

The Epistle of Saint Paul's

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WARDENS' MESSAGE

In Proverbs 3:5-6 it is written, *"Wait for the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will direct your paths."*

And as we at St. Paul's patiently wait to know what God has in store for us, we are continually reminded that God is good. Here are just a few examples we have experienced lately:

Instant comradery and heart-felt service is experienced by St. Paul's parishioners each time they assist at the St. Francis Loaves and Fishes soup kitchen.

St. Paul's was blessed to host the Capital District Crop Walk on May 5th this year, opening our doors to congregations across the area, who came together and walked to support hunger relief both near and far.

The beautiful music of St. Paul's choir and organ continues to be shared with the community during our numerous springtime Bach and Choral Concerts.

Pride Month is almost upon us, and again St. Paul's will support the Capital District LGBTQ+ community by walking in the Pride Parade on Sunday, June 9 and hosting a Pride Month Evensong at St. Paul's on Tuesday evening, June 11.

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A Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give you thanks, most gracious God, for the beauty of earth and sky and sea; for the richness of mountains, plains, and rivers; for the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers. We praise you for these good gifts, and pray that we may safeguard them for our posterity. Grant that we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation, to the honor and glory of your Name, now and for ever. *Amen.*



Who's Who at St. Paul's

Rector

The Rev. Michael Greene

Rector Emeritus

The Rev. Leslie C. Hughes

Organist-Choir Director

Steven L. Rosenberry

Wardens

Dan Halloran

Denise Mason

Vestry

Eric Chan

Russ Gibson

Bill Harrison

Karen Hibbert

Tristan Lowery

Beth Moll

Joan Parker

Kate Storms

Robert Walenta

EPISTLE Newsletter Editors

Susan Harwood

Pamela Coutchié

Photographs

Jon Bell

Pamela Coutchié

Kelly Dalton

Dan Halloran

Brian Kivilahti

Paul Nance

Joan Parker

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Catechesis of the Good Shepard continues strong on Saturdays in Troy, where a small and mighty group of St. Paul's youth meet for hands-on teaching in St. John's Catechesis Atrium, to strengthen their faith in Jesus Christ.

In St. Paul's current events, there have been two recent baptisms at St. Paul's, welcoming both Brock Murry and Arthur Chan into their new spiritual life. As we each renew our baptismal promises during these ceremonies, we are called to remember that in those promises we have the true guidance on how to live out God's will in every aspect of our journey through life.

We must also celebrate our five young congregants who were confirmed by Bishop Jeremiah in the past month. Lizzie Andrus, Paige Conover, and Pierce Dalton were confirmed at St. Paul's on Mother's Day during Bishop Jeremiah's visit to our church. Brock Murry was confirmed at the regional confirmation at St. George's church in Clifton Park. And Jake Dalton was confirmed at the regional confirmation at St. Peters Church in Albany Even when it seems that schedules and timing don't work, God finds a way to support us all in our walk with Christ and the Holy Spirit!

In this season, our Vestry has felt change and blessing too. After Bob Chase resigned from the Vestry, Bob Walenta offered his time and talents to serve for the remainder of his term. We were sorry to see Bob Chase leave and we are very thankful for his time and work with us.

The Vestry held their annual Vestry Retreat a couple weeks ago, led by Fr. John Scott, with Bishop Jeremiah and Fr. Dean Vang in attendance. It was comforting to be reassured from Bishop Jeremiah that he and the Albany diocese are forever here to support us in these uncertain times. Fr. Vang will be leading our services this summer and autumn as Fr. John Scott takes some well-deserved vacation time and supports other churches.

During the Vestry Retreat, the Vestry sketched out our goals for 2024 and identified focus and potential activities for the St. Paul's congregation this year. As we patiently await God's timing with the questions on everyone's minds, we are busy making sure St. Paul's continues to thrive.

We leave you with this... Summer is soon to come, a season with vacations in abundance and everyone is busy. During these hot and hopefully renewing months ahead, please remember that God is good, and God loves us all! And as it is said in Colossians 3:15, *"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful."*

Dan Halloran and Denise Mason

Confirmations—St. Paul's Young People

What a wonderful spring this has been for our parish! Five young people from St. Paul's were confirmed by Bishop Jeremiah Williamson over the course of a few weeks at multiple locations. Brock Murry was confirmed at a Regional Confirmation Service at St. George's in Clifton Park on April 30. On May 12, at our official Bishop's visit, Paige Conover, Pierce Dalton and Lizzie Andrus were confirmed. Erin Dalton provided a beautiful "cupcake cake" for the occasion. Finally, Jake Dalton was confirmed at the Regional Confirmation Service at St. Peter's, Albany on May 16.



Easter and Beyond with Children



Easter Season, when the liturgical color is white for several Sundays, lasts 49 days. The Great Feast of Easter is celebrated far longer than the Feast of Christmas. Our faith is based in the events of Holy Week, in Jesus' death and resurrection. So we celebrate God's Love for us, the care that the Good Shepherd has for us, and the Good Shepherd who calls us each by name and who calls us to his table at every Eucharist.

The children continued to celebrate Easter as we met at the Atrium at St. John's, Troy for our last Atrium session of the year. We were joined by Mother Judith Malioneck who is also a Catechist of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd.

We contemplated the events of that early morning when the women went to the tomb of Jesus to complete the tasks they could not finish the previous Friday. As if being surprised by an earthquake and lightning were not enough, a huge stone rolled away from the opening to the tomb and an angel appeared and sat on it! And like other angels who have come to people before, his first words were "Do not be afraid". What an opening to the unbelievable news that Jesus was not here and that he had been raised as he had promised! The women were given a command: "Go and tell the disciples what you have seen and heard." even though they were half afraid and half excited with joy. What does this angelic command mean for us? Whose command is it? Are we afraid and excited? At the same time? Do we have good news to share about the risen Lord?

Mother Judith led the older children in an exploration of the Prefaces. These special sentences appear near the beginning of the service of Holy Communion. These sentences are not always the same. What do these sentences suggest to us? A deeper search found some seasonal references and back to the Liturgical Calendar we went to find the correlation. There is a Preface for the each season of the church year and some for special occasions and some for those ordinary Sundays too.

The oldest children had a new responsibility that day for the end of our session: to plan our prayer service, start to finish. There was a checklist so nothing was forgotten, songs and scripture readings, thanksgiving and intercessory prayers and a prayer for us all as we closed our time together. They planned the service and led it; and everyone had a part.

And what day marks the end our Easter season? Hint—the color is red. And red is for Pentecost! The day after our last session, the children were in church for the Feast of Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples and the beginning of the spread of the Gospel to the whole world—the command to go and tell, even if you are half afraid and half joyful.



Submitted by Pam Coutchié, Catechist, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

The Good Shepherd stained glass image above is from St. Paul's Sacristy.

Baptism of Arthur Yik-Hin Chan

On May 5, Father John Scott baptized Arthur, son of Lydia and Eric Chan, to the great joy of family and friends. We have enjoyed Arthur's presence in the choir loft, a most welcome addition to the family of St. Paul's. Big sister Maggie also thought it was a great day for smiles!



At the Baptismal Font



And with the Godparents



With parents and grandparents

Celebrating New Life in Christ

It has been a tradition at St. Paul's to celebrate a Baptism with the purchase of flocks of chickens. Chicks are a wonderful reminder of new life. To join in the celebrations of Brock Murry's and Arthur Chan's new life in Christ, please send donations to St. Paul's with "chickens" in the memo line.

Funds will be sent to Episcopal Relief and Development to purchase flocks of chickens for a family or village. Flocks provide food, income and additional chicks for the recipients. Our blessings and joy are multiplied in other families in the world.



Outreach

Crop Walk



This year for the first time ever, St. Paul's hosted the 44th annual **John U. Miller CROP Hunger Walk**. It was a rainy day; nevertheless, there were about 120 walkers, who, guided by St. Paul's volunteers, registered, found the bathrooms, then went to the sanctuary for a rally with singing by the Delmariners. We were then addressed by chairperson Kitt Jackson, and blessed by Father John Scott. Once outside at 1:30 pm, there was a bagpiper to lead us out on either the golden mile, or an approximately 2-mile main course. Walkers from St. Paul's included Stacie Halloran and myself, Bill Harrison, and the Dalton family. We are still waiting to learn the total amount

that was raised, but as of 5/19, Kitt Jackson said the walk had raised over \$90,000. 25% of this amount stays in the local community and 75% goes to fight hunger worldwide. Thanks to all who helped make this event a success!



Loaves and Fishes

Loaves and Fishes volunteers did all they could to make Mother's Day weekend a special experience. 330 meals were served consisting of either Sausage, Tomato and Parmesan Sauce Pasta or Chicken Alfredo Sauce Pasta, with a Caesar Salad and homemade blueberry muffins made by St. Paul's own Duncan Calhoun. Treat bags were also given with candy, lip balm, bookmarks, baby food products and personal hygiene products. Russ Gibson introduced a new system wherein each family received a number and then lined up for their turn. This method was very well received and seemed to eliminate some of the pushing, shoving and frustrations which have been evident in the past. As always, it was a privilege to be able to help God's people in need.

Submitted by Dan Halloran

Food Pantry

Thank you for your consistent support of the Food Pantry at St. John's /St. Ann's Outreach Center in Albany's South End. The clients keep coming and the needs are great. Food stamps do not go as far as they used to. And many needed items are not even covered by food stamps. My car is always a welcome sight and even clients will sometimes help transfer the donations into a large cart. The needs are the same:



canned meats, vegetables, fruit and soups; cereal, rice, pasta, spaghetti sauce, peanut butter (and jelly/jam). In addition personal hygiene products including toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, sanitary pads, disposable diapers, and baby products are most welcome. The summer is long and there are no school lunches. Please continue to share with those in need.

Submitted by Pam Coutchié

Pride Parade

St. Paul's Church will be walking in the Capital Pride Parade on Sunday, June 9 and we hope you'll be able to join us this year. St. Paul's service that day will begin at 9:30, so it should be easier than last year to get in line before the 11:30 AM start time.

On the morning of the 9th, we will send out a group message with the location where we will meet in Washington Park. If you would like to be notified, please send me your cell number or, if you prefer, your email address so that we can add you to the list. (nancep@nycap.rr.com)

We look forward to celebrating pride with you on the 9th!

Submitted by Paul Nance



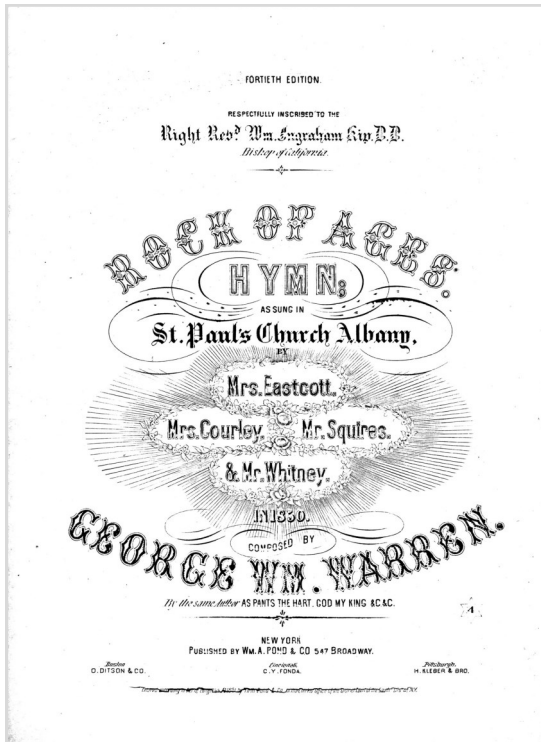
FOCUS Garden



St. Paul's is getting the Focus Garden ready for the season! Jon Bell has been prepping the ground and will finish tilling this week. Terry Tamer and I are going shopping for plants and compost on the 20th. The Dr. Denis Memorial Plants of thyme came back (well, 2 of 3!), so we're going to plant some more, and there will be a sign to designate the spot. I will be putting out an email call to volunteers to plant next week. If you're interested, please get in touch with me, stackiescasa3@yahoo.com. We'll be planting tomatoes, zucchini, some pepper varieties, basil and parsley, all to be donated to the food pantry on State Street. Some sweat, some rain, some sun and some of God's blessing and we should have a bountiful harvest!

Submitted by Stacie Halloran

St. Paul's –170+ Years Ago!



In the early 1850s, St. Paul's choir had a total of four voices, a "quartet choir" consisting of professional soloists. Two of these were Lucy Grant Eastcott and Henry Squires, who went on to international operatic careers.

Eastcott and Squires were hired by our organist and choirmaster, George William Warren, in the spring of 1850, and sang at St. Paul's for about two years. Some of their repertoire was composed by Warren, including this anthem, dedicated to our rector and subtitled "as sung in St. Paul's Church, Albany." The title page names the quartet, including Mrs. Eastcott and Mr. Squires.

After leaving St. Paul's in 1852, Eastcott and Squires went to Europe, where both pursued successful careers, performing in major opera houses in Italy, Germany and the United Kingdom. They then returned to this country, touring widely, until 1861, when they began what was to become an eight-year tour in Australia. In 1870, the couple married and retired to a home in Paris.

Thanks to the generosity of the National Portrait Gallery of Australia, I can share these portraits of the two, taken in the early 1860s.



Submitted by Paul Nance, Church Historian



Notes

from the *Music Director*

UPCOMING IN MUSIC AT ST. PAUL'S

Evensong in Celebration of Pride Month

Tuesday, June 11 AT 5:30 pm

The choirs of St. Paul's and St. Andrew's will join together for this community event, singing music of Stanford, Tallis, and Friedell. Guest organist Albert Melton will offer the organ prelude and postlude. Albert Melton was organist most recently at the Cathedral Church of St. Luke in Portland, Maine. He was also organist here at St. Paul's in the 1990's.

Sunday, June 9 is St. Paul's Choir's last Sunday until September 15.

Guest organists this summer while Music Director Steven Rosenberry will be on vacation:

Bill Moll
Kate Storms
Mary Bon

April 21, 2024—Bach Concert, St. Paul's Choir and Orchestra



St. Paul's Soloists' Concert Sunday, May 19, 2024

The voices of St. Paul's solists in songs and arias, from Cesti (1618-1669) through Errol Garner (1921-1977) filled the sanctuary.

From Left to Right:

Michael Clement, piano, David Rudnick, tenor, Tess McCarthy, mezzo-soprano, Susan Harwood, soprano, Christina Pickreign, soprano, Caleb Eick, baritone, and Abigail Cowan, mezzo-soprano





*Those who are wise
shall shine
like the brightness of the sky,
and those who lead
the many
to righteousness,
like the stars
forever and ever.*

Daniel 12:3

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St. Paul's celebrates the Holy Eucharist on Sundays at 8 a.m. (Quiet Holy Eucharist in All Saints' Chapel) and 10:30 a.m. (Choral Eucharist in the Nave). Midweek Holy Eucharist is celebrated on Wednesdays at 12:15 in the Chapel. Morning Prayer is said at 10 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday in the Chapel.