



THE EPISTLE



December 2024



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ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

711 South Saginaw St., Flint, Michigan 48502
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A NOTE FROM TOM



I will never, ever forget Christmas morning, 2014. It was the first Christmas after my divorce, and, for the first time in my life, I woke up alone on Christmas morning. I felt a sadness that day that was among the worst in my life. No presents, no fellowship, no joy. Just a strong feeling of loneliness.

What brought me out of it (and I have told this story many times) was a small Christmas Day service organized by the Rev. Lydia Speller, the priest at Grace Episcopal, Port Huron. We had never had a Christmas Day service before. But we had one that morning in 2014, and I will forever be indebted to Lydia for conducting the service.*

Although I about crawled into church that morning, I walked out feeling very inspired. Being reminded of the hope that comes with the birth of the Savior was enough to renew my spirits. Not only that, but a church service gave me something to do—and having something to do is a great way to combat loneliness.

Perhaps this Christmas we can all make an effort to reach out to those who are alone. A phone call or a visit go a long way in lifting the spirits of those who are by themselves during the holidays. What a generous present that would be.

With every blessing...

Tom+



*As a result, I am personally committed to conducting a Christmas Day service here at St. Paul's. Please join me Christmas morning, 10:00 am.

The 1st Sunday of Advent



What a Beautiful Blessing,
Father Thomas Manney &
Shiobhan Lord Timlin

HOLLY'S NOTES

Prepare ye the way! This is what Advent is about, we are preparing for the celebration of Christ, born in the manger. Sometimes our preparation looks frantic, I hope that you find peace as you prepare. With events to attend, parties, concerts, shopping, dinners, we are busy, but are we too busy to celebrate the actual meaning of Christmas? Enjoy this time with family and friends, find ways to make this a meaningful Advent and Christmas Season. This year has been a change for us as we buried people we loved, as we moved forward leaving some behind us. May our souls find peace and quiet joy as we look to celebrate the real meaning of life, our devotion to follow Christ.

The song for me is called: "Prepare the Way, O Zion" written by Finnish priest, Frans Mikael Frazen 1772-1847, he was the Bishop of Hernosand, Finland. Translated into English by Priest Augustus Nelson 1863-1949, who served in Michigan, Illinois, Connecticut, Wisconsin, and Minnesota

Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.

Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.

Refrain:

O blest is Christ who came
in God's most holy name.

2 He brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above.

His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.

Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding. [Refrain]

3 Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior's rule embrace, and tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.

All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing.
[Refrain]

Here is a YouTube link for you to listen to: ["Prepare the Way, O Zion", St. Bartholomew's Church](#)

May have a joyful and peaceful Advent and Christmas season, may God bless you and find as in the song: "peace, freedom, justice, truth and love."

Holly Richardson, Director of Music

THOUGHTS FROM THE OLD CELT

Welcome to Samhain ! (pronounced sow-en).

This season began with Halloween and will end on February 1, when the season of Imolc begins. This is the first season of the Celtic year.

In order, the other seasons of the year are Imolc, Beltaine and Lughnasa. We will discuss them more thoroughly in the next issue, as well as align them with our church seasons and Holy Days.

The Celts saw this as the dark time following All Souls (Halloween). It was a period when people dressed in costumes of straw, masks, and other disguises as they walked from house to house collecting milk, eggs, bread, or whatever the householders might have. If the handouts were generous, the house could expect a good year, If stingy, not so much!. In this country we also experience this period to be dark, blustery and colder.

The darkness was appropriate for the beginning of the Celtic year, leading to brighter days and seasons....Winter to summer....Death to life...Bonfires were lit all around to assist the sun and to destroy the evils of the past period.

These practices began in BCE and continued for the first several centuries CE. We begin a new church year on December 1 as we begin Advent. The Celts began in early CE to celebrate Advent within weeks of Christmas.

Slan Tamail and Nollaig Shona Dhuit,

Tomas



Art Walk

December's Art Walk will take place on Friday, December 12th at 6 pm, and our featured artist will be Boris Turner. Our music artist is Ed Arter. Come see what our local artists can do and enjoy the beauty of our church, too. Light refreshments served.

Boris D. Turner, a Visual Artist/Teacher, and Visual Arts Instructor of 35+ years, based in Flint, Michigan. I began my art career at Mott Community College where I learned how Art connects and assists in the interpretation of our world and visual experiences. After leaving Mott Community College, I moved forward to the University of Michigan-Flint where I attained my Bachelor of Science in Art Education. Soon after, I began teaching Art Education for Carman-Ainsworth Community Schools. During this time, I earned my Master of Science in Clinical Supervision and Administration in the Visual Arts from Parsons School of Design, The New School, in New York, NY. While being an artist/educator, I found purpose in assisting in other areas that support the arts by being an active board member for the Greater Flint Arts Council (GFAC), and Red Ink Studios; and an Instructor for the Flint Institute of Arts (FIA). Moreover, I was able to start my own Visual Art business, "*Boris DuVaul*," that enabled me to expand my creativity.



I have been commissioned and have paintings in NY, Japan and around the U.S., and love working with acrylic medium, on both large and small genres. My style can be interpreted through art movements such as Surrealism with a touch of Modernism. These art movements crafted my art style.

I love art, and believe that artists bring a unique perspective to our world, capturing the unlocked images and imagination that can only be dreamed and interpreted by curiosity.

Boris D. Turner

Music Performance

Edward Arter, organist at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. From August 13, 2003 to September 8, 2011 at St. Paul's Ed directed five choirs, taught Sightsinging Classes and private lessons. The Music Program included a Summer Concert Series, Kidz Choir Kamp and yearly participation at a Royal School of Church Music Summer Course for Boys and Girls. For 10 years, Ed was responsible for the Chancel and Bell choirs at Linden Presbyterian in Linden Michigan. Also during his tenure a 20 rank pipe organ was built with the help of church members under his direction.

As a chorister, Ed has sung with Richardo Muti, Kurt Mazzur, Raphael Kubelik and Joseph Flummerfelt at Avery Fisher Hall, The Academy in Philadelphia and the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C.

As a conductor, Ed has offered Mass in G by Schubert, Requiem by Faure, and Coffee Cantata by Bach to name a few. He considers his most enjoyable work to have been done with children and youth (sometimes presenting musicals!) and with Bell Choirs, which has traveled nationwide to perform.

Ed is the founder and former Chairman of the Board for CITI-ARTS school specializing in music. He has served Grace University of Omaha as Adjunct Professor of Music, specializing in solo hand bell ringing.

Ed has played organ recitals in New Jersey, New York, Missouri, Michigan, Antigua as well as the Virgin Islands.





Building Communities of Faith

November 2024



I said last month that my goal was to increase my budget and to find additional funding, well, here is a couple of updates regarding that. I have submitted the form and budget for the Social Services Grant through the Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes, as well as requesting another grant that would bring my total monthly budget to \$1,000. Which both seems like a lot, but also looking at all of the opportunities provided to our community of faith to serve one another and to serve our broader community, we will see how it turns out. I wish I could say yes to every person that walks in the door, but even I know that that isn't a tenable position for our mission work.

As we enter the holiday season, I am looking to next year and some potential fundraisers to make this a much more self-sufficient and self-sustaining ministry. I have a couple of ideas that are floating around in my head, but if you have ideas of your own that you've either had success with as a fundraiser or ideas for things that you think might be successful, please pull me aside when you see me or send me an email. If I could make this ministry feed itself without needing to pull grant funds, so that those funds could go to other more needing ministries, I would love for that to happen.

As I continue to attempt to find the people who do what I do, but in other churches, I am continuing to try to find our niche in our community. I've met with Lisa at First Presbyterian and spoke with her about how they help people with IDs and navigating the Secretary of State process. I've also spoken to the pastor of People's Church (very briefly after our Trans Day of Remembrance service) whose vision is to create a continuity of care where we can have a more hands on role in how we help people and continue to help them navigate the systems of both non-profits and governmental agencies. I also have continued working closely with both Crossover Outreach and Family Promise of Mid-Michigan in order to refer people who need more material help than what we can provide.

One new partnership that has grown over the past month is one with Easterseals MORC. One of their case managers referred a client over to us to see if we could help with any resources, and as a result I've met with a few more of their case managers to both share resources that I had that they didn't and to get resources from them that they had that I didn't. I am hopeful that this partnership will continue to grow and be fruitful for their clients and the people of Flint and Genesee County that are struggling and in need. I say to our helpers and to the people we help that when you're in the struggle, it's so hard to see anything else around us, but there's an old saying about your friend who has been in the hole before, they've gotten out once, and they know the way out.

If anyone has any questions at all, please let me know. You can either find me here most Sundays and Wednesdays, or when I have my office open on Tuesdays; or email me at rayna@stpaulschurchflint.com I am always happy to talk about ways that we can help our community, answer questions about what it is that I am doing, or just provide a listening ear if you need someone to talk to.

Rayna Hauter

Need	Request	Given	Date
Rent	1750	Resources*	11/5/24
Rent	3240	Resources*	11/12/24
Security Deposit	300	300	11/14/24
Rent/Consumers	400	Resource*	11/19/24



From Rev. Tom, George, Holly,
Karein, Ed, Terence & Rafael

—the staff of St. Paul's Parish

Upcoming Scripture Lessons for Worship

The Revised Common Lectionary: Year C



December 1

First Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalms 25:1-9

Luke 21:25-36

Psalms 25:1-9

December 8

Second Sunday of Advent

Malachi 3:1-4

Canticle 16

Philippians 1:3-11

Luke 3:1-6

December 15

Third Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Canticle 9

Philippians 4:4-7

Luke 3:7-18

December 22

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Advent Lessons and Carols

December 24

Christmas Day I

December 25

Christmas Day III

December 29

First Sunday after Christmas

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Psalms 147

Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

John 1:1-18

LIST OF ST. PAUL'S MOVIES OF 2024

DATE	MOVIE TITLE
17-Jan-24	Doubt
21-Feb-24	One Night in Miami
20-Mar-24	Belfast
17-Apr-24	White Like Me
15-May-24	The Mission
19-Jun-24	Boys Don't Cry
21-Aug-24	Come Sunday
18-Sep-24	The Greater Glory
13-Nov-24	Elmer Gantry
18-Dec-24	The Bells of St. Mary's



Parish Office will be CLOSED

December 24th - 27th

& January 1st

HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS &
A SAFE & HAPPY NEW YEAR!



A LOOK BACK... JAN-JUNE

THE BEGINNING OF 2024

JANUARY - TRIP TO SEE BISHOP CURRY'S MOVIE "A CASE FOR LOVE"



FEBRUARY - ABSOLOM JONES SUNDAY



MARCH - VESTRY RETREAT CAMP COPNECONIC



MARCH - HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY
BARBARA HAMILTON-WELCH



APRIL - BLOOD DRIVE



MAY - STEWARDSHIP DAY &
GLAD SPIRITS GARDEN



MAY - PENTECOST SUNDAY



JUNE - EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF THE GREAT LAKES
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF EASTERN MICHIGAN
AND EPISCOPAL OF WESTERN MICHIGAN



December's Liturgy Schedule

Dates		Lector 1	Lector 2	Intercessor (Prayers of the People)
1-Dec-2024		Rebecca Bennett	Joel Arnold	Rayna Hauter
8-Dec-2024		Pam Bailey	Rayna Hauter	Rajaad Twine
15-Dec-2024	B	Elizabeth Jordan	Eloise Jordan	TaMara Oertel
22-Dec-2024		Edythe Peake	Lanie Nix	Rebecca Bennett
29-Dec-2024	G	Ed Walthers	Kim Ramirez	Tim Grant
Christmas Eve - 5:00		Mike Farver	Joel Arnold	Elizabeth Jordan
Christmas Eve - 9:00		Rayna Hauter		Edythe Peake
Christmas Day - 10:00		Tom Shriver	Susumu Inoue	Rebecca Bennett

Dates		Eucharistic Minister	Crucifer	Verger	8:00 AM
1-Dec-2024		Bill Johnson	Mike Farver	Ed Walthers	Rayna Hauter
8-Dec-2024		Tim Grant	Bob Cuthbertson	Mike Farver	Rebecca Bennett
15-Dec-2024	B	Jelesia Geraghty	Bill Johnson	Bob Cuthbertson	TaMara Oertel
22-Dec-2024			Erynn Ford	Ed Walthers	Tim Grant
29-Dec-2024	G	Ed Walthers	Bill Johnson	Mike Farver	Ed Walthers
Christmas Eve - 5:00			Ed Walthers	Bob Cuthbertson	
Christmas Eve - 9:00		Erynn Ford	Jelesia Geraghty	Ed Walthers	
Christmas Day - 10:00					Rebecca Bennett

Birthdays

12/05	MANNOR, Barbara
12/06	HINKLE, Tim
12/08	RICHARDSON, Holly
12/12	SCHAEFER, Karen
12/13	SHRIVER, Patrice
12/13	SNELL, Mary
12/14	VAVRO, Joyce
12/20	CARROLL, Doris

12/20	WOOTEN, Richard
12/21	MCDANIEL, Rafael
12/23	OERTEL, TaMara
12/27	WETENHALL, Justin

Anniversaries

12/08	HINKLE, Tim & Sue
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December
2024



Hosted by St. Paul's Episcopal Church Diversity Committee

WHY DON'T THEY JUST WALK AWAY?

A Symposium on Human Trafficking

SATURDAY JANUARY 11th, 2025

9:00AM-2:30PM

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

Tickets: \$30 | High School Students \$20

Tickets include: lunch, light refreshments,
and *5 CEUs (for eligible attendees)

*Contact Lysa Fischer for more details
about CEUs for this event
(lysafischer@gmail.com)

Register Now!



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



SANCTUM HOUSE

Proceeds to benefit Sanctum House

Parking is available on Saginaw Street, behind St. Paul's Episcopal, and behind First Presbyterian Church, directly across from St. Paul's. Please consider giving a donation to Sanctum House when you order your ticket. It's your opportunity and mine to be part of their healing, recovery, and restoration.

Your Vestry:

(all at stpaulschurchflint.com)

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

Jan Bugbee, Treasurer (Finance)
(treasurer@)

Tina Morrison, Clerk of the Vestry
(clerk@) (Worship)

Heather Gagnon (Pastoral Care)
(heather@)

Joel Arnold (juniorwarden@)
(Intersection 150 & PSP)
(joel@)

Celeste Lord Timlin (Outreach)
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Reminder:

All updated information for the directory must be received by December 15, 2024. If no information is received your information will remain the same as it is. Thank you!

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!

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."



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