

# March 15th, 2021 Epistle

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



*—This beautiful photo of the ceiling of the Nave was taken by Dennis Nett of the Syracuse Post Standard.*

[www.stpaulsyr.org](http://www.stpaulsyr.org)

## The 1967 Jeep

—by Rev. Philip Major



In 1992 Nancy and I moved into a house we were building near the top of a small mountain in New Hampshire. Our driveway was 500 feet long, so I looked for a cheap way to clear the snow. I bought a 1967 Jeep CJ3 with a plow. The Jeep had excellent traction. Since it was used only for plowing I kept snow chains on the tires year round. It was extremely short, so I had plenty of room to maneuver as I pushed snowbanks back. Without a doubt, the old Jeep was the best plowing vehicle I ever had.

On the other hand, the Jeep was 25 years old. One of the things I learned is that when you are driving a 25-year old truck you should set aside several hundred dollars each year for repairs. One year it was the alternator. Another year it was the radiator. You get the idea.

One cold winter day in 1996 I was plowing the driveway and the engine exploded. I decided to not replace the engine. This time we bought a brand new truck. I was glad to not have any repairs for several years. But sometime around year five it did need some work. First a new set of brakes. Then a new set of tires. Then a new exhaust system. The strange thing was that soon after the truck turned nine years old I brought it in for inspection. My mechanic friend had a somber look when I came back to pick up my truck. "I'll let it pass this year, but don't bring it back next year. Your frame is almost completely rusted out."

If you drive a car, or a plowing truck, you have to set aside money for repairs, and sometimes the repairs will be very expensive. The same rule applies to us in the church. If you worship in a church building, you have to set aside money for repairs, and sometimes the repairs will be very expensive.

If you walk through St. Paul's Church you might notice we have a large hole in the ceiling in the sacristy hallway. We had noticed some amount of leaking in this spot in recent years. This year's combination of snow, ice and rain seemed to be the fatal blow. We were collecting



gallons of water in buckets each day in this spot in February. About 10 days ago the gypsum board collapsed. We have identified at least four other leaks in the roofs of the parish house, in spite of the fact that we spent more than \$10,000 on repairs to the roof a few years ago. It's time for these roofs to be replaced. The cost will be more than \$200,000.

These aren't the only repairs that are needed for the Parish House building. Most of the windows (more than 60!) need repairs. An old fire escape needs to be removed. The trim and masonry need repairs.

Getting these repairs done, all at once, is just one of the reasons we are grateful to the Open Doors task force. They have created a comprehensive plan to repair and preserve the exterior of our parish house building, renovate important portions of the interior, dramatically increase universal access to the first and second floor, and prepare the old Samaritan Center for our newest mission: *The Caring Place*. One of the critical results of the plan is that it will prepare our Parish House building for full use, likely by some combination of St. Paul's people and groups and outside people and groups.

I'm probably not giving you any new 'news'. However, as the Open Doors Capital Campaign moves into full swing in April, I want us to remember that we don't really have a choice about whether we direct a significant portion of our resources towards our building.

It's similar to what it was like for me when I moved into a house with a 500 foot driveway. If you have a 500 foot driveway in snow country you are going to spend many hundreds of dollars each year maintaining your plow truck. If we are going to worship in a church building, we are going to spend money maintaining our building. The story of my second plow truck illustrates a second dimension: we wouldn't necessarily be spending *less* money on repairs if St. Paul's was in a building that was 20 or 40 or 60 years old.

*Continued on page 4*

The Open Doors project presents us with a way to get the essentials done, while improving access and facilities for current and future generations and preparing our buildings for a third century of ministry in Syracuse. The total cost of the project will be in the neighborhood of \$1.7 million dollars. Half of the funds will be coming from state and national grants.

I urge you to join me for our Open Doors virtual town hall at 4 p.m. on Sunday, April 11th. We have space for a limited number of people to participate in the town hall at St. Paul's. We are hoping everyone else will be able to join us via Zoom. This will be our opportunity to get the latest updates about the project as we begin our Capital Campaign. We'll have more details about the town hall in the April 1st edition of St. Paul's Courier.

## Bishop DeDe Joins us for Worship March 21st

—By Fr. Philip

Bishop DeDe Duncan-Probe will join St. Paul's for worship on Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:30 a.m. This service will be accessible via Zoom and the Livestream. This is our bi-annual Bishop visitation, so I especially encourage you to join us for this service.



## Easter Flower Memorials

The Easter Flower Memorials will be published in the April Courier. If you have changes to your listing from last year, please contact us **by Tuesday, March 23rd**. If you don't have a memorial and would like to be included this year, please



let us know. Be sure to include: who the flowers are given in memory of and who they are from. You can call it in to Beverly Bolton at her home. Or call Doug Mouncey at the church office on Tuesdays between 11:30 and 3:00 pm or email Judy directly at [offices@stpaulsyr.org](mailto:offices@stpaulsyr.org).

## Holy Week Services

We are preparing our worship space for a return to our normal worship schedule at the beginning of April. Please watch the eblast or check St. Paul's homepage for updates as we approach Holy Week. As of mid-March we are planning for the following Holy Week services:



March 28th - Palm Sunday: 9:30 via Zoom/livestream, 11 a.m. in-person

April 1st - Maundy Thursday: 5:30 p.m.

April 2nd - Good Friday: Noon and 5:30 p.m.

April 3rd - Easter Vigil: 7:00 p.m.

April 4th - Easter Sunday: 8 a.m and 10 a.m.

## Open Pantry Donation Drop Off on March 20

—by Betsy Elkins

On Saturday February 20 we provided a special time for folks to drop off donations of food, socks and personal care items for the Open Pantry. Thanks to all who stopped by with donations between 10 and noon. This will be a monthly event on the third Saturday of the month. **The next Drop Off day will be March 20th from 10:00 a.m. until Noon.**

Donations may always be placed directly in the pantry or left at the church at your convenience.

This little ministry has proven to be very helpful to our neighbors around us. Thank you!



## Open Doors Update

—by *Cathy Wolff*

The various Open Doors task forces are beginning their work in earnest now, starting with the Case Statement Task Force and the Communications Task Force.

The Case Statement Task Force is responsible for creating a formal case statement that can appeal to both St. Paul's membership and the greater community of Syracuse. The case statement is the "business card" of a capital campaign, succinctly presenting a compelling case for support. Matthew Fledderjohann, Catherine Gerard, and Ieva Doyle will be working with chair Cathy Wolff to craft our case statement.

The Communications Task Force is responsible for creating campaign materials, developing a social media strategy, and creating a brief campaign video that tells our story. The task force has identified two professional videographers for consideration in producing our video. Working with chair Betsy Elkins are DJ Igelsrud, Jessica King, David Morgan, Doug Mouncey, Roy Thomas, and Father Philip. The case statement and video will be critical to the success of our campaign.

## Save the Date

### Sunday, April 11th at 4:00pm, Parish Town Hall Meeting

Partners for Sacred Places will host a Parish Town Hall Meeting to help inform every one of the project and the capital campaign. You will hear more specifics about this meeting in the next Epistle.

If you have any questions about the project and the capital campaign don't hesitate to contact a member of the Steering Committee: Becky Livengood, Father Philip, Cathy Wolff, Betsy Elkins, David Ridings, Walley Francis, Doug Mouncey, Tom Cantwell, Michael Mach, or Marion Greenhalgh.



## OPEN DOORS

Preparing for Our Third Century  
of Ministry in Downtown Syracuse

## SPC Readers for April: *Mark as Story*

—by Fr. Philip

In our tradition we have a conception of the Bible as a body of writings that are, in some sense, divinely inspired. With this in mind, we approach scripture with the understanding that the truth of these writings may not be readily apparent. We cannot fully understand or know God; neither can we presume to fully understand the meaning of Holy Scripture at first reading.

So we approach Holy Scripture as a learning community. Working together, we gain greater understanding of the meaning of Holy Scripture. We learn from our dialogue with one another and with authors who share their insights into scripture from different times and places. We pursue this study because the power of Holy Scripture increases with understanding.

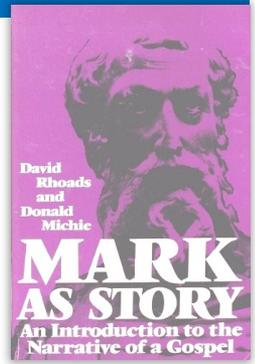
I invite you to join me for a deep dive into the Gospel of Mark during the month of April. Our resource for this study will be a short book called *Mark as Story* by Dewey, Michie and Rhoads. Each Wednesday evening discussion will be organized around a chapter of *Mark as Story*.

Here are the details:

When: Wednesday Evenings 7:30-8:30 p.m.

Dates: April 14, 21 and 28

Questions or registration: [revmajor@stpaulsyr.org](mailto:revmajor@stpaulsyr.org)



We've worked the bugs out and our full church calendar is available to view on our website. [www.stpaulsyr.org](http://www.stpaulsyr.org). Just hover over where it says Events and the calendar link will pop up.



# Pastoral Care and the Prayer List

—By Laurie Sanderson

**Urgent Prayer Needs:** Marilyn, Jessica, Sandy, Harriet, Shari, Donna and David, Kevin, Sue, AnnMarie, and Greg.



**Continued Prayer Needs:**

Deb, The Reverend Barbara Allen, Denise and Grant, Patrick, Linda, Susan, Dawn, Jim, Anne, Valarie, Anni, Kate and Elizabeth.

**For Those Who Have Died:** Eleanor Tuttle

All those who are living alone: Bev, June, Jean, Edith, Goodie, Nancy, Ali, Tom, Tahiana, Mary, Cynthia and Louise. and others we name in our hearts. All who struggle with depression and anxiety brought on by the Covid crisis.

**Pastoral Care:** Just a reminder to contact Father Philip, the office, or Laurie Sanderson if you have concerns or names or changes for the prayer list. Laurie's email is [lascsw3@aol.com](mailto:lascsw3@aol.com), her phone number is 315-420-1518.

## Covid 19 Vaccine Information

—by D.J. Igelsrud, Warden

All of those who are 65 or older were told we could get a Covid19 vaccination. But many of us haven't been able to actually get an appointment to receive the vaccine.

- Have you had your first vaccine?
- Have you had both your first and second vaccine?
- Would you like an appointment to get the vaccine?
- Do you need help in securing a vaccine appointment?
- Will you need transportation to get the vaccine?

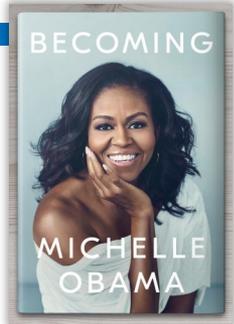


Help is on the way! Just call or text me, DJ, at 315-559-1205  
Or email me at [djdigishooter@gmail.com](mailto:djdigishooter@gmail.com)

## Feminist Theology

—by Laurie Sanderson

Feminist Theology meets again on March 16th at 7:30 pm via Zoom. For March we will be discussing Michele Obama's book, "Becoming". For April we will discuss Caste: The Origins of our Discontents by Isabel Wilkerson, we have great discussions and support each other as we meet, it has been wonderful to have friends who have moved away join us via Zoom. You are welcome to join us as well. For more information contact Laurie Sanderson. [lascsw3@aol.com](mailto:lascsw3@aol.com) or 315-429-1518.



## Music for the Mission Grant received for Open Pantry

—by Betsy Elkins



St. Paul's received a \$1,000 grant from Music for the Mission to help support the Open Pantry that we established last summer as part of the Caring Place when we had to "pause" it during the pandemic. This grant was offered to non-profit organizations with projects that work with the homeless and hungry populations of Central New York. In its inaugural year this mini-grant program was specifically looking to fund smaller more grassroots nonprofit organizations aiding these populations, specifically organizations with a creative and innovative project to mitigate the effects of homelessness and hunger. This certainly sounded like our Open Pantry and happily the Music for the Mission agreed!

We are grateful to have this money to help boost our inventory of food that is available to fill the pantry. Nevertheless, we hope parishioners and downtown neighbors will continue to donate food and money to support the pantry. We have created an important source of food for hungry people in our community and we don't anticipate this need ever being completely satisfied. Our Open Pantry will remain open indefinitely. Thanks for your support!

## March Birthdays:

Kathy Major 3/2, Marilyn Alberding 3/5, Nancy Lambright 3/5, Elizabeth Johnson 3/6, Michael Goins 3/10, Sean Mulvey 3/13, Eric Johnson 3/15, Margaret Sherwin 3/17, Irene Apps 3/21, Glenn Kime 3/22, Mark Knowlton 3/25, Elizabeth Belden-Handler 3/26, Patricia Glavin 3/26, D.J. Igelsrud 3/27, Alexander Tripoldi 3/28, Derina Samuel 3/31.

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## Valerie Alston will be 100 on March 15

Our longtime friend Valerie Alston, who now lives in Michigan, will be turning 100 on March 15. Her daughter Kate reports that she is doing well but is pretty much locked down and unable to see her family and friends which certainly sounds familiar. It would be wonderful if we would send Valerie special greetings for this milestone birthday! Her daughter would welcome photos and short videos that she can share with Valerie.



*Valerie at her St. Paul's going away party in 2013.*

Text pics: 248-840-8919

Email video: [kprsn02@gmail.com](mailto:kprsn02@gmail.com)

And you may always send Val a card at this address:

Valerie Alston  
 c/o Kate Person  
 2336 Lanergan Dr.  
 Troy, MI 48084

**Beginning with the April 1st Edition, we are returning to a once a month Courier. The deadline for the next issue of The Courier is Tuesday, March 23rd by midnight. Please continue to send all articles, photos etc to Jim Potts for the time being. [jpotts@stpaulsyr.org](mailto:jpotts@stpaulsyr.org)**

## St. Paul's Calendar through March 31

Tuesday, March 16, 2:00 p.m. Bible Study- **Zoom**

Tuesday, March 16, 7:00 p.m. Compline - **Zoom**

Tuesday, March 16 7:30 p.m. Closer to Zero Waste- **Zoom**

Tuesday, March 16 7:30 p.m. Feminist Theology

Wednesday, March 17, 11:00 a.m. Centering Prayer- **Zoom**

Saturday, March 20, 10:00 to Noon - Food Pantry Drop Off

Sunday, March 21, 8:30 a.m. Coffee Hour- **Zoom**

Sunday, March 21, 9:30 a.m. Worship– **Zoom with the Bishop**

Sunday, March 21, 10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour- **Zoom**

Sunday, March 21, 11:00 a.m. In-Person Eucharist

Sunday, March 21, 2:00 p.m. South Sudanese Prayers– **Zoom**

Tuesday, March 23, 2:00 p.m. Bible Study- **Zoom**

Tuesday, March 23, 5:00 p.m. Buildings & Grounds Meeting– **Zoom**

Tuesday, March 23, 7:00 p.m. Compline - **Zoom**

Tuesday, March 23, 7:30 p.m. Gardener's Group - **Zoom**

Wednesday, March 24, 11:00 a.m. Centering Prayer- **Zoom**

### **Sunday, March 28 Palm Sunday**

Sunday, March 28, 8:30 a.m. Coffee Hour- **Zoom**

Sunday, March 28, 9:30 a.m. Worship– **Live Stream**

Sunday, March 28, 10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour- **Zoom**

Sunday, March 28, 11:00 a.m. Worship– **In Person & Live Stream**

Sunday, March 28, 2:00 p.m. South Sudanese Prayers– **Zoom**

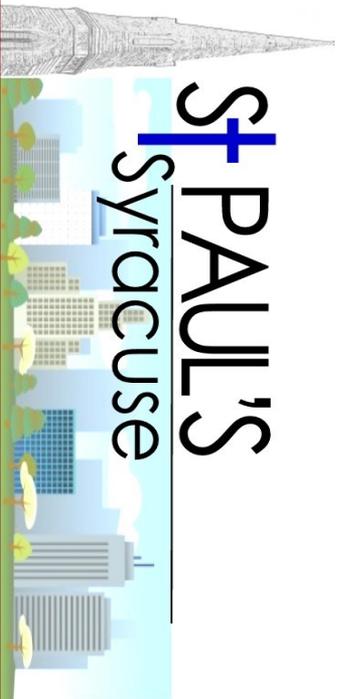
Tuesday, March 30, 2:00 p.m. Bible Study- **Zoom**

Tuesday, March 30, 7:00 p.m. Compline - **Zoom**

Tuesday, March 30 7:30 p.m. Closer to Zero Waste- **Zoom**

Wednesday, March 31, 11:00 a.m. Centering Prayer- **Zoom**





**The Downtown Episcopal Church**

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**Deadline for the Next Issue of The Courier**

The next Epistle will be the April 1st issue. The deadline is midnight, Tuesday, March 23rd.