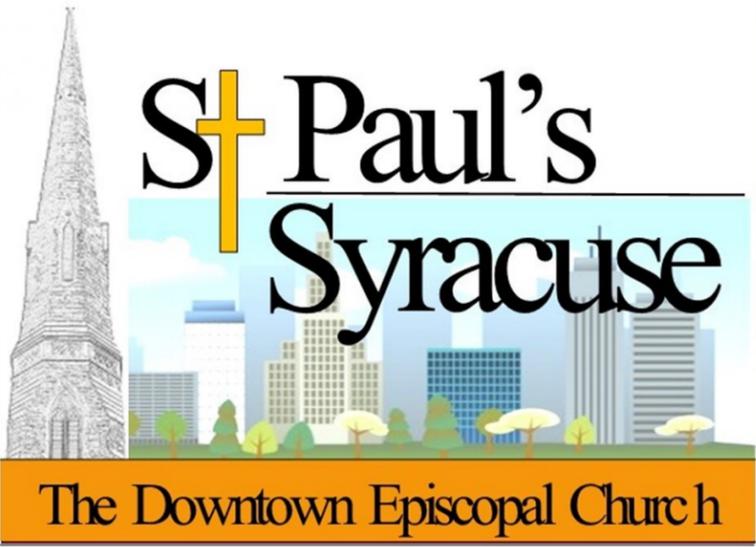


A Year in the Life of St. Paul's



Annual Report

2020



Minutes of January 2020 Annual Meeting

Call to Order

The Annual Meeting of St. Pau's was held on January 26, 2020, and called to order at 11:05 a.m.

Officers of the Meeting: The Reverend Philip Major (Rector), Laurie Sanderson (Warden), Betsy Elkins (Warden), Betsy Barker (Chancellor), Doug Mouncey (Assistant Treasurer), Terri Clark Tuttle (Clerk)

The Rev. Philip Major opened with a prayer.

Correction to the 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes: Betsy Elkins was elected Warden, not Junior Warden. The word Junior will be deleted.

Motion: Marion Greenhalgh moved and Jim Doyle seconded to remove the word "Junior" from Junior Warden from the 2019 Annual Meeting minutes. All approved.

Nominating Committee chair Betsy Elkins presented the following candidates for the 2020 Vestry:

Tom Cantwell for Warden

Dick Pilgrim, Bill Pitcher, and Michael Yuot Mach for 3-year vestry terms

No nominations were made from the floor.

Motion: Betsy Elkins made a motion and Jim Doyle seconded the motion for a single voice vote to elect Tom Cantwell to the position of Warden.

The motion was carried.

Tom Cantwell was elected Warden by voice vote.

Motion: Elizabeth Handler made a motion and Philip Bufham seconded the motion for a single voice vote to elect Dick Pilgrim, Bill Pitcher, and Michael Yuot Mach for a 3 year Vestry term.

The motion was carried.

Dick Pilgrim, Bill Pitcher, and Michael Yuot Mach elected to three-year terms by voice vote.

The Reverend Philip Major presented an overview of the Open Door Project.

The meeting ended with a closing prayer from Father Philip.

Meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

—*Terri Clark Tuttle, Clerk of the Vestry*

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1. Fun in Sunday School with Maisie, Lee and Charlie
2. Mass on the Grass at Father Philip's home
3. The beautiful Knockout Roses in the Nan Dorr Memorial Garden






ST. PAUL'S SYRACUSE
ANNUAL
MEETING



January 26, 2020



To Teach,
Celebrate &
Serve Christ

Directions & Agenda of Annual Meeting January 31, 2021

9:00 Coffee Hour via Zoom

9:30 Morning Prayer via Livestream

(Worship will end by 10:20. In order to join in the Annual Meeting you will need to leave the Worship Livestream, then join the Zoom meeting or the Livestream of the Annual Meeting at 10:30.)

10:30 Annual Meeting via Zoom and the Livestream

1. The Annual Meeting is called to order.
2. The officers of the meeting are announced:
 - a. The Rev. Philip Major, presiding officer
 - b. Betsy Barker, parliamentarian
 - c. Jenifer Breyer, clerk
 - d. DJ Iglesiasrud, chair of the nominating committee
 - e. Liz Belden-Handler (315 491-3735) and Jean Stanton (315 885-0956), tellers.
3. Sample Test Vote: What is your favorite flavor of Ice Cream?
 - a. Strawberry
 - b. Chocolate
 - c. Coconut
4. Approve minutes of January 26, 2020 Annual Meeting.
5. Nominations committee report.
6. Voting for Wardens:

Sr. Warden – DJ Iglesiasrud, Jr. Warden – Dick Pilgrim _____

 - a. If you are voting via Zoom please use the polling feature found in the toolbar.
 - b. If you are voting via phone please call Jean Stanton or Liz Belden-Handler
7. Voting for Vestry:

Kira Dirghalli, Carolyn Grieb, Tiffany Miner _____
8. Treasurer's Report p. 14-15 in Annual Report
9. Rector's Report
10. Presentations from *Open Doors*, *The Caring Place* and Sunday School
11. Breakout Rooms (20 minutes) If you are participating via Zoom you may choose any of the three rooms. If you are participating via the Livestream you will be viewing the *Open Doors* discussion.
12. Closing Prayer. Adjournment of Annual Meeting.

Nomination for Junior Warden: Dick Pilgrim

I have held a number of leadership positions at St. Paul's over the last ten years, including two separate terms as warden, at least two terms as a member of the vestry, two terms as convener of the Formation Ministry Team, chair of the most recent rector Search Committee, and a number of other positions on a variety of special task forces, ministry teams, ad hoc committees, and etc.



In the meantime I enjoy being a part of the choir, and more generally a part of the SPC community. I am an emeritus professor of Syracuse University (Religious Studies, College of Arts and Sciences), and enjoy both teaching occasionally at Oasis (a senior citizen continuing education program through the SUNY Heath Center), and pursuing my musical interests by singing in a variety of local chamber choirs. I am married to Neva Pilgrim – who also keeps me busy --, and we have two adult sons, Jonathan (living in Munich with our daughter-in-law and two grandchildren) and Jason (living locally).

Nominations for The Vestry

Nomination for Vestry: Kira Dirghalli



I was born in Germany and as an infant baptized by a Bishop of the Russian Orthodox Church. I never learned to speak Russian and did not attend a Russian Orthodox Church until the funeral of my father. I was 12 years old and we had immigrated to the United States a year earlier.

My first real experience with church was at age 16. I was invited by my best friend and her mother to attend a service at St. John' Episcopal Church in New City, NY. A year later, I was received into the Episcopal Church. Before I took that monumental step in my life, my mother insisted that I discuss this move with my two Russian Orthodox aunts (my father's sisters). They were very involved in the Russian Orthodox Church, but lived in Lima, Peru and had very little contact with me. They were delighted and gave their blessings and I became an Episcopalian!!! During my undergraduate years at SUNY Cortland, I attended Grace Church regularly and was involved in their college youth group, Canterbury club. I continued my graduate school work at Cortland and became the Au pair in the home of the rector at Grace Church. A year later I married the assistant priest, the Rev. S. George Dirghalli. That was 1967.

A year later, George accepted the call to become rector of Calvary Episcopal Church in Syracuse, NY. I became involved in the life of the parish as our children arrived and grew and I had time while teaching full time as a middle school science teacher at Lincoln Middle School in the city of Syracuse. I volunteered in the nursery, sang in the choir, took my turns in the altar guild and became a ELC. After 20 years at Calvary (1988), George retired and I joined him as he served parishes as an interim priest and priest in charge for the next 28 years. Since the spring of 2016, I became a regular attendee of St. Paul's Syracuse. When Calvary Church closed, my records and those of my children were transferred to St. Paul's. I had a home there and it was natural for me to return. I have been involved in the life of the parish (with a pause during the winter months, when I am in Vero Beach, Florida) I have been a lay reader at the 8 o'clock service, helped with the soup ministry and on occasion with 1st Friday. During the summers of 2017 and 2018 I helped with Vacation Bible School. Now as the year 2021 starts, I hope to learn more of the workings of a parish, not as a rector's wife, but as me, Kira Dirghalli

Nomination for Vestry: Tiffany Miner

I consider myself a Syracuse native, though I have been living and thriving in this city for a considerably less amount of time than most of my friends here at St Paul's. I have a dual bachelor's in Sociology and English Literature, having graduated from SUNY Potsdam in 2014. 2014 was also the year I moved to Syracuse – I've moved a few times since then but have stayed within the city limits essentially this whole time. During the past six years, I've held a few jobs in call centers and a short stint as a contractor for the traffic department of the NYSDOT, but my longest job has been at Dig Safely New York (811) as a customer service representative, where I continue to work from home due to the pandemic.



I've been involved in St. Paul's for a couple of years – the defining moment when I felt like St. Paul's was truly home to me was when I was dragged to one of the very first renditions of the Feast. From that moment on, I've been pretty engaged with St. Paul's – there is never

Continued on next page

an end of fun things to do in this community! I was beginning to work with the Formation team before the pandemic hit, and have been very involved in the Feast essentially since, I joined St Paul's. I now lead that ministry with Vivian Tompkins.

I'm married to Tim Simmons, and am well known among my friends for my love of cats and knitting. I hope I can bring new ideas and creativity to our tight knit and generous Christian community here at St Paul's. The COVID-19 pandemic has changed everything, but our steadfastness and collective ability to adapt our ministries has not wavered during this time. I have so much confidence that we will continue to move forward – with the building project, Open Pantry/Caring Place, and of course the Feast.

Nomination for Vestry: Carolyn Grieb

When DJ approached me about serving on the Vestry my initial response was, “ that is not who I am. I am the person who wants to make the soup on Wednesdays, help cook with Carol for her First Friday suppers, make the communion bread, deliver the flowers, and help keep the pantry filled. I am a “worker bee”. I feel neither qualified nor have a particular interest in becoming involved in the mechanisms of the church operations.”



That is what I said. However, I believe strongly in St Paul's and all that it stands for and all that it does. When I first stepped into the church two years ago, I was warmly welcomed and that warmth has remained. It is always felt. St Paul's puts into practice the teaching of Christ. I am amazed at the time and effort that is spent reaching out to those in the community, especially those less fortunate. When there is a need for help many step forward with compassion and support. There are always new ideas and new plans being considered in order to serve others. I am proud and happy to be a part of this congregation.

As for my resume it is short and centers around children. I basically went from playing with dolls to baby sitting to having children and then grandchildren. With four young children I earned a degree from Maria Regina in early childhood education and taught as a nursery school teacher at Bellevue Methodist Church. When my “then” husband bought an auto repair business I became a bookkeeper.

Many years later, divorced and with my four children grown I received my B.S. from Oswego through a program offered by the Syracuse City School District . However, I never ended up teaching. I graduated at the precise time the district was involved in budget cuts . They were unable to provide the teaching position promised and I chose not to stay on as a substitute.

During the program I had continued as a part time bookkeeper at Autotech, which was/is now owned by one of my sons. I returned there full time. Disappointed that I had not become a teacher I soon realized that I was living the life God planned for me. Grandchildren soon arrived. At that point I was given the opportunity to care for and enjoy my grandchildren in a very special way while also watching my son grow a successful business....as well as being a part of it since I am still the bookkeeper. I believe God leads us, even when we don't understand. I believe He has led me here to St Paul's. I still question my qualifications but would be pleased to serve as a Vestry member if the opportunity is offered.

Rector's Report

—by *The Reverend Philip Major*

January 1, 2021



Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

The coronavirus pandemic and other disruptions of 2020 brought extreme challenges for us individually and for St. Paul's Church as a whole. We can be thankful that, while a few of us have family members who were affected, none of our active members have been infected with the new coronavirus. At the same time, we acknowledge every single member of St. Paul's has been seriously affected by the pandemic and other events of 2020. These effects range from a first grader who has not been able to be with his classmates, to a few individuals who have rarely or never left their homes for the past nine months.

One of the surprising aspects of 2020 for me, was the way St. Paul's has created new ways to fulfill our mission to teach, celebrate and serve Christ during this difficult time. Some of these innovations were practical and immediately visible, such as The Open Pantry installed in front of the church on Fayette Street. (See p. 26 for details.) Some were health necessities we will happily leave behind once the vaccine has been provided for all members of our community.

A third layer of innovations will bring long lasting strength to St. Paul's. In 2020 we introduced technologies and ways of gathering that will become more or less permanent. These add a new layer of connectivity for our members. For instance, our entire congregation was forced to gather for worship via the Livestream because it was not safe for us to gather in person. We will continue to broadcast our worship services via the Livestream for years to come, because this technology allows homebound members to join us in worship.

In a similar way, many of us used electronic connections to join small group meetings and worship services, such as SPC Gardeners or Advent Compline services. Some of these groups became practical because they took place online; few people would travel to St. Paul's to attend a 15-minute compline service in person, but 10-20 people gathered for Compline online. During this time of crisis, we have used the gifts God has given us to create new ways to engage in ministry and in our common life of faith, fellowship and worship.

I will devote the remainder of my annual report to remarks about three areas of vital importance where St. Paul's saw significant changes in 2020: budget, staff and worship.

Budget

Over the past 5-10 years members of St. Paul's vestry and finance committee made many difficult adjustments to our expenses and income. Piece by piece, we have been laying the foundation for a sustainable, balanced budget for St. Paul's. St. Paul's investments in developing the *Open Doors* project have been a critical piece of this work; without *Open Doors* we would need to devote a significant portion of our budget each year to major repairs of our building.

We approached a critical turning point during 2020. Thanks to the work of our vestry, staff and finance team, St. Paul's enters 2021 with our expenses and income very well balanced. Our 2021 budget incorporates well-controlled expenditures, strong financial pledges from our members, and a sustainable draw from our investment accounts. Please read our Treasurer's Report on pages 14 & 15 to learn more about our budget and financial picture.

Staff

In 2020 and 2021 we are making significant changes in three areas related to our staff. Some of these changes are related to the pandemic, and some are related to long-term changes in our ministry and membership. I have arranged these staff positions in order from smallest to largest overall budget expense. Where there is a significant change in budget amounts from 2020 to 2021 I have provided details of these changes.

Continued on the following page

Technical support – We have brought on additional technical help to support our livestream and video conferencing. This will likely continue through the first half of 2021. We spent about \$4000 for technical support of our worship services in 2020.

Parish Assistant – This is a completely new, part-time ‘position’ for us, related to several long-term needs. The first need is for support with the administrative work that normally falls on your rector. The second need is for building related support, such as meeting with maintenance contractors or working through logistics with one of our community partners, like Symphoria. Some of these needs were previously handled by our sexton. Many are now being handled by a combination of our Business Manager, Rector and Organist/Choir Master.

Our Executive Ministry Team, Personnel Committee and Vestry have been working to find ways to address these needs during the second half of 2020. In November, Doug Mouncey volunteered to ‘staff’ the position as a volunteer for a period of 4-6 months. Doug has been reporting for duty every Tuesday for the past six weeks. This has been extremely helpful; we are discovering the best ways to use an extra person to support your rector and our business manager. We expect to have an accurate job description developed by February and plan to hire someone to work 8-10 hours per week sometime in the Spring. St. Paul’s Vestry has approved a budget of about \$9000 for this position for 2021.

Cleaning and Maintenance –With sadness, we ended our contract with our faithful, skilled sexton, John Pizzi, in May of 2020. The reason for this decision was our need to reduce our expenses in order to balance our budget, and the changing needs of our church. In past years, the annual expense for a full-time sexton has been about \$70,000.

In the second half of 2020 we hired a cleaning service, contracted for 24/7 snow removal services, and began working with a handyman to take care of minor repairs and construction needs in the building. We expect the cost for cleaning, handyman and snow removal services to be about \$13,000 in 2021.

Organist and Choirmaster – One of the important events we missed in the chaos of the pandemic was the 25th anniversary of Jim Potts arrival at St. Paul’s as organist and choirmaster. Jim’s 25th anniversary was last April! 2020 presented extreme challenges for Jim, as he worked to provide inspiring music for our worship services, while dealing with many technical changes required in order to comply with safety protocols. Through these many months of the pandemic, he has led our singers and played the organ, drawing on his creativity and enormous repertoire to lead our congregation in worship.

There has been an additional part of Jim’s work in 2020, seen by very few people. Jim has played a primary role in taking care of our building, working with contractors, and working with the flower guild, the altar guild and with me to ensure that our chancel area is beautiful and prepared for a video broadcast. Jim is a tremendous team player. There have been days when Jim arrived at St. Paul’s at 7 a.m. to let a contractor into the building. I am most grateful for Jim’s flexibility and leadership in the past year!

Business Manager – Judy McAdoo-Pelton has full responsibility for our finances and plays a primary role as our central communications person at St. Paul’s. Judy shares administrative duties, including overseeing use of the building, with the rector. Beginning in 2021, she will receive some support from a ‘one-day/week’ parish assistant, as noted above.

Over the past five years our vestry has worked to reduce staff expenses by eliminating three staff positions. In all of these situations some or all of the responsibilities have been moved onto Judy’s job description. For instance, five years ago we had a part-time ‘events manager’. The expense for this position was about \$7000 per year. For the past four years all of this work has been part of Judy’s job description.

During 2020 almost all of our church activities moved to an online format. In a matter of one or two days, Judy reformatted the homepage of our website to make it easy for our members to join worship and meetings via Zoom or the live stream. Judy has been a faithful team player as we worked through the changes and challenges of the past ten months.

Continued on the following page

Technically, Judy works four long days, Monday-Thursday. I notice that Judy does some sort of work almost every day of the week for St. Paul's: updating our calendar, answering messages and emails, responding to emergency requests for the website. I cannot thank her enough for her faithfulness and dedication to St. Paul's!

Rector – I cannot really give a report about myself, but I can tell you how I spent my time in 2020 and share my understanding about what is most important for St. Paul's. As was the case for everyone else at St. Paul's, additional duties were added to my job description when the pandemic arrived. This is expected for me. Serving as St. Paul's rector brings me joy, and part of my job is to help the church deal with unexpected events.

During 2020 I devoted about 5% of my work hours to preparing, coordinating and leading Christian formation activities. I devoted about 20% of my time to supporting and connecting with our members individually, through pastoral care visits, letters, emails and conversations on the phone. I devoted about 30% of my time to planning, preparing for and leading worship. The last category is the largest. During 2020 I devoted about 45% of my time to communications and administration.

One of the unique characteristics of St. Paul's Church is that our members are very active, and they bring many leadership characteristics to their participation. As a result, St. Paul's includes at least 55 different ministry teams. These range from First Friday Dinners, to The Open Pantry, to Symphoria Receptions, to the Building and Grounds Committee, to Wednesday Healing Services.

As your rector, one of my primary responsibilities is to provide at least a little bit of support to each one of these ministry teams. Sometimes this means meeting with team leaders, or participating in a team meeting, or just showing up for an event and thanking people for their work. In smaller or less active parishes, there aren't so many meetings and activities, and the parish priest often spends more time talking directly with members. In an active parish, like St. Paul's, your priest spends more of his time supporting the lay people who lead the work of the church.

However, during the past year I have been increasingly concerned that urgent administrative needs have sometimes pushed aside less urgent but ultimately more important work, such as calling or visiting members. This is the main reason why our Vestry made the decision to create a position for a one day/week parish assistant. During the challenges and isolation of the past year I have tried, but not always succeeded, to stay in contact with our members.

Worship

During 2020 the members and staff who lead our congregation in worship made many changes to continue and expand the main work of the church, which is worship. At the beginning of the pandemic closure, in mid-March, we were required to move all our worship activities online. At this time, we made the decision to expand our worship opportunities. I offered Compline services on Tuesdays during the first several months of the pandemic and again during Advent. For several months, Jim Potts organized a small, talented group of musicians that led Thursday Evening Prayer worship with beautiful organ and choral music.

There were many technical twists and turns along the way; our members were patient as the small crew at the church dealt with challenges, including some which were outside our control. We made a critical decision in April to move our Thursday and Sunday worship services to a more reliable streaming platform that would allow us to provide reliable, better quality audio broadcasts of our worship. This technical work was supported by a group of members, including Roy Thomas, Bill Pitcher and Mark King. We received an enormous boost of support from the Women of St. Paul's; in June they provided a grant to purchase additional audio and technical equipment for broadcasting our worship service via the livestream.

During the summer months lower coronavirus case numbers made it possible for us to begin to offer limited in-person worship. For several months we held in-person worship services at 8 and 10 a.m. A hardy group of members enjoyed outdoor services on Sunday afternoons until the weather became too cold and wet. Through this period, we continued to broadcast our 10 a.m. worship service via the livestream. Beginning in July, Mark King supported our worship broadcast as our technical engineer.

As expected, case numbers rose steadily as activities moved indoors during the fall. We held our last in-person worship services of the year on November 15th. Undaunted, Jim Potts began making plans for the coming season and made arrangements with our musicians and a recording engineer. Largely through his efforts, we were able to offer a fairly normal season of Advent and Christmas worship services, complete with special music offerings.

2020 was an unexpected, exceptional year. One of the exceptional, unexpected parts of the year has been the participation of our members in worship, in a city park, in a nearly empty cathedral building, or through an internet connection. For me and probably for you, worship through a computer screen is a poor substitute for coming together in worship as the body of Christ. But we have refused to let go of one another, we have refused to let go of St. Paul's, and we have refused to let go of our vital connection in worship to the One who leads us in the path of love.

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Lawrence Wright, writing in *The New Yorker*, observed that the pandemic has been like an x-ray, revealing what lies beneath the surface. The pandemic has revealed multiple layers of resilience, connection, creativity, compassion and faithfulness at St. Paul's. Through the pages of this report you will see bits of evidence, documenting a small portion of the response of our members to the crisis. You have powerful stories of your own, stories of the person who called you on the telephone or visited with you in your driveway.

I have one more story to share with you. I want to give thanks especially for the leadership of our Senior Warden through the past 12 months. Betsy Elkins has given, and given more, and given more of her time, energy and prodigious skill to St. Paul's for the past five years. Betsy served a full three-year term as a member of our vestry, then took on the great task of serving as warden for two years. Especially in her work as warden, Betsy demonstrated an enormous reserve of energy and skill, a nearly boundless love for each of you as individuals, and a fierce determination to support our ultimate mission to serve as Christ's hands and feet in this world. Her willingness and capability in serving St. Paul's and the people of Syracuse will be an inspiration to me for the rest of my life.

During this most difficult year my appreciation and gratitude for our members and staff have only increased. I have been blessed to be walking beside you. Together, even in this year of separation, we give thanks for the love God has placed in the center of our lives.



Philip +

L to R: 1. Father Philip & the Blessing of the Animals 2. Harry Lewis and family at a First Friday Dinner 3. Debbie Bogan, Mary Hastings & residents of the YMCA next door to St. Paul's



# Senior Warden's Report

—by *Betsy Elkins*



**E**very year sometime during the 12 days of Christmas I write a short holiday message to my family and friends to bring them up to date on our past year, and to wish everyone the best in the coming year. And as I struggled to write that greeting this year I was thinking about what to include in this warden's report. 2020 was a year like none other for us individually and for St. Paul's. What could I say about all that happened and what do I think about our future going forward?

I looked at what I wrote in last year's report and I reviewed some of the messages I had written for the Epistle this year. I reviewed Philip's annual report that he shared with the wardens this week. What more can I add to any of that?

Despite the pandemic, which has interrupted many things in our lives and the life of St. Paul's, much is the same and that is truly amazing to me. While many things that are important to me have paused for now (soup lunches, choir, and in-person worship), not everything stopped at St. Paul's this year. Most committees and ministry teams continued to meet and work via zoom: Vestry, Finance, Buildings and Grounds, Worship, Feminist Theology, Bible Study, Open Doors, etc. And some new groups and services emerged: a gardener's group, readers, yoga, Compline, Closer-to-Zero Waste discussions.

As a warden, I was very aware of what was happening at St. Paul's and all that continued despite the restrictions of a pandemic. I had weekly wardens' meetings with Philip. My geographic proximity to St. Paul's made it easy for me to pick up a few tasks at the Church that could not be easily filled by others. I know that pledges and contributions came in and bills were paid (I made the weekly deposits at KeyBank and I signed checks.) I watered the Church gardens and filled the Open Pantry with the groceries so many of you donated. These two tasks were physical signs to the neighborhood that St. Paul's is indeed alive and open, despite the fact that the doors are shut.

While I admit to being weary from the pandemic and its restrictions on me personally, and on St. Paul's and our ministry, I remain optimistic and energized by where we are now and where we are going. During a time when many churches could have just given up and even closed, St. Paul's has not only survived but thrived. We are financially stable. We have a building project that should get underway in 2021. Our consultants, Partners for Sacred Places conducted a very positive feasibility study and we are about to embark on a Capital Campaign. We have strong leadership and a dedicated staff. Philip, Jim, and Judy have not missed a beat this year. Their commitment to St. Paul's has been remarkable. I have been honored to work with them, particularly Philip this year as we worked so closely.

I am remembering our Vestry retreat last February when Philip brought up the possibility that the Coronavirus might make it necessary for us to consider streaming worship services to keep everyone safe. My immediate thought was "No, that is not going to happen," and we should not worry everyone with that possibility! It wasn't long after that retreat that we were doing just what Philip had mentioned. It was his vision, leadership, and ministry among us that has helped to keep us alive and thriving this year.

I thank everyone for the privilege of being your warden and for the confidence you had in me. I have to admit that I am looking forward to a bit of church retirement. I will still be just a few blocks away, still doing "church work" but I can let go of many things, leaving them in the capable hands of so many others.

# Junior Warden's Report

—by DJ Igelsrud

**A**lthough I have only recently become part of the Warden Team, it has been a privilege to work closely with Betsy and Father Philip on the inner workings of St. Paul's Church!



In thinking back through 2020, I remember how different life was at the beginning of 2020: I remember our last Annual Meeting complete with delicious food, mingling with fellow parishioners from both 8 and 10 o'clock congregations, and having fun taking hundreds of photos there! I also have great memories of First Friday Dinners with Carol and her crew serving us delicious food and in February, our being treated to a performance by the Tai Chi folks who also joined us for dinner that evening. Also in February, I remember the Interfaith World Harmony assembly at which St. Paul's had a part in the program. Lastly from that far away era, I remember the Bach Cantata Concert which was held on the last day St. Paul's was open.

Then came the pandemic and the bottom seemed to drop out of our lives. All of the things we had taken for granted were disappearing from our lives: not being able to see our families has been hard on so many of us ( I haven't seen my Colorado family since they came to Syracuse for Christmas 2019 and wasn't able to be with my daughter while she was so sick with Covid 19). We have not been able to hug each other or to even get together in friendship! We have missed being in our beautiful sanctuary-missed worshipping together- missed taking communion- missed singing and listening to our choir-missed after church, in person coffee hours!

But in the midst of this, something wonderful happened at St. Paul's Church- we didn't isolate from each other!!! Through Father Philip's amazing energy and dedication- and with the help of many St. Paul's members- a plan sprang into action and put together a myriad of parts that would keep us together. Extensive work had to be done to make St. Paul's Livestream ready - it was a work in progress but we have all witnessed the results getting better and better!

We could only have a few people at St. Paul's on a given Sunday; Father Philip, Jim Potts and Mark King were instrumental to these services along with our faithful soloists and Lectors. Being able to attend St. Paul's services from home has been SO important to so many of us! We even tried a zoom service where folk participated from home. We loved the Compline and Evening Prayer services Father Philip treated us to. So although we have endured isolation, we certainly have stayed in touch with one another.

The two surveys that you responded to, helped to fine -tune our outreach and activities. Many Zoom groups have been started during the pandemic including small, special interest groups like Yoga, St. Paul's Gardeners, Closer to Zero Waste, and Centering Prayer. These have been important for knowledge and for a chance to connect with others. Having both 8 and 10 o'clock coffee hours on zoom each week has made life a little closer to normal (not saying it is really close to normal!)

Many of these online activities will continue long after the pandemic is under control. There will always be a Sunday Service live streamed! This is so important to many but especially to those who are homebound permanently. We will continue to have small groups online and will keep open the possibility for conducting business this way as well.

May this coming year bring us all vision and energy to do Christ's work within St. Paul's and beyond. May we be a beacon of hope and resources for the City of Syracuse.

**St. Paul's Syracuse  
Financial Report  
January - December 2020**

|                                    | Actual            | Budget            | Comments                                                                      |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>INCOME</b>                      |                   |                   |                                                                               |
| Pledge & Plate Income              | 135,662.68        | 136,200.00        |                                                                               |
| Designated Donations               | 32,026.27         | 13,150.00         | <i>includes Memorial contributions \$24,258 &amp; other designations</i>      |
| Program Donations                  | 75,330.99         | 59,825.00         | <i>includes Nan Dorr Fund, SSS (Open Doors), PPP &amp; other designations</i> |
| Earned Revenues                    | 23,174.94         | 29,500.00         | <i>includes Parking Lot &amp; facility use rents</i>                          |
| Other Income                       | 9,534.81          | 8,200.00          | <i>Sanford Trust income</i>                                                   |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                | <b>275,729.69</b> | <b>246,875.00</b> |                                                                               |
| <b>EXPENSES</b>                    |                   |                   |                                                                               |
| Salaries & Related Expenses        | 206,011.53        | 225,975.00        |                                                                               |
| Pension Plan Contributions         | 29,683.34         | 21,415.00         | <i>some expenses incurred in 2019</i>                                         |
| Employee Benefits                  | 31,164.09         | 31,645.00         | <i>Workers Comp, Unemployment, Disability, Medical</i>                        |
| Payroll Taxes                      | 13,791.92         | 16,070.00         | <i>Soc Sec &amp; Medicare</i>                                                 |
| Other Personnel Expenses           | 5,534.19          | 5,050.00          | <i>Software &amp; internet, accountant, etc</i>                               |
| Non Personnel Expenses             | 8,061.45          | 12,100.00         | <i>Bank fees, Office, Altar &amp; Flowers</i>                                 |
| Copier                             | 4,828.84          | 6,500.00          |                                                                               |
| Occupancy Expenses                 | 54,062.63         | 54,040.00         | <i>Utilities, Taxes, Insurance</i>                                            |
| Buildings & Grounds                | 20,861.03         | 52,000.00         | <i>Contracted services, Maintenance Supplies, Church Repairs, Equipment</i>   |
| Travel & Meetings Expense          | 350.00            | 1,200.00          |                                                                               |
| General Expenses                   | 53,629.16         | 53,640.00         | <i>Diocesan Assessment</i>                                                    |
| Education                          | -152.00           | 2,700.00          | <i>non-salary expenses</i>                                                    |
| Music                              | 3,523.06          | 2,700.00          | <i>non-salary expenses</i>                                                    |
| Outreach                           | 5,872.02          | 8,000.00          |                                                                               |
| Pastoral Care                      | 65.00             | 300.00            |                                                                               |
| Memorials Paid Out                 | 24,258.00         | 0.00              | <i>\$22,973.75 transfer to Endowment</i>                                      |
| Funerals/Wedding receptions        | 72.00             | 1,500.00          |                                                                               |
| First Friday Expenses              | 1,413.99          | 0.00              |                                                                               |
| Friends of Music Expenses Paid Out | 2,108.97          | 2,000.00          |                                                                               |
| South Sudanese Expenses            | 200.00            | 500.00            |                                                                               |
| Clergy Discretionary Paid Out      | 2,559.25          | 4,000.00          |                                                                               |
| WOSP Expenses                      | 5,622.90          | 0.00              | <i>includes Nan Dorr Fund projects</i>                                        |
| Other Expense                      | 0.00              | 1,500.00          |                                                                               |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>              | <b>473,521.37</b> | <b>502,835.00</b> |                                                                               |
| Net Operating Income               | -197,791.68       | -255,960.00       |                                                                               |
| Subsidy from Investments/Endowment | 293,650.95        | 291,300.00        | <i>actual includes Pledge of \$2,350.95</i>                                   |
| Total Other Expenses               | 10,210.62         | 0.00              | <i>SSS (Open Doors)</i>                                                       |
| <b>Net Income</b>                  | <b>85,648.65</b>  | <b>35,340.00</b>  |                                                                               |

# Financial Report for the Year 2020

—By Doug Mouncey, Assistant Treasurer



**Finance Committee** David Ridings, Chair; Walley Francis, Treasurer; Doug Mouncey, Assistant Treasurer; Jeff Averill, Tom Cantwell, Betsy Elkins, Ron Ferguson, Rebecca Livengood; also attending Fr. Philip Major and Judy McAdoo-Pelton

**Audit Committee** Betsy Elkins, Chair; Jeff Averill, Walley Francis, Doug Mouncey, Susan Hawks (member of Plymouth Church), Tim Simmons  
**Review of Rector's Discretionary Fund** Betsy Elkins, DJ Igelsrud

**W**hen one looks at our Financial Report for 2020, it will be noted that our total income received, exceeded our budgeted amount AND our actual expenses were less than the budgeted amount. This is extremely good news for the very challenging year of the pandemic!

Even more so, when Walley reported last year that 2019 had a slight shortfall which would have been greater without the receipt of funds from the sale of the Syracuse Chiefs stock, and, the budget for 2020 was balanced with the exception of potential capital expenses...potential roof work would create a shortfall of over \$20,000.

Four factors lead to a net increase by the end of 2020:

First, the difficult decision was made that we could no longer afford a full-time Sexton. That, coupled with an alignment of staff to meet the needs of the parish, will have a significant long-term impact.

Second, our parishioners continued their contributions in spite of the fact there were very few in-person services. In fact, our actual Plate & Pledge income reached almost 100% of what was budgeted.

Third, we received a Federal government Payroll Protection Program award of \$59,525. Special thanks to Rebecca Livengood and Doug Mouncey for their work in the application and oversight of this grant.

Fourth, we did not use much of the funds budgeted for capital purposes, however, approval was given late in the year for some heating equipment work to be done and paid for in 2021.

Other significant accomplishments in 2020 are that we adhered to the guide-lines of the subsidy (5.5%) for operating purposes from the Endowment, AND, we were able to return almost \$23,000 to the Endowment that had been received in Memorial contributions throughout the year. Endowment Market Value as of December 31 was \$6,466,706.53.

“Controls” are an important part of the fiduciary role of the Vestry. The internal audit that we did affirms that ours are very, very good. Starting with the work of the staff to ensure proper documentation of income and expenses through to the monthly meetings of the Finance Committee and Vestry, our procedures are top notch. In addition to the audit of our general operations, in keeping with church Canons, review was also done of the Rector's Discretionary account.

Looking ahead to 2021, the budget is balanced. We reduced our pledge income slightly compared to 2020 but have already exceeded that amount, AND, reduced the subsidy from the Endowment to 5%. We anticipate some higher capital expenses compared to 2020 and we are still learning about the impact of the staffing changes.

In closing, thank you for all of your financial support to St. Paul's.

# Open Doors Report

—by *Rebecca Livengood*



## OPEN DOORS

Preparing for Our Third Century  
of Ministry in Downtown Syracuse

**T**his year, the Open Doors Task Force continued to work on this project of major repairs and renovations to the Parish House, despite delays caused by the covid-19 pandemic. Preliminary architectural plans and cost estimates by Crawford & Stearns are nearly complete. We continue to work with Partners for Sacred Places, a not-for-profit consulting firm that specializes in historic churches. In November Partners completed a Feasibility Study that determined that St. Paul's was prepared to conduct a capital campaign to raise funds for the work of the project. The vestry has approved Partners to manage that campaign which will begin its planning period in January. National and State funders have previously committed substantially to our project, so we are optimistic about our campaign.

The project includes exterior work on entrances, windows and roofs and interior improvements to the first floor and the lower level. Pictures and descriptions of the work can be found at the Open Doors link at [www.stpaulsyr.org](http://www.stpaulsyr.org)

The hard-working members of the Task Force are: Tom Cantwell, Betsy Elkins, Walley Francis, Doug Mouncey, David Ridings, Cathy Wolff

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## Worship Ministry Team

—By *Betsy Barker, Convener*

**T**he Worship Committee, comprised of a group of very dedicated and valued members, meets on the third Tuesday of every month at 5:00 p.m. Our members discuss our regular weekly services, and special services such as Lessons and Carol, Evensong, Easter and the Vigil, and Christmas Eve. The committee members assist with readers, ushers, altar guild, acolytes, flowers and music. Although the recent and ongoing pandemic of 2020 has placed some hurdles our way in relation to conducting in-church services, our group has collaborated on ways we can still transmit the message of God, while at the same time remaining safe. Jim Potts and Father Philip have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to bring us more normalcy this year, while still observing the restrictions placed on us by both the Diocese and the Department of Health as related to conducting in-church services. Although we all desire to worship together in the sanctuary, we have successfully moved to on-line services, with readers, musicians and our liturgy.



I would like to thank former members, Cathy Wolff and Julia Fine, for their years of dedication and hard work on the Worship Committee. I appreciate and give thanks for the continued hard work this year of committee members, Jim Potts, Marion Greenhalgh, Mary Hastings, DJ Iglesias, Carolyn Greib, David Morgan, Laurie Sanderson and Father Philip. If you are interested in joining our group, please contact us. We certainly would welcome your participation and input.

# Vestry & Executive Ministry Team

—By Rev. Philip Major



## Vestry

**A**s with every other group at St. Paul's, our vestry moved to an online format beginning in April of 2020. It is one level of challenge to have a casual conversation with friends via Zoom during coffee hour. It is a much higher level of challenge to engage in the most difficult work of the church through a video conference. Month after month, the members of our vestry worked faithfully using this new technology. Prior to the pandemic, most of us had little or no experience using video conferencing for work. In spite of the challenges our vestry worked together to make critical decisions about staffing, pandemic safety protocols, church programs and budgets.

Tom Cantwell, elected Jr. Warden in January, has served St. Paul's with skill and dedication in many ways for many years. We were concerned when Tom endured a serious medical emergency in August. Tom determined it would be best for him to step aside as warden. We pray for his full recovery and thank him for his service as Jr. Warden. Faced with this vacancy our vestry chose one of their own, very capable, members to complete Tom's term. We are very grateful to DJ Iglesias for taking on the responsibilities of Jr. Warden in Tom's absence.

The members of St. Paul's 2020 Vestry were: Liz Belden-Handler, Mary Hastings, DJ Iglesias, Rebecca Livengood, Michael Yuot Mach, Staci McHugh, Dick Pilgrim, Bill Pitcher and David Webb.

Wardens: Betsy Elkins: Sr. Warden, Tom Cantwell: Jr. Warden (January-September), DJ Iglesias: Jr. Warden (beginning in October).

Officers of the Vestry: Treasurer: Walley Frances, Assistant Treasurer: Doug Mouncey, Terri Tuttle: Clerk

## Executive Ministry Team

**S**t. Paul's benefits from a strong organizational structure created by your lay leaders several years ago. All our ministry teams are grouped with related teams in one of four collective groups: Community Fellowship, Formation, Mission & Service, and Worship. Our Vestry and the standing committees of the vestry are the only ministry teams that operate outside this structure. Each of the four groups is overseen by a convener, appointed by the vestry. The conveners of the Community Fellowship, Formation, Mission & Service, and Worship Ministry Teams, together with the wardens and the rector meet quarterly as St. Paul's Executive Ministry Team.

During 2020 St. Paul's Executive Ministry Team played a critical supportive role for our vestry and parish, especially as we made changes to our staff structure. Members of our Executive Ministry Team for 2020 included:

Community Fellowship Ministry Team convener – Liz Belden-Handler

Formation Ministry Team convener – Dick Pilgrim

Mission & Service Ministry Team convener – Doug Mouncey

Worship Ministry Team convener – Betsy Barker

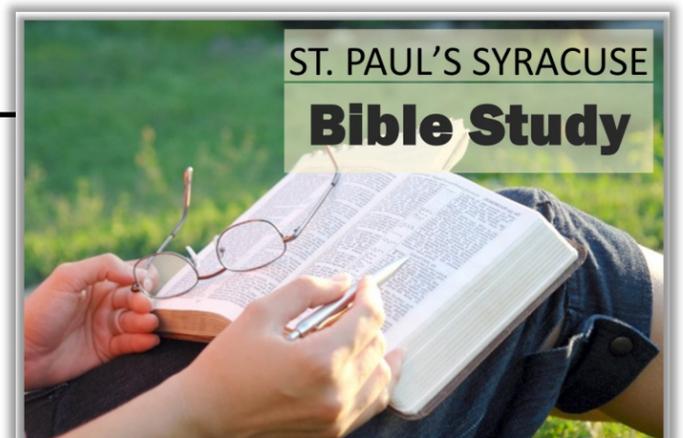
Wardens – Tom Cantwell, Betsy Elkins, DJ Iglesias

Rector – The Rev. Philip Major

## Bible Study

—By Rev. Philip Major

**A**s with our other Adult Formation programs, St. Paul's Tuesday Bible Study continued and grew through the months of the pandemic. Each week we read and study the lections assigned for the coming Sunday. We share our stories and reflect on the meaning of scripture in our lives. Regular attenders in 2020 included: Kira Dirghalli, Betsy Elkins, Mary Hastings, Rebecca Livengood, Doug Mouncey, Dick Pilgrim and Laurie Sanderson.



## The Parish Choir

—By Jim Potts, Organist & Choirmaster



I would like to thank the Choir for their dedication and hard work for what was certainly the shortest choral year due to COVID-19. Our last full choir service was March 15, 2020. Going forward we live streamed the services with only a quartet of singers until the mid-summer and then only one singer was allowed to participate from then onward. This time proved quite difficult, but Richard Pilgrim and Cassidy Chappini stepped up to the cause.

We were able to present Choral Evensong for the Last Sunday of Epiphany with a wonderful Organ Recital given by the Rev. Paul Frolick, rector of St. Matthews, Liverpool. The Friends of St. Paul's Consort presented Bach's Cantata #131, *Ich rufe ich, Herr, zu dir* with soloists, choir and a small instrumental ensemble. Soloists Laura Enslin, Cassidy Chappini and Dick Pilgrim offered a pre-recorded service of Advent Service of Lesson as well as Christmas Eve.

Prior to the pandemic, our section leaders/soloists included Hannah Lambertz, soprano, Cassidy Chappini, alto; Arthur Lewis, tenor; and Steve Schager, baritone.

Through the generosity of the Nan Dorr Endowment Fund new LED lighting was installed for the entire organ console, as well as releathering five tremulants in the church proper.

We were unable to host the Poister Competition in Organ Playing this year but it was offered in an entirely new approach online. A pre-recorded Organ Composition Symposium sponsored by Syracuse University was hosted by St. Paul's in August.

We look forward to the time when we can gather again safely as a group and sing our hearts out.

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## Friends of Music

—By Jim Potts, Organist & Choirmaster

The kind and generous contributions to this fund have again allowed us to enrich our liturgies and musical events, though truncated this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This fund contributed to the Evensong for Last Epiphany and Organ Recital, as well as the complete and thorough tuning of the Quimby organ in the church proper. The Friends of Music also contributed to the purchase of a color printer and scanner for the choir room for small projects.

A few members of the choir, led by Margaret Sherwin, pulled together our annual Christmas wreath sale to benefit the Friends of Music. Our thanks to Margaret Sherwin for leading this endeavor in this tough year! Our thanks to parishioners and friends who supported the sale.

Contributions to this fund in support of our musical offerings are always greatly appreciated.

## Formation Ministry Team

—By Dick Pilgrim, Convener



**T**hough there is little to report about Team qua Team activities and gatherings in this pandemic year, the church's formation activities and gatherings on-line have gone on apace throughout the year -- thanks not only to individuals on the Team, but to others who have continued to contribute to the church's formation efforts as in, for example, Bible Studies (Fr. Philip), Feminist Theology (Laurie Sanderson & others), and SPC Readers (Rev. Kathy Major). In the meantime folks on the Team have been involved in such programs as Contemplative Studies/Centering Prayer (Sue Wright), The Feast (Tiffany Miner & others), SPC Readers (Dick Pilgrim), and –if Formation can count it – The Caring Place/Open Pantry (Jim Doyle). A big thank you to all who have contributed!

We have every expectation that these and other similar programs will continue to be in place either on-line or – when it's possible again – in-person at church in the coming year. Dick Pilgrim, Team Convener. Other Team members include Tom Cantwell, Jim Doyle, Nancy & Harry Lambright, Fr. Philip Major (ex officio), Tiffany Miner, Tim Simmons, and Sue Wright.

## The Feast

—By Tiffany Miner, Convener

**T**he Feast, which was formed in 2019, saw many of the same challenges as everything else at St Paul's this year with the COVID-19 pandemic.

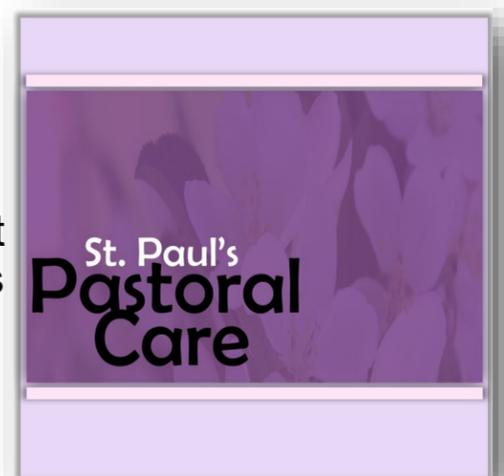
The Feast had one in person meeting in February, which was hosted by Mark McGrath. After this, the Feast was moved online to Zoom in March and has been since that time. However, despite moving to Zoom, we didn't see a decrease in the number of people who attended the Feast, which is promising!



## Pastoral Care

—By Laurie Sanderson

**P**astoral Care has met monthly until Covid hit, then we have stayed in touch by email and phone calls. While we haven't been able to be present in person, calls, emails, and cards are especially important during this time. We keep the prayer list and we have managed to deliver flowers at Easter and at Christmas this year. We have also helped to keep the prayer shawl ministry going which has been especially appreciated by the chaplains at Upstate.



Here in St. Paul's we all practice pastoral care in the various ways we serve our church and community. Those who have been identified as part of the team are: Debbie Bogan, Kira Dirghalli, Betsy Elkins, Tiffany Miner, Mary Hastings, Derina Samuel, Margaret Sherwin, Ieva Doyle, Staci McHugh, Joan Sammons.

If you would like to be part of this wonderful team, please let me know.

## Flower Guild

—By Marion Greenhalgh

**T**he Flower Guild, a subset of the Altar Guild, selects, purchases and arranges flowers for St. Paul's various altars, as needed, throughout the year. Special requests for memorials, weddings, funerals, etc., can be made. We arrange flowers to honor loved ones, marriages, funerals and confirmations. We are also grateful for the added individuals who assist the Guild in decorating the church for our special Easter and Christmas services. This help makes it possible to celebrate these special liturgies in great beauty!

For funds we depend on donations given in thanksgiving for family and friends, for special events, or in memory of loved ones. During COVID, we have sparingly used live flowers, and have limited the members working in the Sacristy.

The Guild usually uses weekly rotating teams of 1 to 3 people to select, purchase and make the flower arrangements throughout the year. Flowers are usually purchased at Best in Bloom off Thompson Road, or at a grocery store, such as Wegmans. If you are interested in helping us with this very rewarding ministry, please join us! We will be glad to work with you, and desperately need new members.

Our current members are:

Harriet Averill

Betsy Elkins

Liz Handler

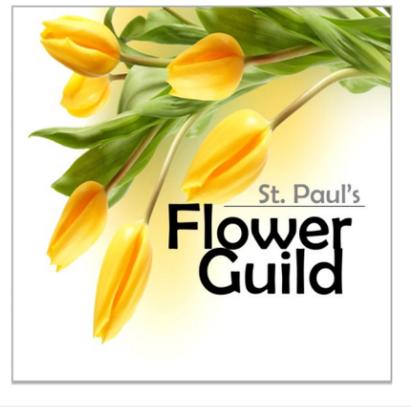
Jim Potts, Co-Chair

Betsy Barker

Marion Greenhalgh, Co-Chair

Sophie Harris

Sandy Wiley



## Buildings & Grounds

—By Doug Mouncey

Committee Members: George Anderson, Phil Buffham, Tom Cantwell, Walley Francis, Marion Greenhalgh, Doug Mouncey, Bill Pitcher

**I**n 2020, the work of the Buildings & Grounds was impacted by the pandemic, elimination of the full time Building Manager position, and on-going planning for the Open Doors capital project. The pandemic and less use of the buildings has served as an opportunity to transition from John Pizzi, a highly skilled employee, to what will be needed in the future... for example, contracted services are already performing basic cleaning services and snow removal, and, a handyman is hired as needed for more complex tasks. An example of the impact of the pandemic has been live streaming of services... perhaps you've seen those dangling wires and microphones?

Several known major building projects, particularly roof-related, have been delayed since they are anticipated to be part of The Open Doors Project. As we end the year, Bill Pitcher has been updating and adding to the list of needed projects... projects that will not only address our aging facility and equipment but also provide the opportunity for better stewardship for energy efficiency.

St. Paul's  
**Buildings &  
Grounds**



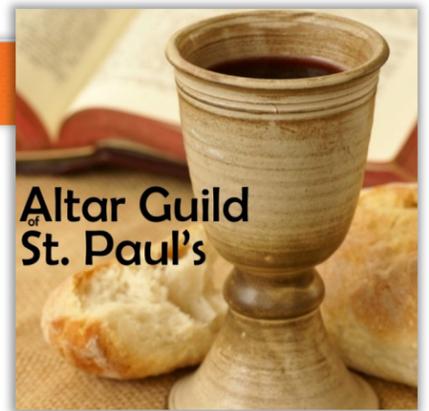
*We are thankful to John Pizzi for his 25 years of service to St. Paul's and the Diocese of CNY.*

## Altar Guild

—By David Morgan Chair

**T**he Altar Guild's primary responsibility of preparing the sanctuary for worship, especially Eucharist, has changed significantly in response to the pandemic. Restricted attendance, receiving the host only, Morning Prayer, remote/streaming services are some examples of such. The passing of Mark McGrath and changes in personal life situations has reduced our numbers to Nancy Lambright, Ruth Brown, D.J. Igelsrud and Margaret Sherwin.

We continue to keep the chancel clean, tend to the candles and linen and strive to be flexible to the changing landscape of our worship experiences. And like everyone at St. Paul's, we long and pray for a return to corporate Eucharistic celebrations.  
David Morgan, chair

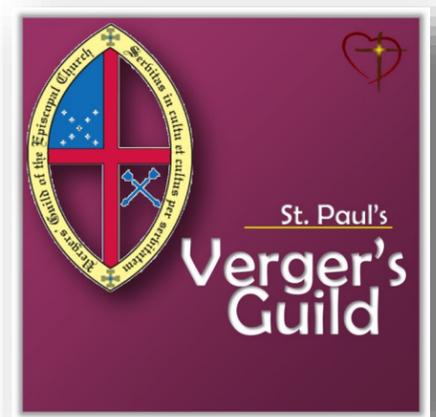


## Vergers

—By Wendy Hoblyn Jones

**B**ecause of the closure of St. Paul's due to the Covid pandemic, we have no report this year. We are looking forward to starting again once things are back to normal, and to leading our worship in St. Paul's on the most prominent feasts of the Church year.

Wendy Hoblyn Jones, Roy Thomas and Becky Livengood



## South Sudanese Congregation

—By Michael Yuot Mach

**O**n behalf of the South Sudanese congregation at St. Paul's, am reporting that we did not spend money for year 2020. Due to COVID-19 pandemic we did not carried through with any of our in person annual activities like new year's celebration. We have been praying online as seven families, 7, and 5 members. We are hoping to resume our normal in person annual activities in 2021 if the pandemic subsides.



## Office Volunteers for 2020

—By Judy McAdoo-Pelton

**W**e are grateful to our office volunteers who are vital in helping us to keep everything running smoothly. While the pandemic forced us to move our work to our homes, our loyal volunteers keep on working. A huge thank you to Beverly Bolton, Liz Handler, Ruth Brown, Wendy Hoblyn Jones, Doug Mouncey, Kira Dirghalli, Walley Francis and Mary Hastings.



## First Friday Dinners

—By Carol Decker

**F**irst Friday Dinners were instituted 15 years ago to bring new money into the parish so profits could be given to the Millennium Development Goals. Dinners were held on the first Friday of the month from September through June of the following year—usually a total of 10 dinners per year. Profits were earmarked for the MDG.

During the last seven years our average annual profits amounted to \$3,200. This was a time when our attendance was declining, so I feel safe using this amount for 15 years. (A computer glitch eight years ago wiped out the beginning figures.) Profits for 15 years amounted to \$48,000+. Doug Mouncey wrote grants and the diocese usually matched the amount of money St. Paul's gave to the MDG and Global Outreach—bringing our total to \$96,000+.



Over the span of 15 years:

- Average Attendance was about 55 people per month.
- The cost of dinners was kept at \$10 per person over 12 years old.
- We went up to \$12.50 in 2020
- The cost per person for a dinner was kept under \$5.00.

In 2020 we had three First Friday dinners before Covid-19 and the pandemic hit: January we had breakfast for supper. The February dinner celebrated the Chinese New Year. St. David's Episcopal Church in Dewitt co-hosted the dinner. The Tia Chi Society of Central New York performed demonstrations before and after dinner. The March Dinner honored St. David, St. Patrick, and St. Joseph. Lovely desserts from Marcia Anderson and Nancy Lambright ended our evening. Thank you both.

In April I started bringing birthday treats to people as a way of keeping First Friday alive, in the hearts and minds of parishioners. Birthday treats will end as of the beginning of 2021.

To those of you who cooked with me through the years, cleaned up, offered desserts, set up, and attended the dinners regularly—The list would be most of the people in the parish—THANK YOU.

**Beverly Bolton needs a special merit badge and thank you.** First Friday dinners were floundering before she started calling people each month, taking reservations, and sitting at the desk to collect the money on the day of the dinner.

It's been a pleasure to work with so many wonderful people through the years, to enjoy a monthly evening of camaraderie, and make new friends. Blessings to you all.

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## Samaritan Center Ministry

—By Betsy Elkins

**O**ur relationship with the Samaritan Center, the local soup kitchen that was started in our basement over 40 years ago, remains strong, even during the pandemic in 2020.



Three times this year St. Paul's was responsible for a Sunday dinner served in the early afternoon. All food must now be prepared at the Samaritan Center. Some folks helped prepare the food. Many of you made monetary contributions to purchase the food that we served and others volunteered with serving and clean up. It is remarkable how many St. Paul's people participated in some way this year when our ministry to help feed those who are hungry was more important than ever. Thank you everyone for your support of this important work.



## Mission & Service Ministry Team

# Mission & Service Team

—By Doug Mouncey, Chair

**I**n spite of no Committee meetings in 2020, as evidenced in numerous articles in this Annual Report, members of St. Paul's continued and initiated new mission activities. We were flexible in finding new ways to continue our relationships with residents at the YMCA, the guests of The Caring Place (prior to the pandemic an average of 28 guests came on Thursdays), international engagement with Cristosal's work in Central America, the Samaritan Center, support of patients at UpState Medical Center with prayer shawls... and, others that I'm sure that I've overlooked. These ministries continued due to the passion of many, many parishioners.

Based on a framework of relationships, these ministries also reflected the need for partnerships (parishioners, the general public, Women of St. Paul's financial support, knitters from the southern tier), and, providing food to the hungry in a user-friendly manner (within walking distance of their apartments or other shelter; 24/7; no lengthy forms to assess "eligibility"). Special kudos to Debbie Bogan for serving as our liaison with the YMCA, Carol Decker as hostess/chef of the First Friday Dinners in support of Cristosal, Jim Doyle for coordinating The Caring Place and The Open Pantry, and Betsy Elkins for her coordination of our work at the Samaritan Center.

## YMCA Ministry

—By Debbie Bogan, Parish Liaison

**Participating Parishioners:** Barbara Bell, Hal Brown III, Ruth Brown, Carol Decker, Kira Dirghalli, Betsy Elkins, Mike Goins, Marion Greenhalgh, Sophie Harris, DJ Igelsrud, Mary Hastings, David Morgan, Doug Mouncey, Barry Pickard, Laurie Sanderson, Margaret Sherwin, The Rev. Deacon Chuck Stewart, David Webb

**C**ontinuing activities included birthday and Christmas cards to 28 senior residents; attendance at First Friday Dinners and soup lunches; gathering of cleaning supplies for residents of the men's residence.

Continuing activities with a twist... due to the pandemic, it was not possible to do the annual Spring flowers planting with the residents so plants and a greeting card were sent on Mother's Day to five of the women who have been most active in activities at St. Paul's; also, in the absence of the traditional summer picnic hosted by St. Paul's, the residents most active with St. Paul's were invited to an ice cream treat outing.

Some of the residents did attend The Caring Place early in 2020... in fact, Steve in his 80's was one of the first to arrive and one of the last to leave most Thursdays. The Open Pantry has been a source of supplemental food to some of the Y residents.

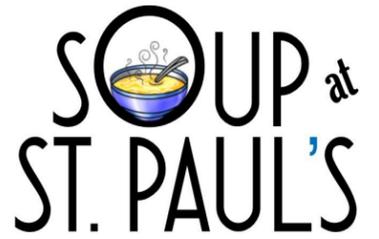
Based on the cards of thanks that we receive, we know that our relationship with these individuals is extremely important to them.



L to R: DJ Igelsrud, Kira Dirghalli, Betsy Elkins and Jim Doyle deliver groceries to our YMCA neighbors.

## Wednesday Is Soup Day at St. Paul's

—By Betsy Elkins



**O**ur Wednesday soup lunches came to an abrupt pause in March 2020 when it was necessary to close our doors to group activities during the pandemic. We had a loyal crew of soup helpers: David Webb, Barbara Bell, Maureen Breed, Staci McHugh, Mark McGrath, Carolyn Grieb, Sophie Harris and Denise Dolge.



We did raise \$1520.95 in 2020, which was passed along to the Samaritan Center, before we closed our doors. We are all eager to resume this ministry in 2021 when it is safe to do so. Thanks to all who support these lunches!

L to R: Carolyn Grieb, Maureen Breed, Destany Widger, Barbara Bell, Denise Dolge, David Webb.

## Community Fellowship Ministry Team

—By Liz Belden-Handler

**T**he Community Fellowship folks started off the year as usual, making sure we had delicious coffee hours, First Fridays, and Symphoria receptions. That all went off the rails in March, of course. Since then we've all been staying home, staying safe, and wishing we could do more. Recently we've supplied cookies for the Sudanese children, the folks at the YMCA, and tried to supply cookies for the Christmas Eve service. As the service was rained out, Betsy Elkins has been putting those cookies, properly bagged, in the open pantry, where I know they've been greatly appreciated. I hope you enjoyed the recipes we included in the December Epistle. Look for more recipes to come.

Members are: David Ridings, Jenifer Breyer, Betsy Elkins, Sophie Harris, Denise Dolge, Marcia Anderson, Margaret Sherwin, Carol Decker, Liz Belden Handler (chair), Bodo Raso, Laurie Sanderson, Staci McHugh, Patty Glavin. David Ridings handles the 10:00 coffee hour sign-up and Jenifer Breyer handles the 8:00 sign-up.



## Women of St. Paul's

—By Liz Handler, President

**T**he Women of St. Paul's basically took this year off. We did, however, manage to help St. Paul's and the community through grants.

We helped fund Jim Potts' initiatives, the gardens on Fayette and Montgomery, Thanksgiving turkeys for farm workers, and helped keep the open pantry stocked up with good food. While the future of WoSP is still up in the air, all of us are very glad we were able to keep doing good during this time of sheltering in place.



## Outside Events

—By Judy McAdoo-Pelton



**I**n 2020, we were scheduled to host numerous concerts and groups. Sadly, due to the shutdown, we were only able to host Symphoria for 2 of their casual concerts this year. All other concerts and events by groups outside of St. Paul's were canceled. Our NA group that we host on Tuesday mornings have been meeting off and on throughout the year depending on lockdown guidelines. Hosting community groups means a lot to St. Paul's and we hope to be able to open our doors again soon for our friends and neighbors.

## Feminist Theology

—By Laurie Sanderson

**F**eminist Theology began back in the days of the School of Christian Living and has continued for at least twenty years! We meet monthly and explore a variety of books, articles, and created some liturgies. We are so grateful for ZOOM as it allows us to keep meeting and also allows members who have moved away to be with us again! Our thought is that even when we are able to meet in person, we will keep ZOOM going so our far away friends can stay connected. We have had a variety of members thru the years, even some men! Some of our members are not members of St. Paul's but friends of members. All are welcome to join in. This past year we have been especially grateful to Derina Samuel for being our ZOOM tech!



Participants include: Laurie Sanderson, Betsy Elkins, Derina Samuel, Tiffany Miner, Marilyn Sharron, in California!, Amanda Fledderjohann, Diana Sponsler, Tara Miner, Ieva Doyle, Barbara Shaffer in West Virginia!, Katie Roquemore in Texas!, and Lorraine Markley.

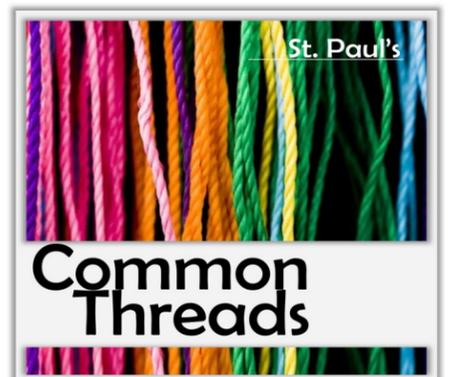
## Common Threads

—By Laurie Sanderson

**A** small but lively group of hand crafters that met with Nancy Ridings at the Nottingham. We began several years ago, meeting in the deanery, then different people's homes, settling in at the Nottingham at the invitation of David and Nancy.

We usually met in the lobby of Assisted Living. Others would join in and we had some lively visits. Unfortunately we haven't been able to keep going due to Covid and we miss Nancy terribly, but we are filled with warm memories of our time together.

Participants Include: Laurie Sanderson, Tiffany Miner, Betsy Elkins, Joan Sammons, Derina Samuel and in loving memory of Nancy Ridings.



L to R: 1. Betsy & Bill Elkins with George & Marcia Anderson. 2. Carol Decker speaking at our January First Friday event. 3. Betsy Elkins, David Morgan, Jim Potts & Glenn Kime

# The Caring Place & Open Pantry

—By Jim Doyle

*“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink?’ (MT 25:37)”*

## THE CARING PLACE

The COVID-19 Pandemic has had a significant impact on our world, on members of St. Paul’s and especially on our Downtown Neighbors. Once we recognized the scope of the Pandemic, The Caring Place team suspended this vital, active ministry for the health and safety of everyone. Members of The Caring Place prayed about ways that we could continue to serve our neighbors during this Pandemic. An answer to our prayers came in the form of The Open Pantry.

## THE OPEN PANTRY

The Open Pantry was a concept where non-perishable food items could be shared by members of St. Paul’s and then these same items can be taken on an as-needed basis by our Downtown Neighbors.

In May, members of St. Paul’s led by Betsy Elkins and The Caring Place began working in earnest on the “how” and the “where” of The Open Pantry. The Vestry identified a plan for The Open Pantry that would work best for our Downtown Neighbors – and members of St. Paul’s. The Open Pantry is an outdoor “cabinet” that is open to passers-by on a 24/7 basis to Downtown neighbors who are in need of non-perishable food items. The photograph shows the finished product: The Open Pantry. The Open Pantry was installed in August and was stocked with its first food for sharing. Many thanks especially to Bill Pitcher who designed and constructed The Open Pantry!



Since The Open Pantry began, we have fed many of our downtown neighbors. The Open Pantry has had a significant impact on our Downtown residents. We know this because The Open Pantry requires restocking of food items almost every day! **Thank you to all who are helping to serve Christ in our neighbors through The Open Pantry.**

The Open Pantry would not be possible without the persistence of Betsy Elkins. **Thank you, Betsy, for your faithfulness.**

The Open Pantry is just one way that we can faithfully respond to Jesus’ call in Matthew 25 to provide food and drink to Christ in our neighbor. I trust that we at St. Paul’s are only just beginning to find new ways to serve! Serving Christ in the neighborhood with you,

# Communications Committee

—By Marion Greenhalgh, Chair

**T**he Communication Committee was formed to help spread the word of St. Paul's Church externally and to improve communication internally.

We continue to use the printed word/hard copy so all can still read the weekly program (once in person services start up again) and the bi-weekly newsletter 'The Epistle' which is either mailed or viewed through email with a link to St. Paul's website. Father Philip and Judy have sent out weekly e-Blasts through member emails to keep everyone informed and to provide information on services. We are also on social media. St. Paul's has Facebook, Twitter and YouTube accounts. Please check them out and share with friends and neighbors! Judy has developed many helpful forms in order to notify all of our people/committees involved in the upcoming event, especially special events/services, and what responsibilities need to be addressed.

Judy developed a 'Welcome' package to be handed out by our Ushers to potential new parishioners once the church opens up again. Banners have been made and hung outside to attract people walking or driving by. Art Friedel and Roy Thomas were recording our weekly sermons and downloading them to our social media accounts. With COVID, our services have been live-streamed and are accessible through our website or YouTube account. Because services are being live-streamed, a lot of required equipment has been purchased and temporarily installed. These may be permanently installed and live-streaming continued even after the church is open again.

Barbara Bell is our external correspondent. She has done a great job getting press releases out to the papers, radio stations, Diocese, social media and television stations. If you have a church event you want advertised or need a press release for, please contact Barbara. This upcoming year we will be working on improving our website.

Members of the Communication Committee are: Father Philip, Judy McAdoo-Pelton, Marion Greenhalgh, Barbara Bell, Betsy Elkins and Roy Thomas. Anyone interested in joining our Committee would be most welcome, especially anyone from the 8 am and/or the Sudanese services. Any suggestions/recommendations/ideas to improve our communication are also welcome. Please talk to any committee member. We use to meet quarterly on the second Monday of the month and hope to get back on that schedule.



L to R 1. Carol Decker brought her Tai Chi Group to give a demonstration at our January First Friday. 2. A creative way to enjoy Palm Sunday in the middle of the pandemic. 3. East Fayette Street—St. Paul's spire lit up by the sunrise.





# In Loving Memory of Those We Lost This Year



*Bob Frye*



*Mark McGrath*



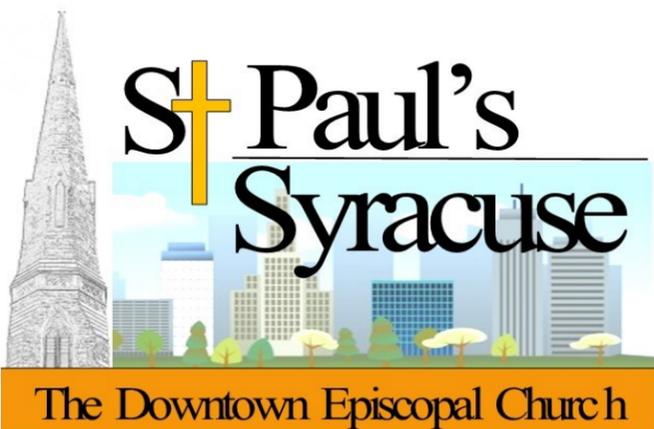
*Nancy Ridings*



*Dr. Patrick Dorr*



*Rev. Hal Avery*



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