar discussions over the next few months, but the only one where the brothers will actually be attending. So please come and meet them on Sunday the 8th.

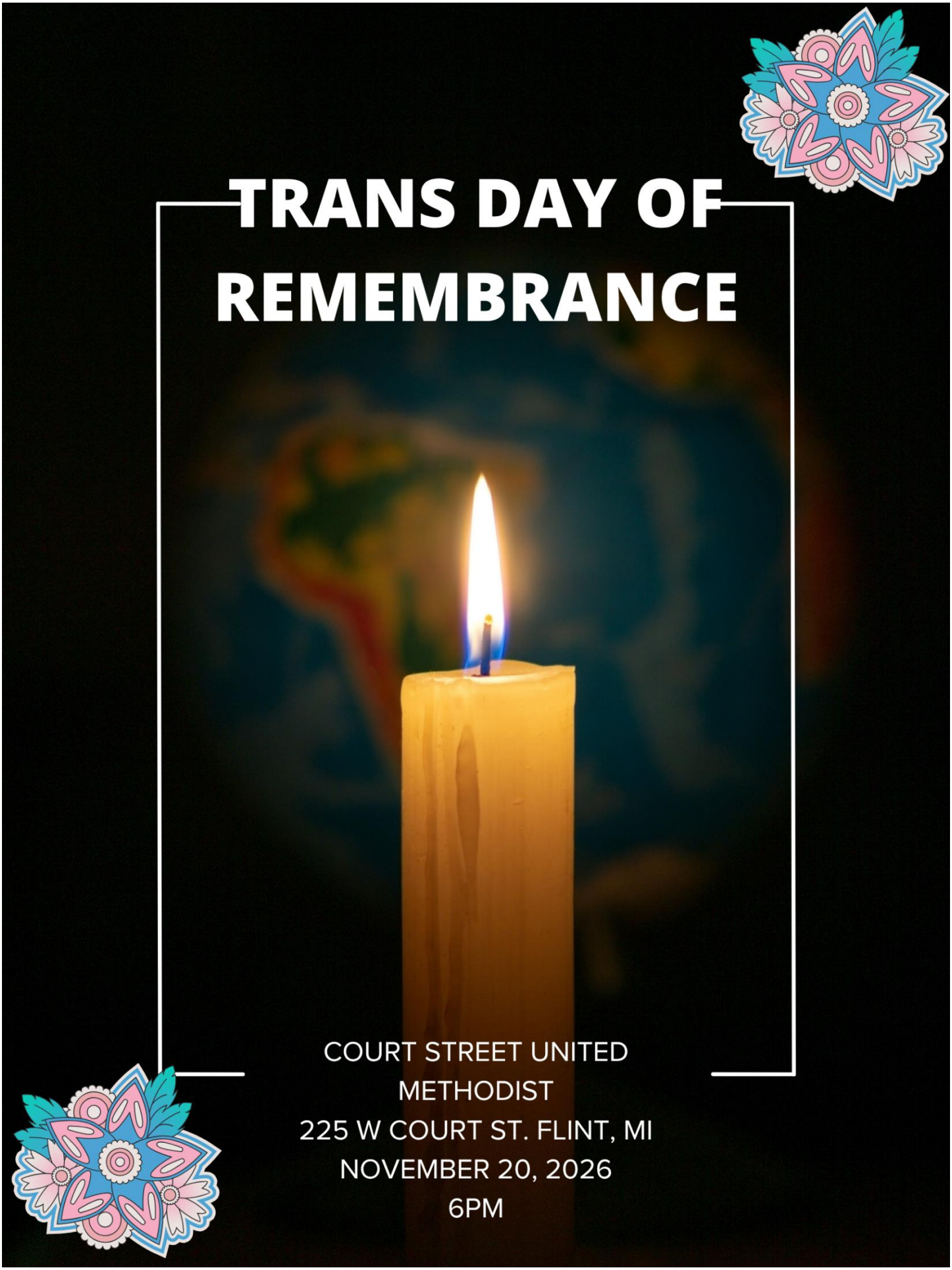
In news of the assistance ministry, we have crossed the $65,000 threshold for total requests and over $14,000 in what we have been able to provide in resources. I am always seeking grants and other funding sources, so as you hear of them or know of them, please feel free to send them to me.

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 at various points throughout the week. If you have a picture or event for the website or the bulletin screens, please feel free to email them to me as well. I've also got a new meeting link, if you're reading this digitally you can just click on this link and be brought to my calendar to request some time with me. If you are not reading this digitally and would like a copy of the link, please let me know and I can get it to you.

Rayna

Need	Request	Given	Total Requested	Total Given
Utilities	$536.00	$336.00	$55,578.60	$12,404.92
Rent	$2,300.00	$600.00	$57,878.60	$13,004.92
Medical	$1,000.00	$1,000.00	$58,878.60	$14,004.92
Utilities	$816.21	$224.41	$59,694.81	$14,229.33
Rent	$3,588.50	Resources*	$63,283.31	$14,229.33
Water	$2,637.83	Resources*	$65,921.14	$14,229.33
Rent	$617.00	Resources*	$66,538.14	$14,229.33
Rent	$537.00	Resources*	$67,075.14	$14,229.33


Hoodies 4 The Homeless &
Less Fortunate
WE NEED YOUR HELP
It's that time of year again!
H4TH&LF is collecting:
NEW/LIKE NEW HOODIES
& TRAVEL SIZE TOILETRIES
To be distributed during the 6th Winter Warm-Up
Saturday, November 7th 11A-1P
at Catholic Charities Center for Hope
812 Root Street, Flint MI 48505
We are also looking for volunteers!
Help us help others this season!
Questions/Comments/Coordination
Reach out to Coach Bobby Bondon
810-336-3732 or rbondon1958@gmail.com


TRANS DAY OF REMEMBRANCE
COURT STREET UNITED METHODIST
225 W COURT ST. FLINT, MI
NOVEMBER 20, 2026
6PM







THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED NOVEMBER 26TH - 27TH FOR THANKSGIVING. HAVE A SAFE & HAPPY HOLIDAY!!

November Liturgy Schedule

Dates		Lector 1	Lector 2	Intercessor (Prayers of the People)
1-Nov-2026		Tom Shriver	Ernest Emenyonu	Shane Geraghty
8-Nov-2026	G	Joel Arnold	Chad Basso	Sean DeGeorge
15-Nov-2026	B	Lysa Fischer	TaMara Oertel	Cindy Hall
22-Nov-2026		Pam Bailey	Rebecca Bennett	Julie Arter
29-Nov-2026	G	Justin Wetenhall	Max Karpov	Earnest Emenyonu

Dates		Eucharistic Minister	Crucifer	Verger
1-Nov-2026		Rayna Hauter	Max Karpov	Ed Walthers
8-Nov-2026	G	Max Karpov	Rayna Hauter	Robert Cuthbertson-Twine
15-Nov-2026	B	Rayna Hauter	Ed Walthers	Brandon Adams
22-Nov-2026		Max Karpov	Brandon Adams	Robert Cuthbertson-Twine
29-Nov-2026	G	TaMara Oertel	Rayna Hauter	Ed Walthers



ST. PAUL'S T-SHIRTS & POLOS

St. Paul's has T-Shirts for sale, they are $20 each. If you would like to buy one please see Fr. Tom.





Birthdays

11/01	Sir Ernest Emenyonu
11/03	Mike Bommarito
11/04	Maggie Hart
11/04	Theodore Mannor
11/10	Patricia Slattery
11/13	Lysa Fischer
11/14	Linda Lemieux
11/14	Walter Peake
11/17	Robert Bondon
11/20	Minette M. Rollins
11/25	Jameson Wharry
11/30	Ed Walthers

Your Vestry:

(all at stpaulschurchflint.com)

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

Robert Cuthbertson-Twine, Junior Warden *(juniorwarden@) (Diversity) (Robert@)*

Jan Bugbee, Treasurer/Clerk of the Vestry *(Finance)* (treasurer@) *(clerk@)***Rebecca Bennett,** Building & Grounds(Rebecca@)

Karen Schaefer, (Outreach)*(karen@)*

John Cherry, Chaplain

Rayna Hauter, Recording Secretary (Rayna@)

Cindy Hall

Shay Natchez

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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)

SUBMISSION TO THE EPISTLE

The Epistle, the newsletter of St. Paul's Episcopal Church is published monthly. When sending in your articles or notices of events to The Epistle please make sure they are in a simple format to copy and paste. Please submit it via e-mail to:

STPOffice@stpaulschurchflint.com.

Submission reminders go out on the **15th** of every month. Submission deadlines are the **25th** of every month.

Worship at St. Paul's

Sunday: 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

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."

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