

January
2023
Volume
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THE EPISTLE

St. Paul's
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Happy
New Year!

...look, new things
have come into being!
2 Corinthians 5:17

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Rector's Corner

Time, Talent and Treasure

As a new calendar year begins, many people think about what they want or need to stop, start, or change in some way over the months ahead. Many of those decisions have to do with our time, our talent, and our treasure . . . how we put to good use the gifts God has given us.

At the beginning of each calendar/fiscal year, most organizations also have to think about this, usually in a very structured way involving a budget. We here at St. Paul's are certainly in the midst of that, and there are some difficult decisions we need to navigate this year.

Too often, though, we tend to downplay or overlook the time and talent part of all that. But time and again we are reminded in the scriptures that God works at least as much, if not much more so, with our immaterial resources than with our material ones. Our time and talent matter a lot. And when we put them to use in God's name, somehow we often end up getting back more than we have given.

We have a lot to do this year as a church family. In addition to maintaining (and even doubling down on) our commitments to inspiring worship, nourishing Christian formation for all ages, and faithful mission and outreach, we also have a meaningful amount of work that needs to happen for the search process to unfold successfully, and we have some vitally important work to do to revitalize and refresh a range of other responsibilities, especially membership, pastoral care, and finance/stewardship. I will have more to say about the needs I see in these areas at the annual meeting on January 22, and I really hope you will be part of that important meeting and conversation.

In the meantime, I would like to ask you to start thinking about what you, personally, are currently committing to St. Paul's in terms of time and talent. I'm not asking about how you gave of yourself in the past. I'm asking about now and in this year to come. The apostle Paul reminds us in his First Letter to the Corinthians that there are a variety of gifts, but the implication is that we all have some and we are all called to use them in service of God and God's church. Are you?

In the very near future you will start to see a "help wanted" section in our various communication pieces. Please look for something you can say yes to, especially if you don't already have a "job" to do in this wonderful church family. Many hands make light(er) work AND accomplish more.

I'm excited about this year. I can sense God calling St. Paul's in both new and continuing ways . . . and I look forward to pursuing all that with you.

Faithfully,

Jadon+



From our Sr. Warden...

Dear St. Paul's,

Greetings and welcome to 2023. A new year with new opportunities to take advantage of and new barriers to break down. In the coming year we will be transformed into a different church once again. We will see changes in the way we do things, we will attract new visitors, we will sing new songs, enlist new members and call a new Pastor. The only thing that will stay the same is constant change.

St. Paul's will change in 2023 and we will direct that change. We must be in control. If we are to attract a top-of-the-line priest, we need to exhibit a top-notch church. That means an invested congregation. Invested in the mission, invested in the liturgy, invested in the other members, invested in financial support.

Our pledges this year for whatever reason, are short by over \$50,000. There may be several reasons for this, and everyone must evaluate their own situation as does the church. Our expenses have gone up like everyone else, but we are trying to stay at last year's numbers. We do not want to cut important people or programs. First, if you have not pledged, please do so. It is nice to have non-pledged income, but we cannot make a budget if we do not know what to expect. Second, if everyone that has pledged so far was to increase their pledge by \$862, we would clear up this deficit. That is less than \$17 a week or \$2.50 per day. Please reconsider your pledge as we are all in this together.

As we continue into the new year, the annual meeting is on schedule for January 22. The search committee is working toward their objectives and Rev. Jadon is providing new and interesting services. Julie and Jeff are working to provide new and interesting music, and you will see the new banners on both sides of the church. Our church is unique in its service and our openness to everyone. We must make sure that the disenchanted know we are open. Look for other changes moving forward.

On Sunday the 15th, plan to attend between the services in Holy Spirit Hall for Rev. Jadon's monthly talk on the role and plans of the Interim Ministry.

I would like to welcome Kyle King back into the important role of Buildings and Grounds. He has handled this expertly in the past and I am delighted to see him back.

Rhonda and I are hoping you all were safe and warm during this Christmas season and may you all have a Happy New Year.

Gods Peace,
Barney Rudolph

Check out the new St. Paul's banners!



The Women of St. Paul's Episcopal Church

ECW

Happy New Year friends.

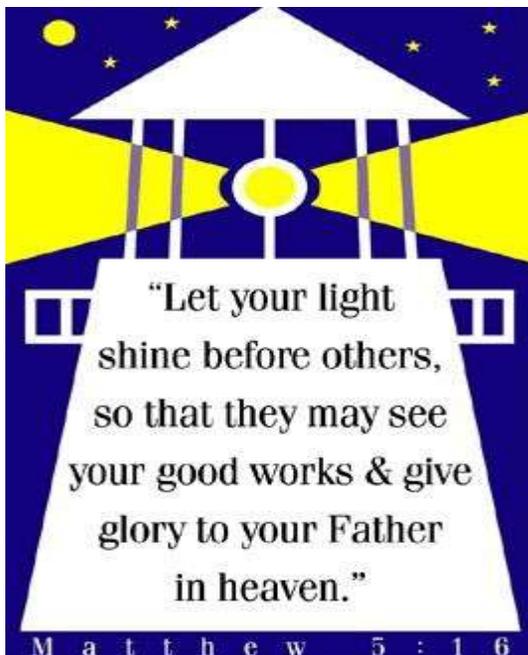
Thank you for all your support in 2022. Looking forward to an even better 2023.

There is no meeting in January. See you all in February 2023.

Valerie Rowley, Vice President, ECW.



Mission & Outreach



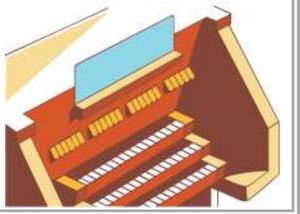
January Focus

Our St. Paul's Angel Tree in December was a heartwarming success. Thank you to each member of our congregation who lovingly purchased gifts and clothing. Our church adopted a family of 5 through the Salvation Army, plus 6 students from Jackson High who are living in very challenging conditions. Please would you continue to uphold these beloved children of God in your prayers?

Again, thank you, St. Paul's, for sharing God's love with our community in such caring and tangible ways!

***-Dana Burkey and Heidi Lathrop,
for St Paul's Mission and Outreach***

Organist's Corner



In Appreciation of the Music at St. Paul's

There are so many who contributed to make the music of the Advent and Christmas season such a glorious offering of praise to God and such a beautiful expression of our faith. This congregation is always so supportive of the music program at St. Paul's. There is a willingness to participate in the singing of the hymns and liturgy, including the chanting of the Psalm. Many contributed their suggestions for favorite hymns to be sung while we were in a time of transition. Members volunteer their time to be involved in musical groups. There is a very conscious effort to support the musicians with words of praise and positive encouragement as well as financial support in the budget. Without all of this, our music program would not be thriving as it is.

This year, so many people participated in very special ways. Romelle Frey is such a talented artist and flautist. She is always willing to work with me on whatever solo I suggest for a Sunday worship service. She also masterfully accompanies the choir on many pieces. Michelle Gibson has blessed us with her talents as both a recorder and handbell player, as well as a wonderful vocalist. She has blessed the congregation with her willingness to resume directing the handbell choir and there is a loyal group of handbell players ready to get to work. Alice Mulhearn is our marvelous supporter in the office. No matter what kind of service we what plan, what new pieces of liturgy we add, or what hymns we want printed in what format, Alice comes up with a way to do it and makes our bulletins beautifully readable and helpful. We are so blessed to have these talented women serving our congregation.

As our choir has begun anew, we have a very good-sized, devoted group of singers. They show up every week for rehearsals, are open to trying all sorts of new things, and use their beautiful voices to sing God's praises. It is a fun group where the fellowship and caring for each other is an important part of our time together. My life is blessed by time spent with these individuals. We are also most fortunate that we were led to find and hire Jeff Wilkinson as our choir director. His boundless enthusiasm, extensive knowledge, and his calm direction have brought the best out in all of our singers. In addition, as a new choir director, he brought together the music and musicians for our very moving service of Lessons and Carols. His accomplishments in his first few months at St. Paul's have truly exceeded what was expected of him.

So many others contribute in important but often unrecognized ways. The choir now has a librarian to keep music organized and a robe master to assign and arrange robes. Our rehearsal space is always clean and the doors are unlocked for us on Thursday nights. Music has been donated to me. People have volunteered to turn pages for me. I cannot imagine a more supportive environment in which to work and I thank all of you for being a part of this.

Julie J. Baglien
Organist/Director of Music

Candidates for St. Paul's Vestry, 2023 Election on Jan 22nd at Annual Meeting



Christopher Lock

Christopher Lock grew up at St Paul's, ushering, being invited to give a guest sermon, and acting in local plays before attending MSU. He lured a colony of Jackson friends to live in his L.A. art commune for a decade and taught public school as an English teacher, both in suburban Riverside and then in inner-city Los Angeles, elected every year as Department Chair for a school of 3,300 (built for 1,700 students). He studied Urban Planning at UCLA and is a Master of Architecture living five years at The Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture's homes in Wisconsin and Arizona. He's taught in his old high school and helps his parents, Bob and Barbara Lock, living close by continuing studies of advanced transport, Oxfordian authorship, UFOs and writing projects. His favorite thing on Earth is a good movie.



Natalie Magnusson

I grew up in Dallas, TX, but I'm close to Michigander status having lived through 18 Michigan winters! We have lived in the Jackson area for 10 years and began attending St. Paul's in 2015. We were in need of a church home that would be more supportive of us during a very difficult season of life. What started as just a visit for a Good Friday service at St. Paul's led to us attending here full time just two days later on Easter! We arrived just a few weeks before Fr. Rich and Gayle, took the confirmation class, and were confirmed in April 2016. Our family has appreciated getting to serve St. Paul's in a variety of areas. I have especially enjoyed being on the rotation of readers, occasional preaching, being involved in adult forum, and recently leading the Wednesday morning Bible study. This past summer I implemented my Doctor of Ministry project thesis at St. Paul's (thanks everyone!) and look forward to graduating in May. In addition to being the mom of three amazing daughters, I serve as the assistant director of the Master of Religious Education in Missional Leadership at Rochester University. In the very little spare time that I have during this season of life, I enjoy walking, hiking, cooking, knitting, coffee, and spending time with family and friends.



Dennis Marsh

I have been a member of St Paul's for 31 years. I have served on the vestry under Fr. Olsen, Fr. Larry, interim rector Fr. Ressler, and Rev. Sarah. I have been both voting member and alternate. At present I am fulfilling a vacancy left by a former voting member. I have been an usher for 31 years, acolyte, lay minister, LEV minister, and on the Altar Guild. In the past I have served on Building and Grounds, Mission and Outreach, and participated in many projects at St. Paul's such as: resurfacing the exterior of the cloister, refinishing the floors in the hallways and Holy Spirit Hall, Trunk or Treat, (cooking 650 hot dogs) working in the kitchen with the Get Real Children, and group leader with Vacation Bible School. One of my most exciting moments was serving as chalice-bearer at Bishop Bonnie's ordination. I served on the Search Committee for Rev. Sarah and on the Vestry to hire Sarah. With my background and experience and with deep prayer, I am asking for a 3 year term to make the transition and hiring of a new permanent priest.



Christie Swanson

I have been a member of St. Paul's for **many** years. I was confirmed and married here to Loren, as were my two sons. I have served on the Altar Guild for **many** years and now serve on the ECW board (Episcopal Church Women). I am presently serving on the Vestry as an alternate, and on the St. Paul's Search Committee, as well as being on the "A team" (as our all female usher team like to call ourselves) as an usher.

I would very much like to continue this opportunity to represent my church family by continuing to serve on the vestry.



Garry Trammell

I am retired, the husband of Nancy, the father of two beautiful daughters, and the grandfather of five grandsons. I have been active in work and church leadership positions all throughout my adult life. I am grateful to have been received into the Episcopal Church in 2019 and in particular to becoming part of the loving St. Paul community. Being there, I'm home. I am currently a postulant in a lay Franciscan order (The Society of Saint Francis) where my current ministries are intercessory prayer and encouragement, and I'm qualified as a Lay Eucharistic Minister in the Episcopal church with the emphasis being on visiting our shut-in members with Communion as soon as it is safe to do so again. My desire is to contribute as much as I can to the furtherance of God's mercy and mission in our locale.



Reminder:

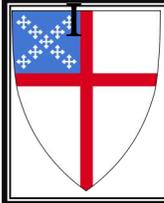
Our Annual Congregational Meeting will be held in Holy Spirit Hall after the 10:30 am service on **Sunday, January 22nd.**

A light lunch will be served.

Every year all Episcopal parishes have an annual meeting to elect members to the vestry, our governing body, and review the budget and other important matters.

Vestry and committee leaders please email your **annual reports** to church @stpauljxmi.org **no later than Jan. 17th.**

If you would like to volunteer to be a delegate for the annual Diocesan Convention, please contact Fr. Jadon or a Vestry member.



RECTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

8

THANK YOU to all who took part in the Holy Cow Congregational Assessment (CAT). We will receive the results of that assessment in the next few weeks and Canon Ekevag will meet with the Search Committee and members of the Vestry to discuss before we share insights with the whole parish.

We are preparing for our next big effort which will involve meetings with small groups of parishioners in February. We are working out the details for those sessions and will have more information in the next few weeks! All will be welcomed and encouraged to take part!

Questions, Comments, Ideas?
Email: search@stpauljxmi.org



Calling all singers!

The St. Paul's choir is back!

**Rehearsals are Thursday evenings at
6:30 pm.**

It's a fun group, check us out!

**Questions? Please see choir director
Jeff on Sunday or email him at:
Jeff@stpauljxmi.org**



Come join the fun on Thursday
evenings, from **5:30-6:30 pm** in
the chapel.

All are welcome!

For details or questions, contact
Michelle Gibson (832) 445-4461.



Join us for in-person services at 8 am or 10:30 am.

Or Join us online Sundays at 10:30 am:

For the Facebook Livestream of our service follow the link:

<https://www.facebook.com/stpauljxmi>

Sunday Worship Bulletins are on our website at <https://stpauljxmi.org/>

You can also view our services later on Facebook.

(You do NOT have to have a Facebook account to view our videos.)

Adult Forum

9:15 am-10:15 am on Sundays in the small dining room.

Email Eric Magnusson (emagnusson75@gmail.com) for more info or questions.

Bible Study



Bible Study will continue to on Wednesdays in January at **10:30 am** led by Natalie Magnusson in the Small Dining Room.



Peggy Wilds	January 6
Josephine Alipit	January 14
Dana Burkey	January 19
Sandra Kilian	January 20
Kim Perlos	January 22
Tom Holsinger-Friesen	January 22



Wednesday - Holy Eucharist Schedule

There will be Communion on Wednesdays at 12:15 pm on:

1/4, 1/11 & 1/18

No Mass on 1/25/23

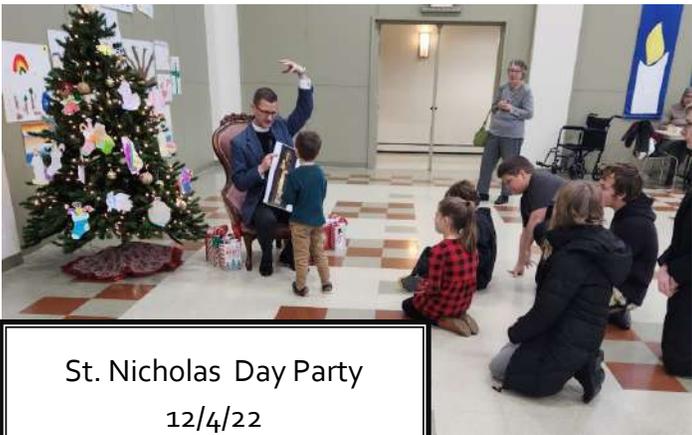
We had a busy Advent and Christmas Season at St. Paul's!



Advent Quiet Day Service
12/2/22



Christmas Eve
12/24/22



St. Nicholas Day Party
12/4/22



8th Day of Christmas
Sunday, 1/1/2023





The Bishop's Christmas Open House was a great time for holiday food and fellowship!



JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Birthdays & Anniv.	2	3	4	5	6	7
10:30 am Holy Eucharist/ Coffee Hour		6 pm Toastmasters 6:30 pm Search Comm Mtg (Zoom)	10 30 am Bible Study 12:15 pm Holy Eucharist	5:30 pm Hand- bells 6 pm Diocesan Clergy Event 6:30 pm Choir		
8 Noisy Sunday	9	10	11	12	13	14
8 am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Holy Eucharist/ Coffee Hour		6 pm Toastmasters 6:30 pm Search Comm Mtg (Zoom)	10 30 am Bible Study 12:15 pm Holy Eucharist	5:30 pm Hand- bells 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal		
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
8 am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Interim Forum 10:30 am Holy Eucharist/ Coffee Hour		6 pm Toastmasters 6:00 pm Vestry Meeting 6:30 pm Search Comm Mtg (Zoom)	10 30 am Bible Study 12:15 pm Holy Eucharist	5:30 pm Hand- bells 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal		
22 Annual Meeting	23	24	25	26	27	28
8 am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Adult Forum 10:30 am Holy Eucharist/ Annual Meeting		6 pm Toastmasters 6:30 pm Search Comm Mtg (Zoom)	10 30 am Bible Study No 12:15 pm Holy Eucharist TODAY	5:30 pm Hand- bells 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal		
29	30	31				
8 am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Sunday School 9:15 am Interim Forum 10:30 am Holy Eucharist/ Coffee Hour		6 pm Toastmasters 6:30 pm Search Comm Mtg (Zoom)				

