

St. Paul's
Syracuse

The Downtown
Episcopal Church

THE COURIER

The Newsletter of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Syracuse

September 2024
Special Survey Edition



The Hadley Chapel (before the carpet installation)

*No Matter Who You Are, Or Where You Have Been,
There Is A Place For You At St. Paul's*

WWW.STPAULSYR.ORG

St. Paul's 2024 Survey

by Fr. Philip and
St. Paul's Executive Ministry Team

You have no excuse...when you judge others.
Romans 2:1

It's been more than three years since we have conducted a congregational survey. Your Executive Ministry Team (Marion, Joe, Doug, Liz, Kira, Jeanne, Laurie, Betsy, and Philip) decided this is a good time to ask for your thoughts about life at St. Paul's. We spent several weeks this summer crafting 30 questions to ask our members for a comprehensive survey of Worship, Formation, Fellowship, Pastoral Care, and Mission & Service activities at St. Paul's.

Some of the questions are practical, such as, where would you like to hold coffee hour when all of the construction is finished? Some of the questions are more subjective and spiritual in nature, such as, which parts of worship are consistently meaningful for you? Some of the questions are multiple-choice and some are open-response.

The survey is intended to be completed anonymously, although you will find a place at the end where you have the option of adding your name to your survey, which will be helpful if you would like to hear back from your Executive Ministry Team. We encourage everyone to complete the survey online by following the 'Survey Link' found in your weekly E newsletter. Completing the survey online is fast and makes it much easier for our Executive Ministry Team to compile and review your answers. You can also complete the survey using this September Edition of *The Courier*. In order to complete the survey by hand, please use a blue or black pen to fill in your answers in the pages of *The Courier*. Then mail or bring your completed survey back to St. Paul's and place your survey in the box near the Peace Altar.

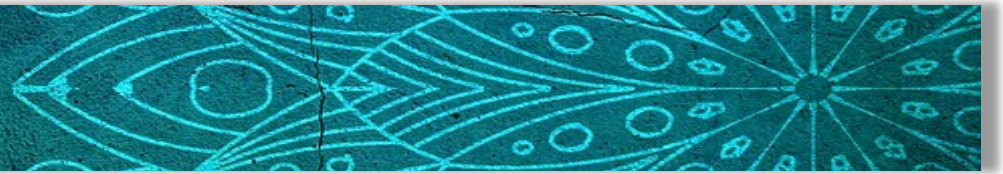
We have two purposes for *St. Paul's 2024 Survey*. The first purpose is to gather more information from our members, so we can make wise decisions as we plan and guide the ministries, programs and work of the church. The second purpose is to give you more information about our ministries and programs; we hope you will learn something new as you read and respond to the questions of the survey.

Please be assured that our purpose is never to judge any of our members. Some of us might feel inadequate for not participating in any Fellowship activities, or for not participating in any Formation activities, or for not participating in Worship in person. We encourage you to set aside any feelings of self-judgment. The central message of our Christian faith is that God loves us and comes into our lives just as we are, not as we expect ourselves to be.

The questions in the survey are arranged in six sections: Worship, Formation, Mission & Service, Fellowship, Pastoral Care, and Communications. We have included brief explanations of the first five categories on the next page.

Thank you in advance for devoting 15-30 minutes to read and answer the questions on the survey. It might be most helpful to think of your responses, not as your votes on any particular issue, but as your story of your experience at St. Paul's. When we have collected all of these unique, personal stories your Executive Ministry Team (Marion, Joe, Doug, Liz, Kira, Jeanne, Laurie, Betsy, and Philip) will read each and every one and look for patterns and information in the responses. We'll report back to you about what we have learned. Then we'll use this information to help guide many of our decisions for the next 2-5 years.

Philip +



Many of the activities of St. Paul's are supported and coordinated through the efforts of five ministry teams:

Fellowship

St. Paul's Community Fellowship Team organizes activities and encourages our members to participate in fellowship activities. Although some of our activities have been curtailed due to our renovation project, likely activities in 2025 include: Coffee Hour Fellowship, Friday Potluck Suppers, Receptions for Special Services, Funerals, and Concerts, and our Maundy Thursday Parish Supper. Liz Belden-Handler is the convener of our Community Fellowship Team.

Formation

St. Paul's Formation Ministry Team includes several independent activities and groups organized and led by a diverse group of leaders. A dedicated group of lay people leads our Sunday morning program for children: *Godly Play*. Adults are offered a range of weekly and monthly activities, including *Feminist Theology*, *Contemplative Prayer*, *SPC Readers*, and *Bible Study*. Most years at St. Paul's, at least one or two retreats are offered, many of which are day retreats. Jeanne Avery is the convener of our Formation Team.

Worship

St. Paul's Worship Ministry Team helps plan our worship services and coordinates the work of the ten Worship related leadership groups: Ushers, Lectors, Coffee Hour Hosts, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Guild, Flower Guild, Choir, Acolytes, Communion Bread Bakers, and those who write the Prayers of the People. Laurie Sanderson is the convener of our Worship Ministry Team.

Mission & Service

St. Paul's Mission and Service Team helps plan, implement, and oversee activities related to the ministry of Mission and Service as we reach out to serve others in our community and the world. Members are most often the ones who take the lead, initiating new efforts and building new partnerships. Members of St. Paul's are currently involved with the following groups and efforts: *The Samaritan Center*, *YMCA Senior Residents*, *Cristosal*, *Haiti Education Mission*, *The Open Pantry*, *Interfaith Works*, and *A Tiny Home for Good*. This list is bound to change and grow in the coming months, as our members find new ways to "seek and serve Christ in all persons." (BCP p. 305) Betsy Elkins is the convener of our Mission & Service Team.

Pastoral Care

At St. Paul's, pastoral care is a team effort. Everyone participates, even if in some informal way. Members give others rides to worship services. Some of us check in with each other by phone or text. We are led by our priest, but everyone plays an essential part, fulfilling the promise of our Baptismal Covenant: "Seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbors as yourself."

Kira Dirghalli is the lay leader of the Pastoral Care Team; she convenes meetings and helps coordinate care for our members. The Pastoral Care Team is a group of about a dozen members who meet several times a year and take extra care to make sure that those who are enduring extra challenges are receiving support from St. Paul's. Members of the Pastoral Care Team make phone calls, write notes, and visit members in their homes and institutional settings. Some of them bring communion to members when they are not able to attend worship services at St. Paul's.

St. Paul's 2024 Survey

1

Worship: I attend worship

- primarily or completely in person.
- primarily or completely through the livestream.
- through a combination of in-person and livestream participation.

2

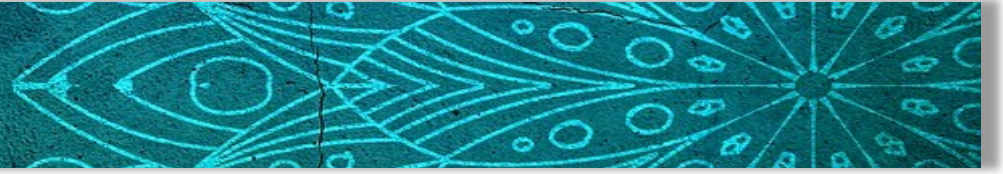
Worship: In the coming year I intend to serve, or am interested in learning about serving, through the following worship related groups:

- Altar Guild
- Acolytes
- Choir
- Communion Bread Bakers
- Flower Guild
- Hosting Coffee Hour
- Lay Eucharistic Ministers
- Lectors
- Ushers
- Writing the Prayers of the People

3

Worship: These worship activities are consistently meaningful for me (choose up to eight):

- Organ prelude and postlude
- Hymn singing
- Service music: Psalm, sanctus, etc.
- Scripture readings
- Sermon
- Nicene Creed
- Prayers of the People
- Confession and Absolution
- Exchanging the Peace
- Choral anthems
- Eucharistic Prayer
- Distribution of Communion
- Prayers for Healing



4 **Worship. Which of the following non-eucharistic services are you interested in attending:**

- Morning Prayer
- Evensong
- Compline
- Midweek Healing Services
- Lessons & Carols
- Taize
- Other (Please specify)

5 **Worship. Which of the choices describes your familiarity with hymns sung during worship:**

- I am familiar with all of the hymns sung during worship.
- I am familiar with most of the hymns sung during worship.
- I am familiar with about half of the hymns sung during worship.
- I am not familiar with most of the hymns sung during worship.

6 **Worship. During communion (choose one)**

- I enjoy having home baked bread for communion.
- I enjoy having communion wafers for communion.

7 **Worship. Please share any other thoughts you have about worship at St. Paul's in the space below.**

8 Formation. Choose the formation activities you have participated in at St. Paul's or affiliated organizations. If you bring children to St. Paul's, please answer for them as well.

- Godly Play/Sunday School
- New Member Class
- Bible Study
- Feminist Theology (Zoom)
- Contemplative Prayer (Zoom)
- SPC Readers (Zoom)
- Retreats, including Advent and Women's Retreats
- Interfaith Works Dialogue Activities
- Spiritual Renewal Center Activities

9 What sort of retreats would you be interested in participating in?

- Half-day retreats (3 hours)
- Full-day retreats (6 hours)
- Overnight retreats offsite
- Women's retreats
- Men's retreats
- A retreat about prayer
- A retreat about scripture
- A retreat for people who live alone (widows, singles, etc.)
- A marriage enrichment retreat
- An Advent or Lenten retreat

10 Formation scheduling. It's difficult to pick times for activities that work for everyone. Please choose the statements about scheduling that are correct for you:

Aside from worship, I am not interested in participating in formation activities at this time.

I have been an active participant in at least one formation group, and find the current schedule to be good.

I would participate in more formation activities if they were held at 9 a.m. on a Sunday.

I would participate in more formation activities if they were held at 11:45 on a Sunday.

I would participate in more formation activities if they were held after 5 p.m. on a weekday.

I would participate in more formation activities if they were held between 10-4 on a weekday.

11 Formation. Are you interested in participating in Formation activities held on Zoom? (Choose one)

Definitely.

Possibly, but I prefer to meet in person.

No. I prefer to meet in person.

I am not interested in participating in Formation activities at this time.

12 Formation. How important is it for you to have children in the congregation or participating in worship at St. Paul's? (Choose one.)

It's important for me to have children in worship.

I prefer to not have children in worship.

I don't have a preference.



13 Formation. Please share any other thoughts you have about Formation activities in the space below. Tell us about a program you would like to lead for children or adults.

14 Mission and Service: How do you support our ministry with the Samaritan Center? (choose as many as you like)

- Contribute funds
- on my own
- Haven't Volunteered but would like to
- Haven't supported financially but would consider it
- I don't know anything about our ministry with the Samaritan Center
- Other (Please specify)

15 Mission and Service: How do you support our YMCA Senior Apartment Ministry? (choose as many as you like)

- Contribute funds
- Have volunteered at events (ie. social gatherings, delivered cards, plants, etc.)
- Have not contributed funds but would consider it
- Have not volunteered but would like to participate in the future
- I don't know anything about our ministry work with the YMCA
- Other (Please specify)

16 Mission and Service: How do you support our Open Pantry (the little box of food in front of the Church-choose as many as you like)

- Donate food
 - Donate money
 - Regularly stock the pantry each week
 - Add food on occasion
 - I don't know anything about our Open Pantry
 - Other (Please specify)
-
-

17 Mission and Service: How would you support our Caring Place Ministry if we were to reopen it? (The Caring Place was a drop-in center for folks needing a safe place of hospitality which has been closed since the beginning of the pandemic.) Choose as many as you like:

- Contribute money or material
 - Volunteer time
 - I don't know anything about the Caring Place
 - I am not able or interested in supporting the Caring Place at this time
 - Other (Please specify)
-
-

18 Mission and Service: How have you supported our work with Interfaith Works? Choose as many as you like

- Contributed funds
 - Attended events
 - Volunteered for one of their programs
 - I have not participated in any way but would consider it
 - I don't know anything about Interfaith Works
 - Other (Please specify)
-
-



19 **Mission and Service:** How would you like to support our partnership with A Tiny Home for Good (ATHFG) which will be building 10 tiny apartments on the second floor of the parish house for senior men facing homelessness? Choose as many as you like:

- Contribute funds
 - Volunteer to help the residents in some specific way (transportation, shopping, appointments)
 - Help with events for ATHFG and SPC (meals, activities)
 - Become acquainted with the residents in these apartments
 - I don't know anything about ATHFG
 - Other (Please specify)
-
-

20 Share any thoughts you have about other ministries that you would support and lead at St. Paul's such as supporting the LGBTQ community or supporting international efforts in Haiti or El Salvador.

21 **Fellowship.**
When I attend St. Paul's, I go to Coffee Hour Fellowship (choose the best answer)

- Never
- Occasionally
- Often
- Most Sundays

22 Fellowship

As we don't have a kitchen and the access to the ramp is closed during construction, we've been having Coffee Hour Fellowship in the front of the Nave. Please choose what you would prefer once construction is over and we have full use of the kitchen and parish hall.

- I prefer having Coffee Hour in the Hansen Dining Room
- I prefer having it return to the Brewster room
- I prefer staying in the front of the Nave
- I prefer a combination of locations
- It makes no difference where we have Coffee Hour

23 Fellowship

In the coming year I'm interested in helping host the following events and activities:
(choose as many as you like).

- Coffee Hour
- Monthly parish potluck Dinners
- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- Maundy Thursday Dinner
- Easter Vigil Reception
- Women of St. Paul's
- Receptions following Special Services and events

24 Fellowship

Have you ever hosted Coffee Hour?

- Yes, often
- Yes, occasionally
- Yes, once or twice
- No, I'm not interested, thanks
- Maybe, but I need to know more

25 Fellowship
What would be helpful to you when hosting Coffee Hour?

- Written Directions
- Working with an experienced host
- Suggestions for appropriate food and drinks to bring
- No help needed, but thanks
- I have no plans to be a Coffee Hour host

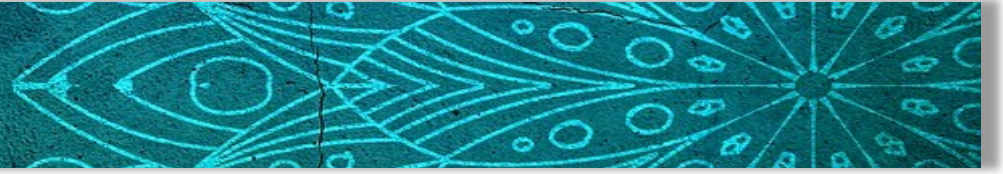
26 Fellowship
Would you attend Monthly Parish Potlucks?

- Yes, often
- Yes, occasionally
- Maybe, but I'd need to know more
- No thanks

27 Fellowship
We are always looking for people to join the Community Fellowship Committee. Would you be interested?

- Yes
- Maybe, but I need to know more
- No thanks

28 Fellowship. **Is there anything else you'd like to share or tell us about fellowship and hospitality at St. Paul's?**



29 Pastoral Care. During the past several months or years I have engaged in the following pastoral care activities: (choose any that are correct for you)

- Brought communion to a member.
- Given practical support (a meal, help with grocery shopping, etc.) to someone in need.
- Given someone a ride to church.
- Given someone a ride to or from a medical appointment or a hospital.
- Made a phone call or sent a text message to another member.
- Sent a birthday or anniversary card in a greeting card or email.
- Written a message of support in a greeting card or email.
- Visited a member in a nursing home, hospital or other care setting.
- None of the above
- Other (Please specify)

30 Pastoral Care. Use the space below to tell us anything else that might be helpful for us to know about pastoral care at St. Paul's.

31 Communications. Which of the following communication methods are most helpful to you? (Select up to five.)

- St. Paul's Website
- Weekly Email Newsletter (aka The Eblast)
- Facebook
- Posters
- Service Leaflets
- The Courier

32 Communications. Thinking about announcements made at the close of Sunday Worship, please indicate your preference by choosing one of the answers below.

- I think the time for announcements is well spent and is a good length of time.
- I would prefer that our time for announcements be shorter.
- I think it would be fine to have more time devoted to announcements.



- RACHAEL THOMAS 9/2**
- SANDY WILEY 9/2**
- JAMES MCCLOSKEY 9/5**
- BARRY PICKARD 9/6**
- ANITA WAGNER 9/11**
- HELEN REED FERGUSON 9/12**
- BARBARA BELL 9/15**
- JULIA FINE 9/18**
- WENDY HOBLYN JONES 9/19**
- LARRY ALMEIDA 9/20**
- BETSY BARKER 9/25**
- FLORIAN BRUNO 9/25**
- ELEANOR MAJOR 9/26**
- ROBERT WAGNER 9/26**
- TIM CASSAVAW 9/27**
- KERSTIN JOHNSON 9/28**

September Anniversaries



- LIZ & RICHARD HANDLER**
SEPTEMBER 3
- KATHY HUM & PETER EARLE**
SEPTEMBER 3
- SANDY & NEWT WILEY**
SEPTEMBER 10
- MARY & BARRY PICKARD**
SEPTEMBER 15
- PERRY & DOUG MOUNCEY**
SEPTEMBER 16
- LARRY & SUSAN ALMEIDA**
SEPTEMBER 24
- TIFFANY MINER & TIM SIMMONS**
SEPTEMBER 30



SEPTEMBER CALENDAR



Sunday, September 1, 9:30 am, Worship – In Person & Live Stream Single Service
Monday, September 2, Labor Day Holiday—Offices Closed
Tuesday, September 3, 1:00 pm, Open Doors Steering Committee –Montgomery Zoom
Wednesday, September 4, 4:30 pm, Contemplative Prayer—Private Zoom Channel
Thursday, September 5, 7:00 pm, Choir Rehearsal
Friday, September 6, Time TBA—Wedding Rehearsal
Saturday, September 7, 2:00 pm, —Wedding of Demetrio Munoz and Florian Bruno

Sunday, September 8, 8:00 am, Worship – In Person
Sunday, September 8, 10:00 am, Worship – Live Stream & In Person
Monday, September 9, 12:00 pm, Bible Study in the Brewster Room
Monday, September 9, 3:30 pm, Finance Meeting—Montgomery Zoom
Tuesday, September 10, 5:00 pm, Vestry Meeting—Brewster Room
Wednesday, September 11, 4:30 pm, Contemplative Prayer—Private Zoom Channel
Thursday, September 12, 7:00 pm, Choir Rehearsal —Chase Music Room

Sunday, September 15, 8:00 am, Worship – In Person
Sunday, September 15, 10:00 am, Worship – Live Stream & In Person
Monday, September 16, 12:00 pm, Bible Study in the Brewster Room
Tuesday, September 17, 1:00 pm, OD Project Management Mtg—Brewster Room
Tuesday, September 17, 7:30 pm, Feminist Theology—Montgomery Zoom
Wednesday, September 18, 4:30 pm, Contemplative Prayer—Private Zoom Channel
Thursday, September 19, 7:00 pm, Choir Rehearsal —Chase Music Room
Saturday, September 21, 10:00 am, Open Pantry Drop Off at the East Fayette St Door

Sunday, September 22, 8:00 am, Worship – In Person
Sunday, September 22, 10:00 am, Worship – Live Stream & In Person
Monday, September 23, 12:00 pm, Bible Study in the Brewster Room
Tuesday, September 24, 5:00 pm, Buildings & Grounds—Montgomery Zoom
Wednesday, September 25, 4:30 pm, Contemplative Prayer—Private Zoom Channel
Thursday, September 26, 7:00 pm, Choir Rehearsal —Chase Music Room

Sunday, September 29, 8:00 am, Worship – In Person
Sunday, September 29, 10:00 am, Worship – Live Stream & In Person
Monday, September 30, 12:00 pm, Bible Study in the Brewster Room

NOTE: Godly Play Children's Sunday School will resume after the new carpet is installed in the Chapel. Date to be announced.

Always check
St. Paul's website
for the most up to
date calendar.
www.stpaulsyr.org

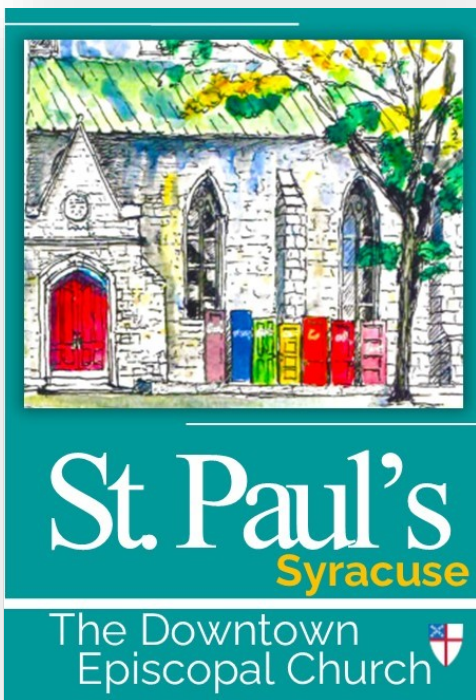
*Have we missed your birthday or anniversary?
Please let us know so we can celebrate with you.*

The September Courier will be devoted entirely to a special all parish survey.



The next regular Courier will be out
October 1st. The deadline will be
Sunday, September 22.

Newsletter



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