



THE EPISTLE

*St. Paul's Church builds bridges —
to God, to one another, to the city and beyond.*



JANUARY 2026



A NOTE FROM THE RECTOR

Wednesday, January 7th:
Noonday Eucharist in St. Peter's Chapel

Wednesday, January 7th:
Parish Potluck Supper in the Parish Hall
at 6:00 pm

Saturday, January 10th:
St. Joe's Sandwich Making in the Parish
kitchen at 9:30 am

Saturday, January 10th:
St. Paul's Needle Arts Ministry in
Wainwright Parlor at 10:00 am

Sunday, January 11th:
Stewardship Meeting in Wainwright
Conference Room at 11:30 am

Wednesday, January 14th:
Noonday Eucharist in St. Peter's Chapel

Sunday, January 18th:
Third Sundays @3pm Concert

Sunday, January 18th:
Youth Group Meeting in Stone Hall at 4:30 pm

Tuesday, January 20th:
Vestry Meeting in the Cadigan Room
at 7:00 pm

Wednesday, January 21st:
Noonday Eucharist in St. Peter's Chapel

Sunday, January 25th:
Parish Annual Meeting in the Parish Hall
at 11:30 am

Wednesday, January 28th:
Noonday Eucharist in St. Peter's Chapel

Life comes in seasons. I am grateful that in this season of my life I have been welcomed to become your Interim Rector. Over the last month and a half, I have met many of you and look forward to meeting all of you over the time we will have together. St. Paul's has a refreshing spirit of welcoming, a care of the stranger, and a thirst for meaningful expressions of the Gospel. The weather may be cold just now but I feel much warmth from all of you. Each new conversation makes me glad to have returned to the Diocese of Rochester and having this time with the Saints of St. Paul's.

Advent prepared us for the Festival of Christmas. I hope that through our liturgy and music, we provided you the opportunity to prayerfully celebrate all the days of Christmas and not just sing about it in popular traditional songs. My prayer is that through this celebration we, as the Body of Christ in this time and place, may fully live into a life of love of neighbor in all the forms it represents.

Wishing you a blessed new year.

The Rev. Dan Burner

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25TH

ANNUAL MEETING

VESTRY ELECTION - SLATE OF CANDIDATES, 2026

The St. Paul's Nominating Committee is pleased to present the slate of outstanding candidates to you for 2026 voting.

Candidate for Warden: Erin Glanton

Candidates for Vestry (Class of 2028): Swing Harre, Doug Kelley, and Christopher Moore

Erin Glanton has completed her second term as warden. She is eligible to be nominated for a third term and has agreed to serve. Doug Kelley is nominated for his first term on the Vestry and Swing Harre and Christopher Moore are nominated for their second terms on the Vestry.

The Nominating Committee is charged with presenting a single slate of candidates with one person nominated for each open position. Nominations "from the floor" are available and can be made at or prior to the Annual Meeting in January. Nominations prior to the Annual Meeting allow the candidates to include their biographical information in the Epistle and be included on ballots. To be nominated "from the floor" the nomination must be made by a parishioner in good standing, meet the requirements for the office, agree to stand for office, and be seconded by 10 additional parishioners in good standing. Anyone interested in the definition of "in good standing" or "requirements for office" should contact the church office.

Members of the Nominating

Committee: Al Glanton, Doug Kelley, Jane Newcomb, and Hilary Streever, The Rev. Dan Burner (*Ex-Officio, non-voting member*), and Ingrid Stanlis (*Chair, with no vote, except in a tie*).



Erin Glanton

Erin Glanton found her spiritual home at St. Paul's and was received here thirty-eight years ago. She finds the inclusiveness of the Episcopal Church and specifically of St. Paul's to be central to her faith journey. Erin currently serves as a warden and chairs the Stewardship Committee as well as the Human Resources Committee for St. Paul's.

Erin completed Education for Ministry (EFM), graduated from the College for Congregational Development, and has participated in St. Paul's Sacred Ground series, book groups, adult formation, and the needle arts ministry. She serves as a lector, a lay eucharistic minister, and sings in the Senior Choir.

Erin and Al, her husband, live in Brighton. She retired seven years ago as the Human Resources Director at Coordinated Care Services, Inc. (CCSI), a not-for-profit organization providing services to the behavioral health and human services community. Erin holds a Masters degree in Human Resource Development from St. John Fisher University. Erin serves on the Human Resources Committee for Family Promise of Greater Rochester. She is honored to be nominated a third time for the position of warden.



Doug Kelley

Doug Kelley has enjoyed being a part of the St. Paul's community since moving to Rochester in 2013. He serves on the stewardship and property committees, volunteers as a lay reader and usher, has represented St. Paul's at diocesan conventions, served on the interim rector search committee, taught Sunday school, and previously served on the vestry.

Doug works as professor and associate chair of mechanical engineering at University of Rochester. He lives in the Park Avenue neighborhood with his wife and pets, usually walking or biking to church. His two teenage daughters, once regulars at St. Paul's, are now away at college.

While the world around us always seems to be in crisis, and St. Paul's in a rector transition, yet so many parish initiatives are vibrant and growing, Doug sees Christian community and outreach as more important than ever for our shared lives.



Swing Harre

Swing Harre moved to Rochester with her husband David in the fall of 2012 because one of their daughters moved to Rochester. They joined St Paul's which was their third St Paul's after St Paul's Alexandria and St Paul's Beaufort. David served two terms on the vestry as well as other committees and activities. After David's passing in August 2023, she accepted an invitation to serve on the vestry.

Swing has enjoyed serving on the vestry and getting to know some of the interesting and dedicated people at St Paul's. Swing is looking forward to serving this wonderful church as it moves into the future. She loves the liturgy and tradition of the Episcopal church and feels her spirit is very much at home in St. Paul's Rochester.



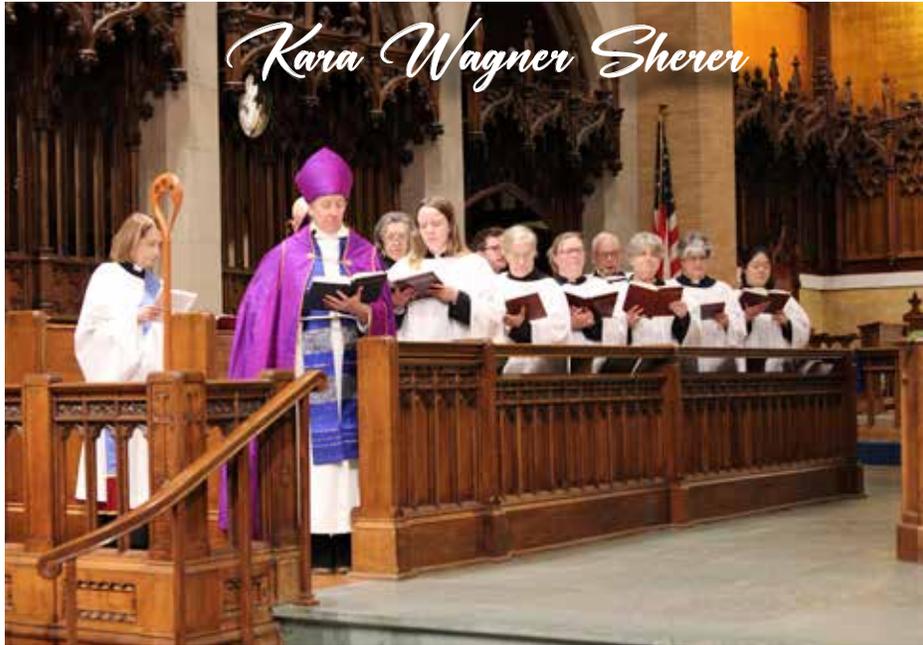
Christopher Moore

Christopher is pleased to be asked to continue on the Vestry. He and his family have served the Church in many ways since 1987, when he and his wife, Louise, first started attending services regularly. He immediately joined the Senior Choir and continues to this day.

Christopher served on the Vestry from 1993 to 1999, as Parish Treasurer from 2000 to 2005 and as Warden of the Vestry from 2006 to 2011. He has served on the parish's Investment Policy Committee since becoming Treasurer and acts as Chairman of the Committee today. Christopher has also been active in the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester, having served on the Standing Committee and currently serves on its Investment Committee.

Last, and certainly not least, Christopher and Louise were early and are continuing supporters of Water for South Sudan, an organization founded by parishioner Salva Dut and several other parish members in 2002 which continues to this day to bring clean drinking water to the people of South Sudan. Christopher and Louise live in Fairport and are proud Grandparents.

BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER



**Annual Bishop Visit
December 7, 2025**

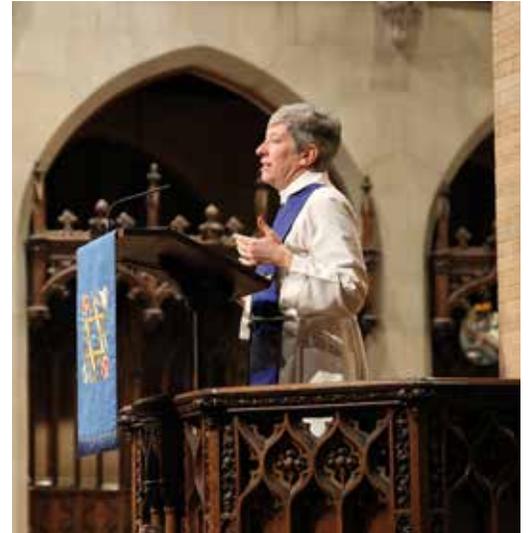


Photo credit: Steve Richards

ST. PAUL'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

It's been a busy and productive time in our Sunday school classroom! We continue to grow our faith each week with all the wonderful bible stories the lectionary schedule provides us. Offering children the same focus as their families in the sanctuary is a wonderful way to encourage weekly dialogue and stay engaged in church and stay even closer to God.

The children learn through a variety of methods, including story telling through books and videos, games, drawing, singing and crafts. Our classroom is always welcoming new children in preschool through 5th grade, and I encourage kids to invite their friends on any Sunday! We are looking forward to many more Sundays this year filled with friends, faith and fun starting at 10:00 am upstairs in the children's wing. Join us!



Sunday Morning Nursery Care

We are so thankful for our dedicated staff members, Dorrie and Susan! They continue to faithfully provide our families with babies and toddlers a safe and loving environment during our Sunday services. It's important for our parishioner's to know that we are in need of substitute care givers in the event that one of the ladies is absent. *Is this a ministry opportunity for you?* Please consider and email Amy at awelker@stpaulsec.org. Thank you!



ST. PAUL'S RECEIVES AN AWARD FROM RMM (RURAL MIGRANT MINISTRIES)

Rev. Jay Burkardt accepted the "Celebrate the Leadership" award on behalf of St. Paul's and offered the following remarks:

Thank you. Thank you so much.

To Rev. Richard Witt, the entirety of the board of directors, and all of you involved in RMM leadership: thank you so much for this recognition. It is humbling to be standing here this evening accepting this on behalf of the people of St Paul's Episcopal Church, Rochester.

Our support of Rural Migrant Ministry goes back so many years, but more recently we have been fortunate to transition to building a relationship with RMM. We have been blessed to be able to have both Rev. Julie Cicora and Rev. Richard Witt come and speak with our vestry, lead discussions with the congregation, and to preach.

We have had members brought around to some of the fields and homes, and have come back changed. Being a congregation based in the city with many members coming from the suburbs, it would be easy for us to forget how the food gets onto our tables.

But through the building of these relationships, we hope that we have begun to move from basic sympathy to true compassion for those working in the fields we too often drive by without thinking.

The needs that RMM meets through J.O.Y., the Rural Academy, food pantries, legislative lobbying and so many other ways were known in our heads for so long. But through the bridges built and forged with Richard Witt, with RMM, and with its members, we now know this in our hearts and in the collective spirit of the congregation. The needs of the migrant communities throughout the area and the rest of the state are no longer theoretical, but now have flesh and breath. They matter in new and heart-changing ways.

We thank you, RMM, not for recognizing us tonight, but for your witness in this world and for our opportunities to work and to serve together.



Outreach Council

Thanks to the thoughtfulness of the people of St. Paul's in 2025, the Outreach Council built bridges in our local community as we gave financial support to agencies that enrich the lives of children and youth, provide assistance to refugees, advocate for the homeless, and prepare adults to become spiritual guides in a variety of settings. Moving into 2026, we look forward to fostering new relationships in our community and beyond. The need is great and we are deeply grateful for your generosity.

- Mary Pietrzykowski

ST. PAUL'S MUSIC DEPARTMENT

The music program at St. Paul's has recently been building bridges into the community by sharing the joy and comfort of Christmas carols with those beyond our church walls.

On December 5th, several choir members sang for the Park Avenue Tree Lighting Festival and on December 15th a group sang at Linden Knoll Senior Living Community in Rochester. Both audiences enjoyed singing along with the choir on the many familiar carols and embracing the message of the season.



All these extra activities are happening as the St. Paul's Choir continues to provide two anthems each week, the Bell Choir is offering two pieces on the first Sunday of the month and the Choristers are not only singing a benediction every Sunday, but also offering a short anthem on the third Sunday of the month. A very big word of thanks to all the musicians at St. Paul's for sharing their talents throughout the year providing much inspiration, comfort, and spiritual nourishment to everyone!

Looking ahead, our **Third Sundays @ 3pm Concert Series** continues January 18th at 3:00 pm with classical guitarist Alex Nazaretski.

On February 15th at 3:00 pm with Isabel Randall performing Afro-Cuban music. The concert in February is co-sponsored with the Rochester Oratorio Society, Arts Connexions and tickets for the February concert will be available at the door.



**THIRD SUNDAYS
@ 3:00 PM**
a concert series at st. paul's
at the corner of east ave. and westminster rd.



January 18, 2026

Alex Nazaretski
Classical Guitar Recital



**THIRD SUNDAYS
@ 3:00 PM**
a concert series at st. paul's
at the corner of east ave. and westminster rd.



February 15, 2026*

Isabel Randall, Soprano
In collaboration with the Rochester Oratorio Society, Arts Connexions. Afro-Cuban Music sponsored by Rochester Oratorio Society.

**Tickets will be available at the door.*

Youth Group

Throughout the fall, the Youth Group has continued to meet on the first and third Sundays of each month. We've recently discovered a new challenging game for us that has us working hard—and working together—to get as far as we can. Unfortunately it's Fr. Jay that seems to most frequently derail our efforts! We've also held some good conversations based off of the reflections and meditations we do at each gathering.

January sees the youth continuing to meet on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. Our gatherings include time for sharing and fellowship, time for a lesson, dinner, and games before closing with Compline. Youth Group is open to all youth in grades 6-12.

THE EPISTLE

25 Westminister Road, Rochester, NY 14607
585.271.2240 • info@StPaulsEC.org
StPaulsEC.org



The Rev. Dan Burner
Interim Rector

The Rev. Jay Burkardt
Assistant Rector

The Rev. Sue Ouellette, Ph.D.
Deacon

Dr. John W. W. Sherer
Organist & Director of Music

Augustine Sobeng
Organ Scholar

Amy Welker
Director of Children & Youth Faith Formation

Dorrie Champlin
Susan Hall
Sunday Child Care

Sonja Slother
Director of Communications & Digital Ministry

Natosche Holt
Parish Office Administrator

Judy McGrath
Parish Accountant

Lisa Werner
Accounting Assistant

Bob Potter
Property Manager

Dave McEntee
Maintenance Associate



ANNUAL MEETING
JANUARY 25, 2026
11:30 AM

REST IN PEACE

*Merciful God, we entrust to your
never-failing care and love*

Bob Potter, Sr.
Jane Kitchen

*Rest eternal grant to them,
O Lord; And let light perpetual
shine upon them. May their souls,
and the souls of all the departed,
through the mercy of God,
rest in peace. Amen.*

FOLLOW

St. Paul's on Facebook, Instagram
and our YouTube Channel
STPAULSEC

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Thursday
10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Office email: info@stpaulsec.org

For urgent pastoral needs after hours:
call 585-483-0472