

**St. Paul's**  
Syracuse

The Downtown  
Episcopal Church 

# *The Courier*

Monthly Newsletter



*We are thrilled to have our wonderful choir back with us, especially on Easter!*

## May 2022

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

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

# An Easter Faith

—by Father Philip

*On the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead?” Luke 24:1-5*

**O**ne month ago Walley Francis died. He was a brilliant man. Among his many gifts, Walley was eloquent in sharing a detailed, personal understanding of the story of St. Paul’s and was one of the most gentle, kind people you could ever meet.

Though there have been other deaths of friends and members of St. Paul’s in recent months, Walley’s death felt especially tragic. Though he died in the natural course of events, in the struggles of the end of his life, I see struggles shared by many of us: aging, isolation, the struggle to find meaning in life. For Walley, these struggles came to be especially intense during the pandemic. I especially mourn Walley’s death because he brought great intelligence, perceptivity and kindness to every situation. We will miss him dearly.

In the face of death, God calls us to respond with honesty and courage. We must acknowledge our losses. We also must acknowledge the new life God is creating in this moment. When we turn away from the reality of our losses, or when we turn away from the reality of God’s new creation, we turn away from God’s call to us to live in truth and in hope. **We take a position of faith** when we acknowledge the deaths we have experienced and simultaneously embrace the new life God is creating in our lives.

Consider some of the new life God has been creating at St.

Paul’s in the past year:

- \* Five members created a completely new ministry: St. Paul’s *Godly Play* Class for children.
- \* New vestry members and team leaders are serving as new leaders for St. Paul’s.
- \* Most weeks during the past eight months St. Paul’s has had six children, ages 0-8 in attendance.
- \* Several new members have joined St. Paul’s during the pandemic.
- \* This was the second year our members were able to participate in Holy Week services via the LiveStream, but the quality of this year’s broadcast was clearer and more vibrant than ever. (See p. 9)
- \* *The Open Pantry* has continued, strengthened and made this ministry more visible by constructing permanent storage facilities in the north porch entrance from Fayette Street.
- \* Even as the *Open Doors* Steering Committee moves forward with executing our \$2 million renovation plan, a new task force of members is working on more ways for St. Paul’s to be a beacon of hope in our city.

You probably had not heard anything about this last development. That is the way God is building a new creation in our midst: quietly, constantly, spontaneously, gradually, often with little notice. We have experienced death. We take a position of faith when we witness God’s resurrecting power, growing a new creation around us, among us, and in us!



Philip +

# Open Doors

—by Father Philip

**S**ince I will be leaving for Sabbatical in less than a month, I want to provide a few updates about our capital campaign and building project.

Our guests were impressed at the way everything went off 'like clockwork' at St. Paul's *Open Doors* Open House on April 7th. Our mayor and many other leaders of our community attended.

St. Paul's people have a way of being very well prepared for big tasks like this! We give special thanks to Ieva Doyle for coordinating and managing this event.

Marion Greenhalgh and her diaspora task force have contacted more than one hundred former members and associates of St. Paul's. At this time we have received over \$20,000 in *Open Doors* contributions from these former members and long-time friends of St. Paul's.

Our project management task force has not been able to send the project out to bid. We are about three months behind schedule in this regard. I must emphasize that our volunteer task force members have completed their tasks in a timely, efficient manner. We are behind schedule due to delays in the work of the architects. This has been a source of frustration for many of us who have been working on this effort for several years.

At our meeting on April 19th the vestry approved a resolution granting authority for St. Paul's to seek additional professional assistance if there are further delays. My best estimate of the situation is that this concrete action will have the effect of moving things forward. As of April 25th I can hope for, but not promise, the following timeline for the coming months:

By the end of April - Construction documents will be submitted by the architects to New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation (OPRHP) division for review. Since we have been granted over \$550,000 from the agency we need to make sure that our plans are pre-approved by them prior to sending them out to bid.

By the first week of June - Following approval by OPRHP our Project Management Task Force and architects will send the project out to bid.

Mid-June - Walk-through of the project with potential contractors.

July 15th - Deadline for bids to be received by contractors.

By the end of July - St. Paul's Vestry will approve a contract for construction services.

Fr. Philip +



## OPEN DOORS

Preparing for Our Third Century  
of Ministry in Downtown Syracuse



## ***Sabbatical Leadership***

—by *Father Philip*

**O**ur sabbatical time begins at the end of May. Your Sr. Warden, Dick Pilgrim, has been working on plans for the congregation's sabbatical since last summer. In the next article starting below, I'll share the outlines of my plans for my own time of rest. But I also want to let you know the details of how my various responsibilities will be covered while I am away.

1. Our primary decision making body for the administration and leadership of our church is our vestry. They will continue their work as normal, but with a few extra decisions and details on their plate. Our vestry will be led by our wardens, Dick Pilgrim and Rebecca Livengood.

2. During a sabbatical or any extended absence, your wardens take on the administrative and decision making functions of the rector. If decisions need to be made about use of the building, if contracts need to be signed, if a staff member needs to be hired or fired, Dick and Rebecca have the authority, and are very capable of making all of these decisions. If any matters requiring serious deliberation arise they will make decisions in consultation with your vestry.

3. Three visiting priests and one of our lay leaders will be preaching and leading worship, beginning May 29th and continuing through July 24th. The Rev. Perry Mouncey, the Rev. Georgina Hegney, and the Rev. Gerald Beritela will be leading worship eight of these Sundays. Our own David Morgan will be leading Morning Prayer on July 10th. All four of these individuals are gifted leaders, and each has a strong relationship with St. Paul's.

4. The Rev. John Rohde will be working with our wardens and pastoral care team to respond to any pastoral care emergencies that may arise. If a need arises during my time away, please contact Dick Pilgrim, Rebecca Livengood or Kira Dirghalli.

We have a very strong structure of support and leadership for all aspects of our common life at St. Paul's. Most of this resides in the leadership, energies and expertise of our members. This includes you! If you have been baptized, our understanding is that you have been baptized into this priesthood of servants and leaders. Working together, I know you will make wise decisions and take care of one another during this time of sabbatical.

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## ***The Rector's Sabbatical***

—by *Father Philip*

**I**n order to be a healthy, strong leader for St. Paul's in the coming years, I need this upcoming time of sabbath rest. During my sabbatical I have a simple agenda: rest, spend uninterrupted time with my wife, and spend time just being in the presence of God. Here are a few details about my sabbatical.

I will be flying from New York City to Milan, Italy on May 24th, and returning home on July 26th. This will be a total of nine weeks of rest time: I am taking seven weeks of sabbatical and two weeks of vacation. In order to be safe and to stay in touch with my family through the entire trip I have procured a new piece of technology which allows my cell phone to transmit and receive text messages almost anywhere on the planet via satellite.

*Continued next page*



For the past six months, during my free time I have been learning Italian and exploring many beautiful parts of Italy from the comfort of my living room. I will spend the first two weeks alone in Italy, hiking and biking in two regions. I am very much looking forward to the first week, spent exploring the Garfagnana, a beautiful, rustic region of Tuscany. I will spend the second week in that furthest northeastern corner of Italy, South Tyrol, wedged between Switzerland, Austria, and Slovenia. The mountains here are almost as tall as the Swiss and Austrian alps, and the culture is a unique mixture of Italian and Tyrolian. In some places German is the primary language.

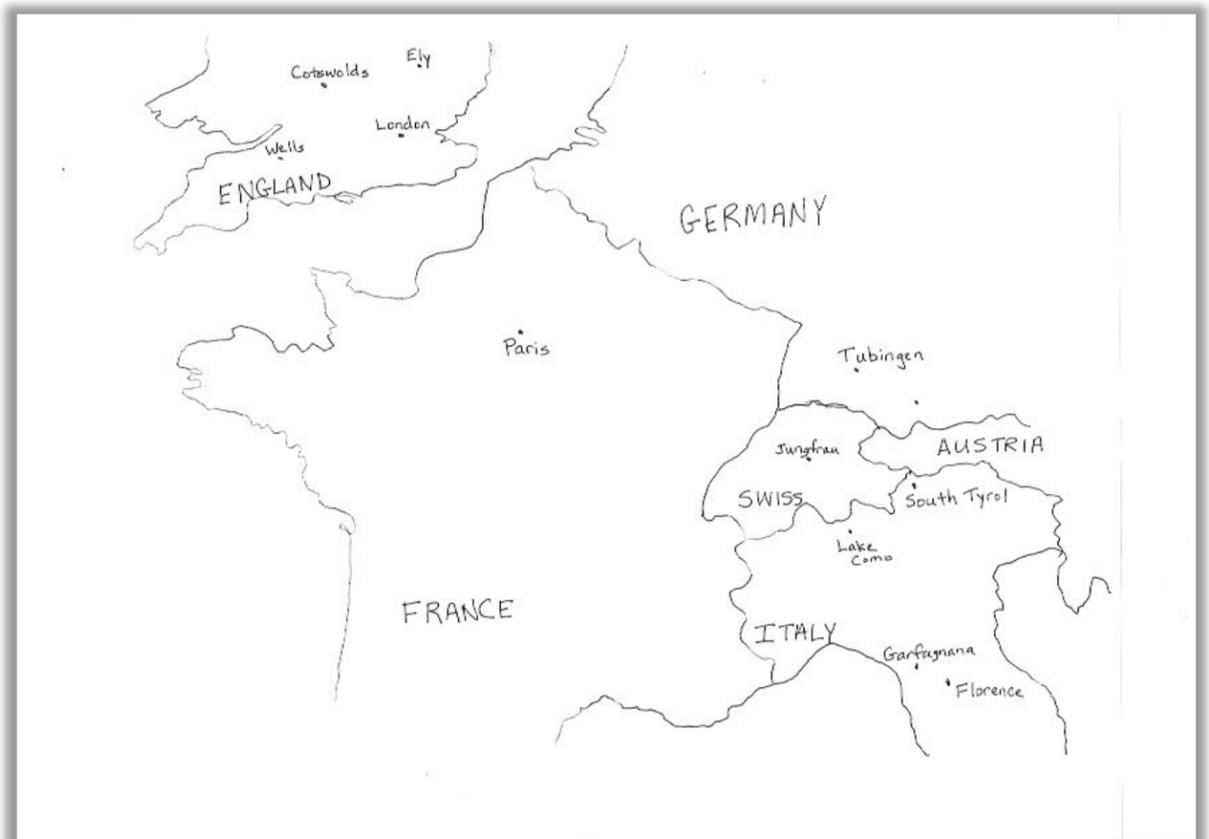
Kathy will join me for a week in Florence (somewhere near the center of the 'boot' shaped peninsula) and a week near Lago di Como in northern Italy, near the Swiss border. We will take the train to Paris and spend a week there. Then we take the train to England. We will spend most of a week visiting a few of the cathedrals and rural places in Southern England: Salisbury, Wells, Oxford, and Ely. We will spend a week in London. I've never been to England or France, so I am very much looking forward to being in all of these places.

Kathy will fly home from London on July 12th.

You might think of the last two weeks as my 'vacation time' because I am getting to visit two places that have been on my bucket list for a very long time. When I was eight years old my family lived in southwestern Germany, in Tübingen, for four months. I'll spend a few days traveling through this region, called Baden-Württemberg, then cross the border into Switzerland. I'll travel to Interlaken where I will begin a 10 day trek, *The Tour of the Jungfrau*. This is a circuit of 111 km through the alpine terrain to the north of the Jungfrau, the highest peak in Switzerland. This is a very popular hiking route in Europe, so I will rarely be completely alone as I travel between the mountain 'huts' where I'll be sleeping and taking meals.

Each of us needs to find ways and places where we can find rest and strength. I have found I feel surrounded by God's presence, and hear more clearly God's call to me, when I am outside, in natural places. I look forward to this time of rest and reflection. I hope that you, too, are finding or planning some time for yourself for rest and reflection in the coming months.

Here is a little map of my route:



*This map shows many of the places Fr. Philip will be visiting during his sabbatical*



***Jim Potts Anniversary Celebration was held on Sunday, April 24th. Even former Dean Dick Bower was on hand to congratulate Jim on 27 years of service to St. Paul's. More photos in next month's Courier.***

*Long time parishioners, John and Barbara Shaffer. They moved to West Virginia a few years ago. Betsy & Bill Elkins paid them a visit recently and sent back this great photo!*



## Vestry Highlights from April

### New Staff Person

The Vestry approved a Letter of Agreement for Wendy Baker, who will now become our new, part-time bookkeeper. Judy McAdoo-Pelton is moving out of that position in order to take over the Parish Assistant position recently held by (volunteer) Doug Mouncey.

### COVID-19 Guidelines

The Vestry approved the continuance of the protocols we've had in place for some weeks, now, including most visibly the wearing of masks during regular worship services. Such polices will be reviewed each month as needed.

### "Open Doors" Report

It was reported that the Capital Campaign arm of the Open Doors project had a very successful event recently as important members of the larger community were invited to be present for tours and updates on the project, and that significant additional funds for it were raised or pledged.

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## Prayer List

### Please keep these people in your prayers

Andrew, June, Beverly, Harriet, Mary, Donna, Kristina, Sandra, Laura, Michael, Rick and Ulyana.

### We remember those who have died in recent days.

### All those who are living alone

All who are struggling with depression and anxiety.

### We pray for the leaders of the church, including:

Michael, our presiding bishop, DeDe, our bishop, and Philip, our rector.



**Pastoral Care:** Just a reminder to contact Father Philip, or Kira Dirghalli if you have concerns or names or changes for the prayer list.

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## Feminist Theology

—by Laurie Sanderson

**F**eminist Theology will be meeting on May 17th 7:30 via a special zoom link. If you need the link, please contact Laurie Sanderson with any questions.



## St. Paul's Has Hired a Bookkeeper

—by *Father Philip*

**A**t the end of April we welcomed a new person onto our staff. Wendy Baker is taking on the job of bookkeeper of St. Paul's. This is a new, part-time position, approximately 1 and 1/2 days each week. Wendy is a longtime resident of Syracuse and has held similar positions for other organizations. If you stop by, or call the office, on a Tuesday or Wednesday, you might get the chance to meet Wendy or talk with her on the phone. I am confident you will find her to be a kind, mature, trustworthy person. We are very glad to have Wendy with us, contributing her energies and skills to work of the church.



Our hiring of Wendy comes near the end of a long period of reflection and planning as we have sought to make our church staff more responsive to the needs of the church. In the second half of 2021 we came to the conclusion that we needed a staff person who could handle more of the administrative, all around duties, including to handle communications and logistics with our community partners, such as *Symphoria*. This would have taken some of the administrative load off of me and would have allowed Judy more time to focus on her primary areas of responsibility, which included finance and communications.

You may have noticed that our plans don't always work out the way we expect! What happened (in February and March) was that we received very few applications for the position of Administrative Assistant. Our leaders looked at the options, and with the vestry's consent and advice, we began looking for an individual to take on most of the financial responsibilities. Hiring a part-time bookkeeper will allow Judy to focus on the bulk of the administrative work, including managing the parking lot and all sorts of outside groups.

We will be evaluating how well this new arrangement is working as 2022 proceeds. Our goal is to serve our members better, and to use our financial resources as wisely as possible. At this time, I am especially grateful for the way our lay leaders and staff members work very productively as a team, and each person's dedication and faithfulness to St. Paul's!

## Our Open Pantry Always Needs Your Help

**Y**ou may contribute food, money and/or help stock the pantry. We have received many good reports from those who use the pantry indicating that it is a life saver for them.

**Thanks for anything you can do to help.**



# Exercising a Gift from God: Creativity

—by Father Philip



**O**n Easter Sunday one of our oldest active members arrived for church, bright and early. He proudly reported that he had attended all of the Holy Week services, including Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil, from the comfort of his own home, via the LiveStream. He was especially impressed with the quality of the audio and video. I was especially surprised to hear this, since the first half of the Easter Vigil service is a ‘candlelights only’ service.

Many people have remarked on the quality of St. Paul’s LiveStream broadcast. To the best of my knowledge, three years ago only one member of the church (Bill Pitcher) was thinking about the advantages of being able broadcast our services via the internet. The pandemic changed all that. Through the past two years we have taken four or five major steps to create, and then improve the quality of our LiveStream broadcast.

Many people have contributed to the effort. We are blessed that Mark King has been willing and able to devote many hours to this task each week for the past 21 months. As the *May Courier* is being prepared, Mark, Jim and Doug have been working with a contractor to get one more piece of technology in place to improve our broadcast. A new cable system is required to move the second camera, currently located on a steel pole near the middle of the nave, to the back wall of the nave. (We have to use a different kind of cable because the distance from the A/V booth is too far for a normal HDMI cable.)

It is our expectation that this will be the last improvement needed to make our A/V system ready for years of reliable, high-quality LiveStream broadcasts. Our Senior Warden has applied for a grant from the diocese to defer the costs of these improvements.

As we look back on all of the work that has been accomplished, let’s take a moment to give thanks for the gifts that many people, and especially Mark, have shared to bring us to this place where people can have a fairly full, pleasant experience of our worship services from home. This is the result of people using gifts of creativity and energy and faithfulness, gifts from God, for the work of the church.



We have been a part of the Syracuse community for 48 years. This is our largest fundraiser and we thank you for your support. If you would like to volunteer to help at the Plant Sale, please call our office at 315 479-8088 and ask for Jamie. [www.larchesyracuse.org](http://www.larchesyracuse.org)



Annual Mother’s Day

## Flower & Plant Sale

Shop City Plaza  
Under the Tent!

**May 4-8**

**Wednesday 2PM—7PM**

**Thursday– Saturday**

**9AM—7PM**

**Sunday 9AM —Noon**

# St. Paul's Participates in the City of Syracuse's Earth Day Clean-Up

—by Tiffany Miner, Vestry Member

**O**n Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, several members of St Paul's gathered to participate in the Earth Day Clean Up in conjunction with the Downtown Committee of Syracuse!

In attendance were Tom Cantwell, Sophie Harris, David Morgan, Liz Belden-Handler, Wilson Cummer, Dick Pilgrim, Tiffany Miner, and Tim Simmons. Great job, everybody!



# St. Paul's Spring Clean-Up Day is Saturday, May 14th

—by Tiffany Miner, Vestry Member

**W**ith warmer weather quickly approaching, there are quite a few tasks to be done around St Paul's, both inside and out! We need to get our rainbow door display out at the Fayette St entrance. Help is also needed in the kitchen to move items from the pantry.

We'll be gathering together at the church on Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup> starting at 10am to begin our spring clean up! Breakfast will be provided in the Brewster Room. Please contact Liz Belden-Handler or Tiffany Miner to indicate your interest or with any additional questions. Contact Betsy Elkins if you can help in the kitchen.



## Welcome Blankets for Refugees

—by Betsy Elkins

**L**ook at the lovely welcome blankets that Betsy Elkins, Becky Livengood and Margaret Sherwin made. Betsy and Becky teamed up to make one blanket. Margaret, the speed knitter, made one by herself. We sewed squares which Liz Handler stitched together to make the finished projects. These blankets will be shipped to Los Angeles to be included in an exhibit of welcome blankets, after which they will be distributed to refugees from Ukraine. This was just a small way to stay connected and focused on our neighbors who need our welcome.



## St. Paul's Delivers Easter Plants and Greeting Cards to the Senior Residents at the Downtown YMCA

—by Debbie Bogan, Parish Liaison YMCA Ministry

**C**harlie and Maisie have been faithful stewards of St Paul's YMCA ministry. On Holy Thursday they delivered 28 Gerber Daisy plants to the senior residents at the Downtown YMCA. Many residents opened their doors and were pleased to see friendly faces and receive an Easter plant. Thank you, Charlie and Maisie for bringing joy to our downtown neighbors.

Many thanks to Mary Hastings and Barry Pickard for donating money to cover the cost of the Easter plants. Special thanks to the Jeanne Avery, her Sunday school volunteers Carolyn Grieb and Eleanor Major and the Sunday school children for making lovely hand crafted Easter cards for the 28 senior residents at the Downtown YMCA.







## Easter Preparations & Celebration

2022





Sunday, May 1, 8:00 am, Worship – In Person  
 Sunday, May 1, 9:50 am, Godly Play Children’s Church  
 Sunday, May 1, 10:00 am, Worship – Live Stream & In Person  
 Sunday, May 1, 2:00 pm, South Sudanese Prayers  
 Monday, May 2, 3:30 pm, Finance Meeting Montgomery Zoom  
 Tuesday, May 3, 2:00 pm, Bible Study w/ Father Philip-Fayette Zoom  
 Wednesday, May 4, 1:00 pm, Centering Prayer—Montgomery Zoom  
 Wednesday, May 4, 4:00 pm, SPC Readers—Montgomery Zoom  
 Wednesday, May 4, 4:30 pm, Tiny Homes Task Force—Montgomery Zoom  
 Thursday, May 4, 7:00 pm, Choir Rehearsal



**Mother’s Day**

Sunday, May 8, 8:00 am, Worship – In Person  
 Sunday, May 8, 9:50 am, Godly Play Children’s Church  
 Sunday, May 8, 10:00 am, Worship – Live Stream & In Person  
 Sunday, May 8, 2:00 pm, South Sudanese Prayers  
 Monday, May 9, 10:00 am, OD Leadership Meeting—Montgomery Zoom  
 Monday, May 9, 11:30 am, Bell Choir —Hansen Dining Room  
 Tuesday, May 10, 2:00 pm, Bible Study w/ Father Philip-Fayette Zoom  
 Tuesday, May 10, 5:00 pm, Vestry Meeting in the Brewster Room  
 Wednesday, May 11, 1:00 pm, Centering Prayer—Montgomery Zoom  
 Wednesday, May 11, 4:00 pm, SPC Readers—Montgomery Zoom  
 Thursday, May 12, 7:00 pm, Choir Rehearsal  
 Saturday, May 14, 10:00 am St. Paul’s Clean Up Day

Sunday, May 15, 8:00 am, Worship – In Person  
 Sunday, May 15, 9:50 am, Godly Play Children’s Church  
 Sunday, May 15, 10:00 am, Worship – Live Stream & In Person  
 Sunday, May 15, 2:00 pm, South Sudanese Prayers  
 Monday, May 16, 11:30 am, Bell Choir —Hansen Dining Room  
 Tuesday, May 17, 2:00 pm, Bible Study w/ Father Philip-Fayette Zoom  
 Tuesday, May 17, 7:30 pm, Feminist Theology—See Laurie Sanderson for Zoom link  
 Wednesday, May 18, 1:00 pm, Centering Prayer—Montgomery Zoom  
 Wednesday, May 18, 4:00 pm, SPC Readers—Montgomery Zoom  
 Wednesday, May 18, 4:30 pm, Tiny Homes Task Force—Brewster Rm In-Person  
 Thursday, May 19, 7:00 pm, Choir Rehearsal  
 Saturday, May 21, 10:00 am Open Pantry Drop Off—Fayette St. Door

Sunday, May 22, **9:30 am, SINGLE SERVICE** Worship – In Person  
 Sunday, May 22, 9:50 am, Godly Play Children’s Church  
 Sunday, May 22, 10:30 am, St. Paul’s Parish Celebration  
 Sunday, May 22, 2:00 pm, South Sudanese Prayers  
 Monday, May 23, 10:00 am, OD Leadership Meeting—Montgomery Zoom  
 Monday, May 23, 11:30 am, Bell Choir —Hansen Dining Room  
**Tuesday, May 24, 2:00 pm, Father Philip Begins Sabbatical**



Tuesday, May 24, 5:00 pm, Buildings & Grounds Meeting—Montgomery Zoom  
 Wednesday, May 25, 1:00 pm, Centering Prayer—Montgomery Zoom  
 Thursday, May 26, 7:00 pm, Choir Rehearsal

Rev. Perry Mouncey Supply Priest

Sunday, May 29, 8:00 am, Worship – In Person  
 Sunday, May 29, 9:50 am, Godly Play Children’s Church  
 Sunday, May 29, 10:00 am, Worship – Live Stream & In Person  
 Sunday, May 29, 2:00 pm, South Sudanese Prayers  
 Monday, May 30, OFFICES CLOSED FOR MEMORIAL DAY

*May*  
**Dick & Marilyn Alberding**  
**May 1**

*Anniversaries*  
**John & Jane Woodman**  
**May 6**

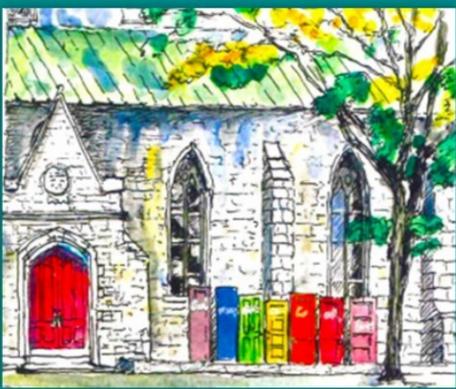
*May Birthdays*

**Emma McCloskey 5/6**  
**Hannah McCloskey 5/9**  
**Grant Dolge 5/11**  
**Hal Brown III 5/12**  
**Mary Powell 5/14**  
**Rebecca Livengood 5/18**  
**David Webb 5/18**  
**Mary Buske 5/18**  
**Derek Lane 5/23**  
**Tiffany Miner 5/23**  
**Peg Hastings 5/31**



*Liz Handler teaching Father Philip and Barbara Bell how to make palm crosses.*

*Photo by Ellie Major*



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