

St. Paul's
Syracuse

The Downtown
Episcopal Church

THE COURIER

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

December 2024



Our wonderful choir, directed by our very talented and dedicated organist and choirmaster, Jim Potts. We are looking forward to their upcoming holiday performances.



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

WWW.STPAULSYR.ORG

Advent: *We Return*

by Fr. Philip

*Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.*

*Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.
Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while the Lord is near.*
Isaiah 55:2-3 and 6

For each one of us, there are times of grief and times of resurrection, there are times of new growth and times of return. The calendar of the church year offers seasons for us to be immersed in these fundamental spiritual movements: returning to God, welcoming God's new work in our lives, confessing mistakes, acknowledging grief, and receiving the gift of God's forgiveness and love.

Of all the seasons, Advent is the season I look forward to the most. I hunger for a season when our focus is on returning to God.

During Advent we are encouraged to take on a few simple practices:

- Turning off some of the distractions, some of the noise, some of the bright lights.
- Lighting a candle and creating a space for listening and reflection.
- Taking a little extra time for spiritual practices that sustain you, such as prayer, reading, music, or time in nature.
- Giving a little less attention to our doing, and a little more attention to our being: being God's beloved children, being created in the image of God, being forgiven for mistakes we have made.

The season of Advent begins on Sunday, December 1st this year. Here are some things you might notice about Advent at St. Paul's:

- ◆ We take a break from part of our normal schedule of meetings.
- ◆ Purple is our color for the season. Purple is the color of royalty, traditionally worn by queens and kings.
- ◆ The altar frontal and other colorful elements are purple because we are in a season of preparing for the birth of a child who is our king.
- ◆ We hold our seasonal Lessons & Carols service on the first Sunday of Advent, December 1st. This is different from a Christmas Lessons & Carols service; it's a time to 'shift our gears' down to a slower, more reflective pace.



Our self-published 'Little Book of Advent Prayers' is available for you. It includes short readings and questions for reflections for each day of the season. You can find copies in the entry area of the church. With prayers for rest, health, and wholeness for you in this season of return,

Philip +

Dear people of St. Paul's,

Each day I begin my prayers with this sentence: "You are God; I am dust." Lately, I've been feeling more like dust than usual. On October 9th I experienced an injury to my back, and it's taking a very long time to heal.

Some of you may know that on October 5th we received the tragic news of the death of our dear friend, the Rev. John Rohde. During the week that followed, as Jim and I worked through the preparations and extra work of that time, I spent a little bit too much time in my chair, crouched over my desk. In the process I injured my back.

Since October 9th I have taken steps to help my back heal, and I have made some progress towards this goal. One of the difficulties for me is that I am not able to sit for long periods of time, and standing for many hours a day has brought additional challenges.

I ask for your patience as I try to recover. My inability to sit for long periods makes it difficult for me to drive and to do some aspects of my work, such as pastoral care visits. I am making some adjustments to my work schedule so that I am able to take time for exercises and stretches I've been given. You may notice days when I am wearing stretchy yoga pants at work; that's so I can take a few minutes on the soft carpeting of the Hadley Chapel, stretching out my back. Please keep me in your prayers.

-Father Philip

New Members Classes are Coming in 2025

by Fr. Philip

Who is a member of St. Paul's? Practically speaking, I begin to consider you to be some sort of member of the congregation after I have seen you participating in worship 3-4 times. But you can make it official by participating in our New Member Class, usually offered about once a year. These three classes are intended to provide you with a comprehensive introduction to St. Paul's. There are no materials to study or tests to pass. (You'll find out the reason for this in the class!) In these three sessions we cover almost everything you might want to know about the ways we do things at St. Paul's.

Here is an outline of our sessions:

Session 1: How We Arrived at this Place; A Brief History of the Episcopal Church

Session 2: What We Believe; Episcopal Approaches to Scripture and Theology and Approaches to Scripture

Session 3: The Way Things Work at St. Paul's

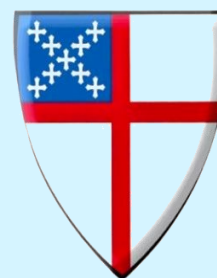
Please contact me at revmajor@stpaulsyr.org or talk to me at St. Paul's if you are interested in participating.

What: A series of three 60 minute classes.

Where: The Brewster Room

When: Sundays at 11:30 a.m. January 5, 12 and 19.

Who: New or experienced, everyone is invited.



Christmas Services at St. Paul's

The Downtown Episcopal Church

 **Sunday, December 1st Advent Lessons & Carols 4:00 p.m.**

 **Tuesday, December 24th 4:00 p.m.
Family Christmas Service**

 **Tuesday, December 24th 9:00 p.m.
Music of the Season followed by our
Christmas Choral Service**

 **Wednesday, December 25th 10:00 a.m.
Christmas Day Service**

 **Sunday, December 29th Single Service at 9:30 a.m.**



220 E. Fayette St. Syracuse

Building the New Closet



Our new first-floor storage room now has walls, a level floor, lights, and electrical outlets thanks to David Webb, Bob Wagner, Dean Swenson, Tim Schmidt, Joe Russo, Nolan Palmsa, Andrew Lunetta, and Jim Doyle. Our work on the storage room will resume in February. Please contact Fr. Philip if you might be interested in helping with finishing drywall, building shelves, painting, or installing trim.



Open Doors Construction Update

by Betsy Elkins

If you are around the church during the week, you will see and hear the noise of construction. And that is music to our ears to know that progress is happening in many areas:

- The opening for the new west entrance from the parking lot has been cut and pillars to hold the portico over the entrance have been constructed. (Look for another video hosted by Doug Mouncey describing this work on our website)
- The roofing work over the chapel area is now underway and we anticipate all the roofing work (which included some unexpected abatement work) to be completed before serious winter sets in. While this work is being done you may not enter via the chapel door.
- The design plans for a new “state of the art” fire alarm and security systems have been reviewed by our architect and will be sent to the city soon for permitting
- Work on the third-floor apartments is well underway.
- The elevator parts have arrived and the elevator will be installed in the coming weeks.

We are offering tours of the construction areas after services on Sunday once a month. If this doesn't work for you ask Betsy or Doug for a tour at another time.



Eleventh Construction Update Video is Online



The eleventh video in our series of ongoing progress reports of the Open Doors project is on our website.

Doug Mouncey shows the progress on the new exterior door from the parking lot into the Sargent Foyer.

Go to our website

www.stpaulsyr.org

scroll down and click on the box that says “Open Doors Project Videos”



A Tiny Home for Good Update

by Betsy Elkins



The task force of representatives from SPC and ATHFG has resumed meetings to continue its work on the partnership. The task force is generating final edits for the lease agreement between SPC and ATHFG before it is sent to the NYS Attorney General's office and to the Standing Committee of the Diocese. The Vestry of St. Paul's will also approve the lease before it is signed. The task force is also reviewing some "Rules and Regulations" and some "partnership mechanics" that will be attached to a formal lease agreement. The task force is working to ensure that expectations of both groups are understood and that the partnership functions smoothly.

Representatives for St. Paul's on this task force are David Morgan, Doug Mouncey, Philip Major, Amy Mangram, and Betsy Elkins. This group has been meeting on and off for over 2 years and the atmosphere continues to be collegial and cooperative. The benefits for St Paul's and A Tiny Home for Good remain strong and clear.

ATHFG has received a commitment for funding from the Dormitory Authority of NYS. Once the lease is signed ATHFG may begin demolition work on the second floor of the parish house as St. Paul's wraps up the Open Doors project by mid-2025.

A First Look at St. Paul's 2024 Survey

by Fr. Philip

In September and October sixty-two of our members completed a 32-question survey about all aspects of our parish life, including worship, mission & service, pastoral care, fellowship, and formation activities. St. Paul's Executive Ministry Team spent 90 minutes making an initial review of the results of the survey at the beginning of November. We expect it will take several hours of additional work to read, digest, and summarize the results of the data for all six sections of the survey. We plan to present reports about the various sections of the survey beginning with the February *Courier*.

For the time being, it might be helpful for you to know the kinds of information we are seeing in the data.



Here are examples from three different parts of the survey: worship, fellowship, and mission & service:

Worship: We asked a question about what portion of the hymns are familiar to you. 33% of respondents indicated they were familiar with half, or less than half, of the hymns sung during Sunday worship. 67% of respondents indicated they were familiar with most or all of the hymns.

Fellowship: We asked a question about our members' preferred location for after-church fellowship ('Coffee Hour') following the conclusion of construction. 69% of respondents indicated they would prefer to hold Coffee Hour in the Brewster Room or Hansen Dining Room. 10% preferred holding Coffee Hour in the Nave. 20% were open to a variety of locations.

Mission & Service: We asked a question about the variety of ways members support *The Open Pantry*. 68% of respondents indicated that they bring food to St. Paul's to help stock *The Open Pantry*. Thanks to everyone who took the time to complete St. Paul's 2024 Survey!

Nominations for Vestry

Willson Cummer

My wife, Michelle, and I moved to Fayetteville in 2001, to a home a block from Green Lakes. We spend almost every day running, biking or hiking the trails. I work as a landscape photographer, with a studio at the Delavan Studios. Michelle is a reporter for The Post-Standard.

I came to St. Paul's at Easter in 2022 for the excellent music and singing. I stayed and soon got to know wonderful people. I have enjoyed lecturing, ushering, watering the garden and refilling the Open Pantry.

As a member of the vestry I hope to put to use a couple of skills I've developed: I spent 10 years as a volunteer answering the local crisis hotline run by Contact. I learned to listen responsively, helping people find their own solutions to challenges.

I also spent six years as a newspaper reporter. I value simplicity and clarity in communications.



Tim Simmons

Tim wasn't able to provide his bio for this issue. We will try to catch up with Tim soon and include it in an upcoming Eblast.



2025 Giving Envelopes Are Here

In the back of the sanctuary, you'll find 2025 giving envelopes. Please help yourself to a box. We no longer use ID numbers, so you can take any box you'd like. It's not necessary to use the envelopes, they are for your convenience.

Joe Russo

Joe Russo has been a resident of the Syracuse area for the past 24 years. It is here that he raised his two daughters. Now retired, for 40 years he worked in publishing, banking and finance, transportation and the utility industry as a corporate executive and a consultant.

He has served on various church and not-for-profit boards, including the Samaritan Center, as well as a national task force on immigration and refugees. He has served as a lay preacher, a confirmation teacher and a lector. He would bring to the Vestry his accumulated experience coupled with an abiding faith in God, a belief in the redeeming power of God's love, and a commitment to sharing that love in service to the people of St. Paul's and the community.



Nominations for Junior Warden

Ieva Doyle

When I first started attending St. Paul's Church some 14 years ago, I was immediately drawn into the caring community of God's faithful people who worship together and carry out God's call for us to love God and neighbor.

Over the years, I've been involved with Worship Ministry, Pastoral Care, Usher Ministry, Community Fellowship, Feminist Theology, St. Paul's Readers and Open Doors. I've also had the pleasure of getting to know many of you through First Friday dinners and various other church ministries and events, through which I continue to learn from, be thankful for and amazed at my fellow St. Paul's faith travelers.

It has been my privilege to serve God alongside you here in this sacred place. I feel humbled to be asked to serve as Warden and pray that with God's help, we can work together to continue to discern ways we can serve God and our neighbors.



Senior Warden's Report

by Marion Greenhalgh, Senior Warden

You've heard our Junior Warden, Joe Moorman, making announcements after the Sunday service asking for candidates interested in running for Vestry or Warden, to be nominated at our annual meeting coming up at the end of January. But, do you know what the Vestry duties are, or why a Warden is different from a Vestry member? Let me see if I can help.



Our annual meeting is required by our By-Laws, and the main purpose is to hold elections for warden and vestry members. The Rector is the presiding officer of the meeting, unless otherwise delegated. It is the only time in any given year that all church members gather formally to do business.

The Rector, two Wardens and nine members of the Vestry comprise the Vestry and act in the capacity of trustees for the parish. The Vestry has custody and control of all of the property and revenue of our parish, including the endowment. The Rector, Philip, is the Presiding Officer of the Vestry or, if the Rector is absent, the Senior Warden or, in the absence of the Senior Warden, the Junior Warden shall preside.



The Vestry has the power to fill vacancies occurring in the office of Warden or a member of the Vestry by death, resignation (or otherwise than by expiration of term), or in the event that that person becomes incapacitated and unable to act. This appointment(s)

continues until the next annual meeting. The Vestry elects a Treasurer and a Clerk whose term of office is one year, renewable. Such officers need not be members of the Vestry but must be members of the parish.

Annual performance reviews of the work we do, as a church and as individuals, are necessary to determine the health of the parish, and will be done with a spirit of collective (mutual) responsibility for the diverse ministries of the church, and to a willingness to openly and honestly assess where our strengths are and where we can do better. Here are the three kinds of performance reviews to be conducted:

A) Performance Review of St. Paul's Church: The Rector, in consultation with the wardens, is responsible for an annual review of selected church programs, directions, ministries, missions, and so on. Minimally to include the Vestry, this review seeks to celebrate our successes and build on them, and to identify our weaknesses and counter them. In a manner to be decided, the group determines the questions to be addressed, the methods by which the answers will be sought, and the mechanisms for the implementation. The importance of completing parish surveys!

B) Paid Staff Performance Review: Calling on others whose confidential input may be useful, the Rector annually conducts a performance review of the individual paid staff persons.

C) Rector Performance Review: Annually, the wardens will conduct a performance review of selected elements of the Rector's ministry –using as necessary any Vestry-approved job description and letter of agreement which might help establish the church's expectations for that ministry.

St. Paul's has an additional layer of leadership, beyond our Vestry, called the Executive Ministry Team. The Executive Ministry Team (EMT) membership is comprised of the following members: the Rector, the senior and junior wardens, the Treasurer, the leader of the Pastoral Care Team, and the conveners of the four ministry teams: Worship, Christian Formation, Community/Fellowship, and Mission & Service teams.

The EMT shall:

- 1) provide a degree of oversight and evaluation of all programs and Processes,
- 2) coordinate the efforts of the several teams as needed,
- 3) initiate programs and processes that do not easily fall to any one of the other teams, and
- 4) engage in strategic planning on a church-wide basis. All other groups/committees (e.g. Altar Guild, Office Volunteers, Potluck Fridays) have been listed as associated with one or another of the teams described above – a linkage of content and function rather than organization and structure.

I hope this helps answer any questions you may have. If not, please feel free to talk to me, Philip or Joe.

Junior Warden's Report

by Joe Moorman, Junior Warden

Do you consider going to church an artistic experience? Think about it. You enter a graceful and elegant building and look at the work of stained glass artisans and our own floral arrangers. Beautiful music is played on the organ and sung by the choir - music written through the ages to the greater glory of God - and the congregation joins in singing hymns that can be comfortingly familiar or new and enlightening. It all enhances the spiritual aspects of worshipping at St. Paul's.



The worship experience at St. Paul's is good for the soul and it may be good for the body also. A 2019 study published in the British Medical Journal found that older adults who frequently engaged with the arts had a 31% lower risk of dying early. This association remained even after adjusting for factors like age, health, and wealth. Some examples of arts activities include: attending museums, art galleries, or exhibitions, going to the theater, attending concerts or opera, and creative writing, such as poetry. It's even been suggested by University College London researchers that just one art experience per month can extend your life by 10 years.



If you consider 'art' as anything that engages your senses, then coming to St. Paul's for a Sunday service certainly qualifies as art. Arts engagement can help people feel a greater sense of purpose in life, and, if you think about it, that is the feeling that many of us have when we leave St. Paul's after coffee hour. When I started writing the Junior Warden's Report for *The Courier* I didn't think I'd be giving out health tips, but I've learned that a healthy spiritual life can lead to a healthier physical one.

*Do you not know that your body
is a temple of the Holy Spirit?*
1 Corinthians 6:19

We need to learn and practice ways of prayer that help us reconnect with God, and with the love and grace God intends for us. This year's Advent Retreat is about learning a way of praying that engages body, mind and spirit. It's called Prayer of Heart and Body.

ADVENT RETREAT: PRAYER OF HEART AND BODY

OFFERED BY THE REV. PHILIP MAJOR
AND JANE SCHMITT

DETAILS

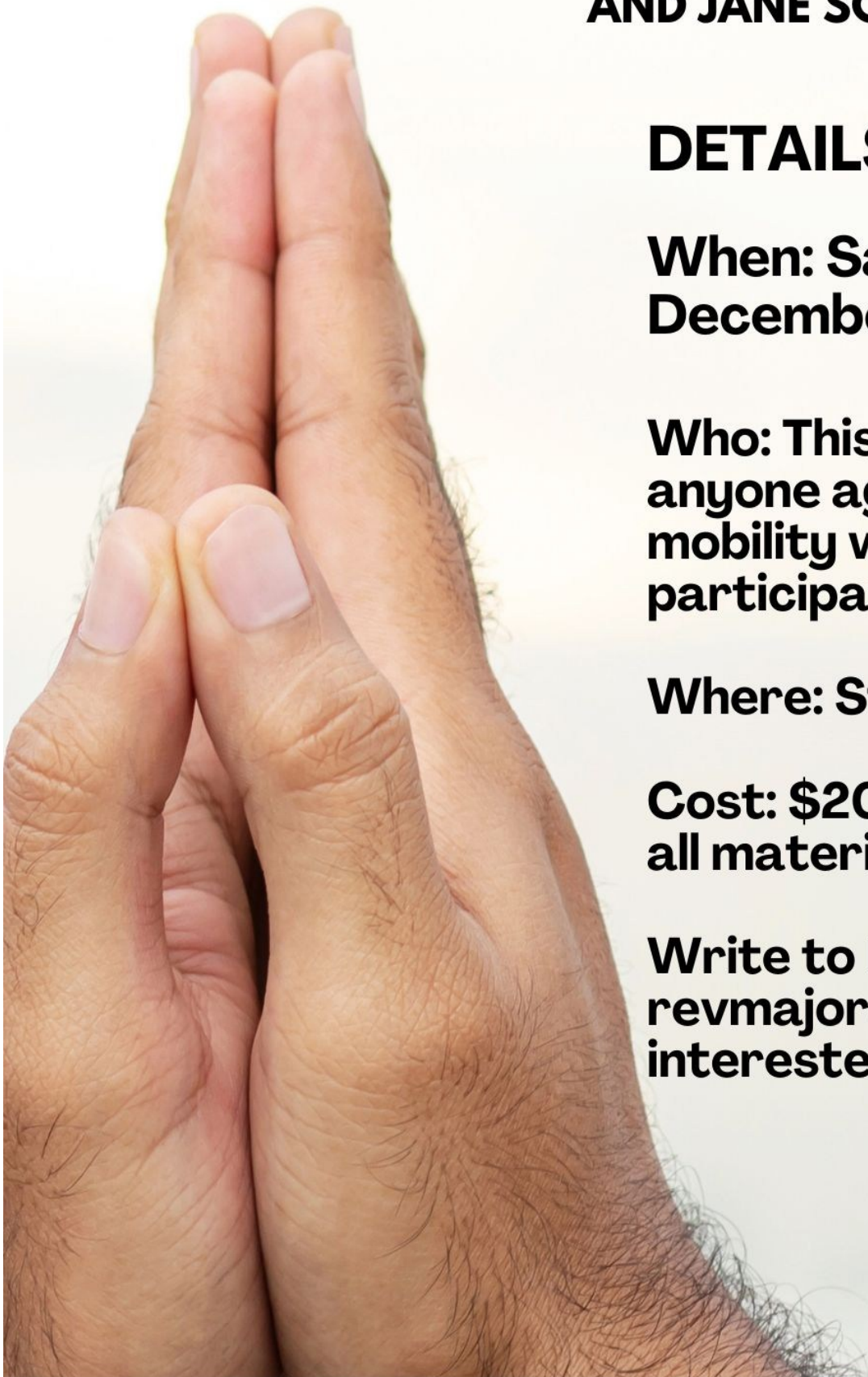
**When: Saturday,
December 7th, Noon-5 p.m.**

**Who: This retreat is open to
anyone age 16 or older. Limited
mobility will not limit your
participation.**

Where: St. Paul's.

**Cost: \$20 includes a light lunch and
all materials.**

**Write to Fr. Philip at
revmajor@stpaulsyr.org if you are
interested in learning more.**



Common Threads

by Georgette Schmidt

Common Threads will be meeting at 7:00 on Monday, December 9th at 309 Scottholm Boulevard, Syracuse.

All are invited to join this time of fellowship where we mend, knit, sew, crochet etc. For more information or if you need a ride please contact Georgette Schmidt at gschmidt@twcny.rr.com.

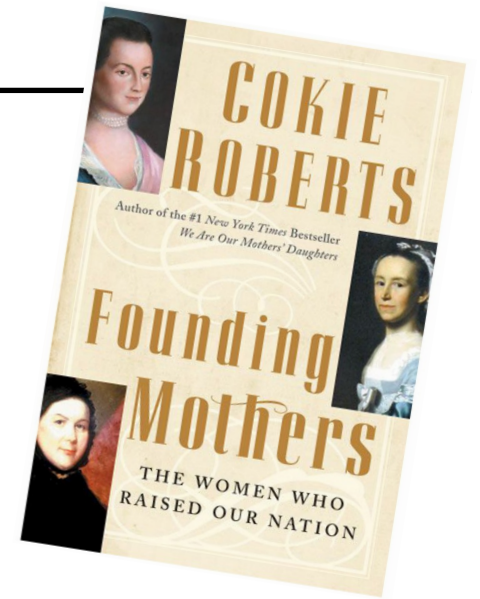


Feminist Theology

by Laurie Sanderson

Feminist Theology will meet on Wednesday, December 18 and again in January on the 15th. For December we will continue discussing *Founding Mothers, The Women Who Raised Our Nation* by Cokie Roberts, a powerful book!

Please contact Laurie Sanderson if you are interested.



Christmas Flower Memorials

If you would like your loved ones listed in our Christmas Flower Memorials, please send the names to Judy by **Tuesday, December 10th.**
Email: offices@stpaulsyr.org

When sending in your donation for the flowers, please write 'Christmas Flower Memorials' in the memo line.

CHRISTMAS TREE CUTTING PARTY



**Sunday, December 8
Noon to 2 p.m.**

Who: Everyone is invited.

What: It's a Christmas Tree cutting party!

Where: Grace Christmas Tree Farm - it's beautiful!

When: December 8th, noon-2 p.m.

Transportation: You don't have to have a car: we'll be carpooling from St. Pauls

Cost: \$40-\$80 (small-extremely large trees)
RSVP by December 5th to offices@stpaulsyr.org

YMCA Ministry

by Debbie Bogan, Parish Liaison for the YMCA Ministry



Dear People of St. Paul's,

St. Paul's has had a good relationship with the senior residents of the Downtown YMCA since this ministry was started by Deacon Chuck Stewart in 2015.

We host socials at the Y for the senior residents and serve food and beverages 2-4 times a year. We also deliver plants and greeting cards to the senior residents at Easter and Christmas.

The YMCA ministry depends on parishioner contributions. Please consider a small donation to St. Paul's for the Y ministry. Any amount will be helpful to this very important outreach program. Thank you. Based on the numerous cards and verbal expressions of thanks that we receive, we know that our relationship with these individuals is extremely important to them.

Cider and Donuts Social for the Seniors at the YMCA

by Debbie Bogan, Parish Liaison for the YMCA Ministry



It was a pleasant sunny morning October 23, 2024. Seven St. Paul's YMCA ministry volunteers headed for the senior residence at the Downtown YMCA. The senior residents and YMCA residence office staff, Wil and Cheryl greeted us with warm smiles. We enjoyed good conversations, some laughs and the company of our downtown neighbor friends. Many thanks to Chet W., DJ Igelsrud, Harry Brown, Jeanne Avery, Ruth Brown and Sophie Harris for hosting this social. A special thank you to DJ for capturing some great pictures of this fine event. A huge thanks to Barry Pickard and Ruth Brown for their financial support of the Y ministry.

We look forward to a Christmas flowers and cards delivery to the seniors on Wednesday December 18 at 11:00 a.m. If you would like to join in the fun, and spread some Christmas cheer, please contact Debbie Bogan. Thank you.

Dear Debbie, Chet, Ruth, Hal III, Sophie, D.J., Jeanne,
Thank you for your kindness and generosity in coming with Cider and donuts for a social at the YMC Senior Community Room. It was especially pleasant to talk with you and enjoy the delicious refreshments with you. You are all so giving; Thank you for your coming and for what you gave. I appreciate it very much.
Sincerely,
Christine



Pastoral Care

by Kira Dirghalli

The last pastoral care meeting for 2024 happened on November 3rd, after the 10 o'clock service. A verbal invitation was offered during announcements and it was with great joy and thankfulness that I saw several new people interested in joining our group. I am certain God was equally pleased! Fr. Philip asked us to name how people at St. Paul's provide pastoral care to our members.

We identified 24 ways. I have placed them into groups as follows:

- Contacts with people: Sunday services; streaming; coffee hour; serving on the altar; ushers; choir; altar guild; bulletin; weekly Eblast; Courier
- Visiting people: home visits; nursing facilities; rides to appointments and luncheons; phone calls; text messages; emails;
- Outreach: birthday cards and anniversary as well as get-well cards; activities with the Y; food pantry; Haiti mission; Samaritan Center volunteers;
- Children's Ministry with in-class lessons and joining the church service
- Extra prayer time during communion; Prayers for the People especially those on our urgent prayer list

Much of the caring for each other and others in our community, happens not only organized but often informally. It comes from members who want to help, stay connected, and treasure the closeness we have with God and each other.

New Business: Fr. Philip posted these questions in the bulletin for Sunday, November 3rd: What is the reason we have a prayer list at the back of the leaflet? Who are the people on this list? What should I do to add a name to the list?" Our pastoral care team maintains two prayer lists. The prayer list at the back of the leaflet is our "Urgent Prayer List". The people on this list have a need that might

be described as urgent; they have been recently diagnosed with a life-threatening illness, a serious injury or disability, or have been incarcerated or close to the end of life. This list also plays an important function in helping our congregation know when one of our active members is in special need of prayer. One of Philip's difficult decisions as priest of St. Paul's, is to discern when a person's medical condition falls under the category of 'urgent'. Shortening this 'urgent list' also gives us, in the pew, time to pray for people in our own lives to pray for them.

We have a second list, which we call our 'Continuing Prayer List'. The Continuing Prayer List includes people who have chronic or long-term conditions that affect their health and well-being. That list is not published but I will try to send it to our team members monthly.

There is a proposed timeline for staying on the Urgent Prayer List. The timing of that decision has not been made. If you know of someone you would like to have included on our Urgent Prayer List, please contact me, Kira Dirghalli, chair of our pastoral care team, or Fr. Philip.

A quote from James 3:17-18: "But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace."



Going Deeper

by Fr. Philip and Jeanne Avery, convener of the Formation Ministry Team

A few weeks ago, St. Paul's Formation Ministry Team met to discuss our Christian Formation activities for children and adults. We chose a theme for the coming year: 'Going Deeper'. As a community of God's people, we want to encourage each other to go deeper in the activities that bring us strength, courage, and wisdom.

For the coming year, we are planning a variety of opportunities for our members to go a bit deeper in their spiritual practices and understanding, including:

- Contemplative Prayer meets each Wednesday at 4:30 via Zoom. In the coming months, these meetings will include readings from Meister Eckhart (14th century theologian). Please contact Sue Wright and see p. 17 for more information.
- This year's Advent Retreat will be held Saturday, December 7th from 12-5 p.m. Prayer of Heart and Body integrates the use of spiritual and physical activities to reinforce one another. Please contact Fr. Philip and see p. 12 for more information.
- Bible Study continues to meet Mondays at noon in the Brewster Room. In June of 2025 a series of Sunday after worship sessions will be offered to go deeper in understanding the Gospel of Luke.
- Godly Play is offered for our children most Sundays during the school year in the Hadley Chapel. Our children and teachers are going deeper in their Godly Play lessons with new resources and support from a master teacher.
- Feminist Theology meets the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom. For more than 25 years the feminist theologians of St. Paul's have been meeting to share their thoughts and discuss books written by women. This month the Feminist Theology group is reading 'Founding Mothers' by Cokie Roberts. Please contact Laurie Sanderson for more information. Also see page 13 of this Courier.
- SPC Readers meets on Zoom, engaging a range of books and topics at a deeper level. Offerings for 2025 include 'The Last Week' by Marcus Borg. Please contact Dick Pilgrim for more information.
- Adult Education Forums are held more frequently when St. Paul's is not in the middle of a major construction project! You are invited to go deeper in your understanding and connection to the people of Haiti by attending an Adult Education Forum on Sunday, February 2, following 10 a.m. worship. See p. 17 for more information.



Finally, we want to encourage our members to consider the resources available at the Spiritual Renewal Center on Lancaster Street in Syracuse. Along with retreats, classes, and spiritual direction, the Center has an extensive library of books to help you go deeper in your spiritual practices. You can learn more about the Spiritual Renewal Center at www.spiritualrenewalcenter.com.

Going Deeper into Haiti..

by Georgette Schmidt

You are invited to go deeper into your understanding of Haiti by attending an adult education forum given by the Haiti Education Mission Inc. on Sunday, February 2nd at 11:30 in the Brewster room.



Two of the nine board Members of the Haiti Education Mission Inc. will give background information on their partnership with the community of Paulette, Haiti. You have already heard about the gang violence and extreme poverty in Haiti. Now, please come to the adult formation presentation and let us share some of the very good news about what is also happening in Haiti.

The Haiti Education Mission began in 2009 and has been involved in Haiti for the past 15 years. Come, listen, ask questions and see how you can connect with Haiti. Four of our members are proficient in French and we communicate with our Haitian partners on a weekly basis by email. The Haiti Education Mission has made seven trips to Haiti and will be delighted to share their knowledge and experience with you.

Going Deeper with Contemplative Practice

by Sue Wright

Contemplative Practice deepens our relationship with God by gradually removing the obstacles to union. The Christian tradition has a long tradition of contemplative meditation charted by the mystics and the teachers of the church, who left us detailed accounts of their own experiences and the wisdom they gained. Quite frequently we compare Christian approaches with Eastern or non-Christian traditions.

Wednesdays 4:30-5:20 PM via Zoom .

Annual Report Deadline

The deadline for submissions for the annual report is midnight, Sunday, December 22.

Please email articles to Judy at jmcadoo@stpaulsyr.org



Children's Ministry, Godly Play, and Life in the Chapel

by Jeanne Avery

We are delighted with the addition of Kira Lane to the Chapel staff. The children love her and she comes with the ability to sit on the floor and stand up in one motion!!!

We have worked with the tabernacle that the people built after worshipping for many years in the tent. They moved it to various locations for worship. We have seen an original picture of the first St. Paul's built 200 years ago. Our vision of the new St. Paul's was built out of blocks, will open in the year 3000. Jacob said "I will be 70 years old".

The Chapel children have not experienced the church without construction. When their 'block' church met with destruction and crashed, they didn't cry—oh well. The pile of blocks have been put away until January when they will start again.

The 4th Annual Advent Craft Special for the children will be Sunday, December 8 from 9:50 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in the Chapel.

All children, up to 11 years old are welcome. If the child has not been with us this year, please come a few minutes early. You are welcome to stay with the child.

Call Jeanne Avery if you have any questions—315 468-4253.

Each Sunday during Advent, we will be focusing on the meaning of Advent for that Sunday.

The family Christmas service is at 4:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve. The Creche is set while reading the Christmas story, with figurines brought down the aisle by children with a parent tagging along. We sing one verse of many hymns and also have communion.

Nursery News

by Barbara Bell

Our youngest Sunday School participants are enjoying the Nursery as well as the lessons with the "big kids"!

Sophia Glavin, 3, also plays Mommy with the baby dolls and her Barbie who visits the classroom. She loves to color, play in the sand box, build with the wooden blocks and have "tea" with the miniature chalice and platen.

Vivian Miner-Simmons, 1 1/2, is never still if she can walk or run to be with the big kids. Preferably without her shoes!

And our newest nursery student is Anna Hayden, 1, who is not always happy about being away from Mommy and Daddy, but enjoys the patient attention of Kira Lane and also prefers the no-shoes look. She moves very fast by crawling and running, now that she knows how.

Life is a blessed adventure for all our Nursery children!



Ellie Major & Kira Lane

Donor Wall Task Force

by Catherine Gerard

When I consider the Open Doors Campaign, I continue to be amazed by the generosity of so many people- near and far, members and allies- who have given to our building project. The Donor Wall Task Force is charged with honoring all contributors by commissioning an installation that will include every name in randomized order. Our members, Willson Cummer, Marion Greenhaugh, Philip Major, Bob Wagner, Cathy Wolff, and me, are busy finding examples of work we like and contacting local artists for ideas. (If you have thoughts, contact any of us.) Our goal is to present final options with proposals to the Vestry in June.

Father Philip will head a special fundraising campaign, just for the donor installation, from June-August. Right now, Cathy Wolff is contacting all who contributed with a letter requesting how they would like their names to appear. If you have not responded to her, please do. Also, if you have not yet given to Open Doors, your gift is always welcome and appreciated!!



The Syracuse
Orchestra Presents

A ROMANTIC AFTERNOON

Explore Romantic music with The Syracuse Orchestra! We'll feature Noemi Miloradovic and Spencer Phillips playing Bottesini's Concerto for Violin and Double Bass, and the Orchestra will perform Symphony No. 1 by Mayer and Pelléas et Mélisande by Fauré.

The Syracuse Orchestra will be performing at
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
220 E. Fayette St.
Downtown Syracuse
Sunday, January 12
3:00 pm
Tickets available at the door or online:
www.syracuseorchestra.org



The Second in
the Casual
Concert Series



The Open Pantry

by Jim

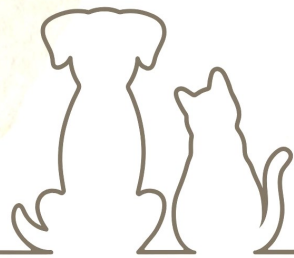
Thank you for donating nonperishable food items to The Open Pantry! St. Paul's is a vital source of food for our hungry downtown neighbors. We provide nutrition to more than 9 households every day! In recognition of our ministry to our hungry downtown neighbors, The Open Pantry recently received a \$1,000 Grant for food items for the pantry. In addition, almost two of our neighbors place items in The Open Pantry every day. **WE CAN DO THIS TOGETHER!**

WHAT is needed most is single portion cans of "heat and serve" meals like Chef-Boyardee, Chili, thick soups, Macaroni & Beef, Macaroni & Cheese, Spaghetti-O's, etc. These items are the "most requested" by our clients. So, there's no need to buy large, bulk portions.

We can distribute donated hats, gloves and scarves through The Open Pantry. At present, we have no means to distribute other donated clothing items. If you have other clothing that you wish to donate, the Rescue Mission is an excellent choice.

Thank you again for Serving Christ in our downtown neighbor through The Open Pantry,

Blessing of the Animals



Be Safe Online—New and Old Scams to be Aware Of

By Judy McAdoo-Pelton

Sadly, there are people that don't have good intentions and it's important keep yourself and your family safe. Some new scams have come up we wanted you to be aware of.

1. Church Directory: Scammers are trying to get ahold of our church directory. They pose as new parishioners that have been coming to St. Paul's and want to get our directory password for the website. Please do not give anyone you don't know personally as someone from St. Paul's, our directory or password for our online directory.
2. Free Piano: There is an email that goes around to churches, schools and individuals. In this email, it claims that 'her husband' has died and she wants to donate the piano to a church or school to honor her husband. Sadly, this is a scam and do not correspond with these people.
3. Doc-U-Sign: If you receive an email regarding a 'Doc U Sign:' do not open or click on anything unless it's from someone you know and trust and you are expecting it.
4. Word Document: Be very careful if you receive an email or text from someone wanting you to distribute a Word document. We had one a couple of weeks ago saying a prayer list was attached and to please forward it to everyone on our list. Do not open or forward. The Word document can be a trojan horse that wants to put a virus on your computer, destroying it.
5. You may have seen the texts from what looks like UPS or the postal service that says 'your order is being delayed and to please click on this link to correct it. Do not click on any links like these. Again, these are scams
6. If you get a mysterious text from someone you don't know saying something like "I'll meet you for lunch at noon" or "What are you doing this weekend?", do not text them back. This too is a scam. I received another one this weekend asking me if I want to play a round of golf in San Francisco. When people respond, even to say, 'you have the wrong number', the scammer will begin a conversation being very friendly, apologizing and try to get the victim to tell them details about their life. This scam has led to people losing money or worse. Be safe out there.
7. Facebook Illegal content: This can happen to an organization, company or individual. You receive a notice that you are posting illegal content on Facebook and that you must click on a link to dispute it or your account will be reported and closed. Do not click on any links like this. Again, this is a scam. The church received another one last week and it was very convincing. One sure fire way to tell it's not from META—Facebook, is to look at the email address it's coming from. In this instance, it wasn't Meta, but from a scammer named Kaylani.

Scam

Dear St. Paul's Syracuse, The Downtown Episcopal Church

We have reviewed your ad content and found some violations that are not in line with the platform's advertising policies. To maintain the quality and transparency of the platform, we ask that you address the following issues.

Identified issues:

Duplicate or inspired content from other brands:

Your ad may confuse viewers because it has design elements similar to existing brands.

Use of illegal materials: Some content in the ad (images, videos, or text) may not be authorized for use.

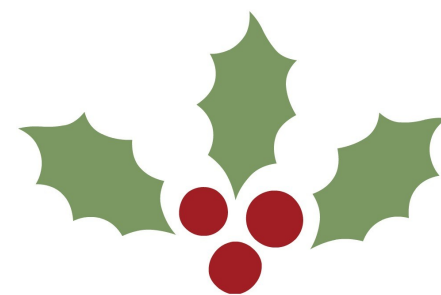
Copyright infringement: Part of the ad content violates the intellectual property rights of others.

Please be careful online and keep yourself and your family safe.

December Calendar

Sunday, Sunday, December 1, 8:00 am, Worship – In Person
Sunday December 1, 9:50 am, Godly Play Sunday School & Nursery in the Hadley Chapel
Sunday, December 1, 10:00 am, Worship – Live Stream & In Person
Sunday, December 1, 4:00 pm, Advent Lessons & Carols
Monday, December 2, 12:00 pm, Bible Study—Brewster Room
Tuesday, December 3, 1:00 pm, SPC Construction Meeting-Brewster Room
Wednesday, December 4, 4:30 pm, Contemplative Prayer—Private Zoom Channel
Thursday, December 5, 7:00 pm, Choir Rehearsal —Chase Music Room
Saturday, December 7, 1:00 pm, Advent Retreat at St. Paul's (see page 12)

Sunday, December 8, 8:00 am, Worship – In Person
Sunday, December, 9:50 am, Special Godly Play Sunday School & Nursery in the Hadley Chapel
Sunday, December 8, 10:00 am, Worship – Live Stream & In Person
Sunday, December 8, Noon to 2pm, Christmas Tree Cutting Party
Monday, December 9, 12:00 pm, Bible Study--Brewster Room
Monday, December 9, 3:30 pm, Finance Meeting —Montgomery Zoom
Monday, December 9, 7:00 pm, Common Threads at Georgette Schmidt's home
Monday, December 9, Deadline for Christmas Flower Memorials
Tuesday December 10, 5:00 pm, Vestry Meeting—In Person
Wednesday, December 11, 4:30 pm, Contemplative Prayer—Private Zoom Channel
Thursday, December 12, 7:00 pm, Choir Rehearsal —Chase Music Room



Sunday, December 15, 8:00 am, Worship – In Person
Sunday, December 15, 9:50 am, Godly Play Sunday School & Nursery in the Hadley Chapel
Sunday, December 15, 10:00 am, Worship – Live Stream & In Person
Sunday, December 15, 4:00 pm, Syracuse Community Choir Concert
Wednesday, December 18, 11:00 am, YMCA Flower Delivery & Pizza
Wednesday, December 18, 4:30 pm, Contemplative Prayer—Private Zoom Channel
Wednesday, December 18, 7:30 pm, Feminist Theology—Montgomery Zoom
Thursday, December 19, 7:00 pm, Choir Rehearsal —Chase Music Room
Saturday, December 21, 10:00 pm, Open Pantry Drop Off—Fayette St. Door

Sunday, December 22, 8:00 am, Worship – In Person
Sunday, December 22, 9:50 am, Godly Play Sunday School & Nursery in the Hadley Chapel
Sunday, December 22, 10:00 am, Worship – Live Stream & In Person
Sunday, December 22, 11:30 am, Greening of the Nave
Sunday, December 22, Deadline for Annual Report Submissions
Tuesday, December 24, 4:00 pm, Christmas Eve Family Service
Tuesday, December 24, 9:00 pm, Christmas Eve Music of the Season and Christmas Service
Wednesday, December 25, 10:00 pm, Christmas Day Service

Sunday, December 29, 9:30 am, Worship – In Person and Live Stream—Single Service
Monday, December 30, 12:00 pm, Bible Study—Brewster Room



Please note:
There will be no January Courier.
Please mark your calendar for
Sunday, January 26 for St. Paul's Annual Meeting



December Anniversaries

HARRY & NANCY
LAMBRIGHT
DECEMBER 21ST

GRANT & DENISE
DOLGE
DECEMBER 30TH



HARRIET AVERILL 12/2
MATTHEW FLEDDERJOHANN 12/11
REBECCA GRISWOLD 12/17
ROY THOMAS 12/18
RON FERGUSON 12/25
KATHY HUM 12/29
JEFF AVERILL 12/30
IEVA DOYLE 12/30
MARY HASTINGS 12/31

December Birthdays



Greening of the Nave



Sunday, December 22

11:30 a.m.

Come and Lend a Hand and Have a
Great Time Too!

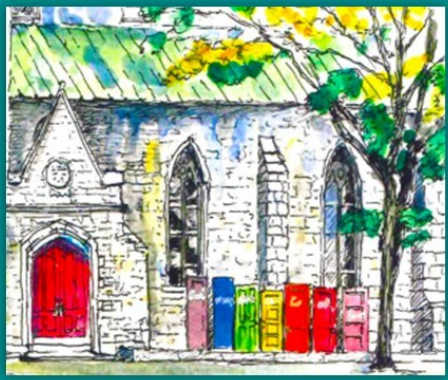
St Paul's Syracuse



Lessons & Carols for Advent

Sunday, December 1, 4:00 p.m.

The Choir of St. Paul's Episcopal Church will offer a service of Advent Lessons & Carols, Sunday December 1 at 4:00. Invite a friend to this special service.



St. Paul's
Syracuse

The Downtown
Episcopal Church 

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Syracuse, NY 13202
315 474-6053
www.stpaulsyr.org
offices@stpaulsyr.org