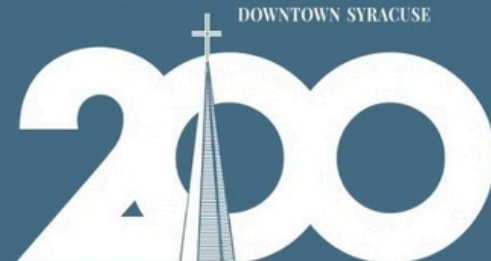


Celebrating 200 Years 1826—2026

ST. PAUL'S SYRACUSE COURIER

ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
DOWNTOWN SYRACUSE



WHERE LOVE GROWS
1826 - 2026

October 2026



The new stage in progress.



St. Paul's Episcopal Church
220 E. Fayette St. (street address) 310 Montgomery St. (mailing address)
Syracuse, NY 13202 315 474-6053



www.stpaulsyr.org



*I will never let go of my God,
because my God has not let go of me.
He leads me on the right streets,
though the path is confusing and difficult to follow.
He reaches out his hand to me.
Morning and evening God cares for me,
Wherever I may be.*
Helmbold (1563) Von Gott will ich nicht lassen

Our journey with God is not a straight line. We have to keep returning to God. We have to keep being reminded that God loves our enemies, and that Jesus asks us to love our enemies.

For a few days, weeks, or years we feel we are headed in the right direction, but then we realize we have lost our way. We have to return to the path that is marked by gratitude, forgiveness, trust, humility, community and being faithful to the values that are most important. We have to make a deliberate effort to return to the one who creates us out of love, and for the purposes of love.

Each one of us is different, but we have this in common. We all come to places in our lives when we realize we are no longer following the path we promised ourselves we would follow.

Over and over again, God whispers to us "come back". Sometimes we listen. The most important thing I do each week is return to God during worship. Every Sunday during worship we have the opportunity to return to the path we intend to take. We hear God's call to return during the prelude, or during one of the hymns, or during the confession, or during communion.

So our spiritual journey with God is not a straight line; it's a spiral. We keep turning away and then returning. To someone who is not a disciple of Jesus this might sound exhausting or onerous, but it is quite the opposite. We keep returning to God's path because it a life of abundance, a life of truth, a life where the energy and purpose is never-ending.

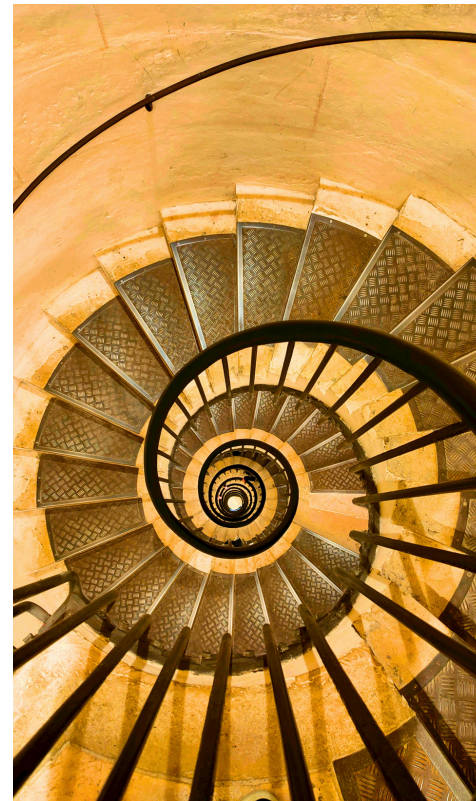
When I first joined the Episcopal Church I noticed that several of the most experienced members had a different approach to life than me. There was something in the center of their lives that I wanted to have in the center of my life. For the next fifteen years I learned very much from them. At the end of the fifteen years I was ordained as a deacon, and I left them.

What was different for these very experienced members? They had been on this spiral journey with God for many decades. They had returned to worship to say the words of the confession and receive the absolution, not one hundred times, but three or four thousand times. They had experienced times of grief and times of joy, over and over again.

This is what I learned from them. We can trust God. We can trust that God will be beside us through the most difficult time. We can trust that God will lead us back. We can trust that God will be beside us as we experience joy again. We can trust that God will be beside us, on this spiral journey.

Your brother in Christ,

Phils +





Monday & Tuesday Office Hours for October

You may have noticed the large parking garage on the corner, opposite the church, is being taken apart, one enormous girder at a time. Especially in the offices with windows facing the parking garage, the sound and the vibration is prodigious! The noise is very loud inside our offices, and more or less continuous, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

In order to minimize the effects on the health and productivity of our church staff, during the month of October, St. Paul's official Office Hours will be 11-3 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday. As usual, if you have a fob to unlock the door and you visit St. Paul's, most days of the week you will likely find at least one or two members of our staff working in the building. Reducing our stated office hours will allow our staff members to work from home for at least a few hours on days when the demolition noise is becoming overwhelming.



Cider and Sweet Treats Social

for the Senior Residents
at the Downtown YMCA



Wednesday October 21st



St. Paul's will host a Cider & Sweet Treats social at the Downtown YMCA senior apartments at 330 Montgomery St. on Wednesday October 21 at 10:30 a.m. If you would like to participate in any way, get in touch with Debbie Bogan, Parish Liaison for the YMCA seniors ministry.



IT'S TIME TO FALL BACK

Sunday November 1st

Daylight Savings
Time Ends

Remember to turn your clocks back 1 hour before bed Saturday night





BRAND NEW LAPTOP FOR SALE

HP Omnibook 3 touchscreen laptop running Windows 11. It has a Snapdragon X X1-26-100 processor, 16 gb of memory, and a 512 gb SSD drive. It also has a 14" 2K touchscreen

ORIGINALLY \$729
NOW \$450 (NEVER BEEN USED)

Talk to Father Philip if you are interested.



St. Paul's Syracuse



In Loving Memory of Mary Hastings



Mary and Betsy Elkins



Mary & her niece,
Donna Crisman



Mary and Jeanne Greenhalgh



Donna Crisman, Mary and Dick Pilgrim



Mary and Father Philip



John Pizzi, Mary Hastings, Ruth Brown
and Sue Hoffman



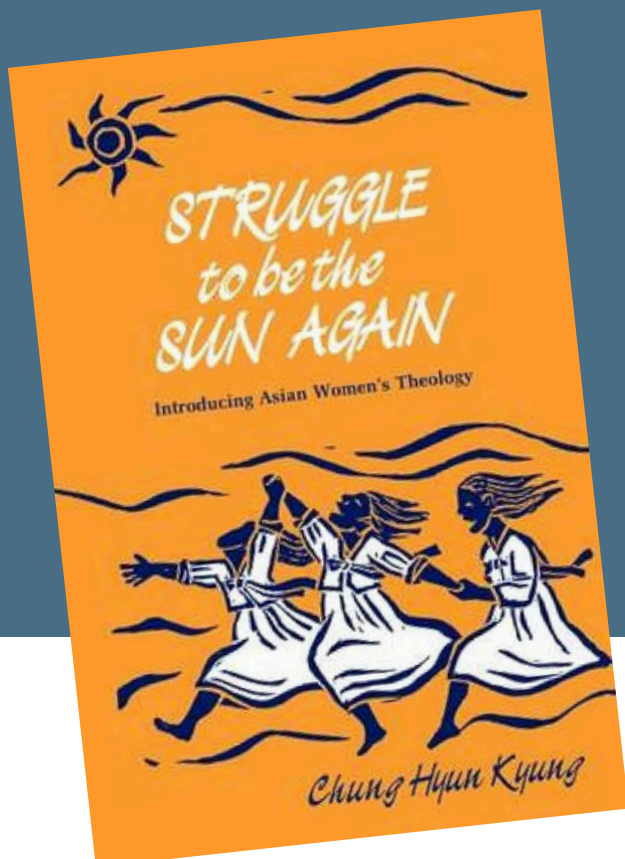


Feminist Theology

by Laurie Sanderson

Feminist Theology will begin their monthly gatherings on Wednesday, October 21st. This will be a special opening as we will meet in person instead of by Zoom! Why? Because Barbara Shaffer, who with John, now live in West Virginia and they will be back in Syracuse that week!

We are looking at two chapters from the first book we read over 20 years ago. The book is called *Struggle to be Sun Again, a compilation of Asian Feminist Theology*. We will be talking about the chapters on Mary and Jesus. If you would like to join us, please do, let us know and we can provide copies of the chapters.



Grief Night

by Betsy Elkins



A Grief Night is scheduled for Friday October 9, from 6:00-8:00 PM, at Hot Yoga, 101 1st Street, Liverpool, NY. Grief Nights are free, secular and nonclinical for adults 18 and older. People do not need to belong to any particular faith tradition or explain their grief to participate.

The evening moves through Arrival, Naming, Witnessing and Release. People can settle in, optionally name or write what they're carrying, listen without trying to fix anyone, and close in their own way. Release does not mean being expected to get over a loss. Every activity is optional; people are welcome to pass or simply be present. This is a community ritual, not therapy or a religious service.

The larger project is described at: griefnights.org. The gathering is being built around remembrance, participatory ritual and art, music, candles, witnessing and shared presence — creating public space for grief rather than requiring people to carry it privately.

The founder of Grief Nights is also building a broader network around Grief Nights — Community Tables and recurring gathering places across Syracuse/CNY — so the work can create ordinary community connection between the deeper grief gatherings as well.

For more information contact:
Devin Mykel DiSerio
Founder — Grief Nights
griefnights.org
843-730-4069



Common Threads

Common Threads will be meeting on Monday,
October 12th 6:30 p.m. at The Nottingham in Jamesville.



If you have any questions, ask any of these wonderful people:
Derina Samuel, Jeanne Chu, Liz Handler, Betsy Elkins, Sue Stinson,
Joan Sammons, or Wendy Hoblyn Jones.



A New Communion Railing and Stage

by Fr. Philip

Construction of our new stage and communion railing has begun! There have been one or two changes to the project since it was first announced in April. Our carpenter was able to locate a local wood products company to provide all of the hardwood components, including the carved portions of the communion rail. The work is being completed in two phases:

1. The stage will be completed in time for the first Syracuse Orchestra concert of the year, on October 11th.
2. The communion rail will be installed in time for our Ash Wednesday services, on February 10th.

Here are some important details about the construction of the stage and communion railing:

1. When the communion railing is completed, our congregation will be able to receive communion gathered together as the body of Christ, which seems in keeping with the spirit of Jesus' celebration of the last supper with his disciples.
2. We want our building to be used by our community partners, but we want to do this in ways that don't interfere with our worship services. The permanent stage improves our ability to host music groups such as the Syracuse Orchestra without having portable staging in place during Sunday worship services.
3. The permanent stage will be safer, quieter, and more attractive than temporary staging.
4. We want our building to be used by performing groups, but we also want to reduce the heat loss and damage that occurs when groups bring portable staging into the building. The permanent stage means that groups will not be bringing portable stage in and out of the building.
5. St. Paul's has served as a host for The Syracuse Orchestra for more than thirteen years! They have responded to this proposal by being our primary partner for this project. Their contributions are covering almost half of the cost of the project.
6. St. Paul's Vestry is especially grateful to The Nan Dorr Fund for a grant of \$5000 to support the effort.

This is the most significant change to the worship space at St. Paul's since the installation of the new baptismal font in 1982. This period of over forty years, from 1983-2025 with few changes is the longest period of St. Paul's 'not-changing' in our history. Prior to the 1990s changes to the worship space, such as the installation of a new pulpit, or the creation of the Peace Altar, happened more frequently.

The construction of the stage and communion railing symbolizes a new chapter in the life of St. Paul's. Thank you to the families and individuals who are making this new chapter possible, through their gifts in support of the project.





Formation Program on Aging Continues

by Jeanne Avery

ADULT FORMATION
SUNDAY. OCTOBER 11, 2026. BREWSTER ROOM
11:30 am -12:30pm

Preparing for Your Future in Your Years to Come!
Completing the tasks: Knowing the Answers: Brings Peace and Comfort.

We welcome Diane Foley of the Law Office Donald Swete who will present on:
Executor of your Estate: Health Care Proxy: Last Will & Testament:
Banking: Your House. And more and your questions

Mark Bentz of Fairchild & Meech will present information- on all the decisions that need to be made at the time of your death. Starting with "Your Body".
Funeral arrangements, choosing your own casket or urn, cemetery, paying for your grave and stone prior to your death. Seeing the church prices on the web site: Hopefully Fr. Philip will be able to be with us. Planning your funeral with the priest. Advantages of putting money with Cooperative Funeral Fund- you receive a nice interest rate each year.
(If you are sick at the end and need Medicaid -these are allowable expenses in the five year look back).

If you have a topic please call: Jeanne Avery. 315 447 4265



Children's Ministry

by Jeanne Avery



The Chapel Program began the program year on September 13th.

Godly Play starts with creation! We, of course, did this but then entered a Rain Forest created in the Chapel! The adults were thrilled with the decorating and the children's enthusiasm did not disappoint us. Our discussion was "We are standing in the Rain Forest with everything that God created. We have a huge responsibility to protect everything that God created."
The children were attempting to carry cardboard beasts that stood taller than themselves. The children were feeding the animals- than they, of course, wanted to take one home. Mean Jeanne, Kira, Joseph and Erin said "NO".

I have never seen so much excitement and enthusiasm for God's "good work".
The babies are now three years old- with a new baby coming.
We have four new wooden chairs- the old chairs have been breaking one by one. Many thanks to the bottle collection of Betsy Barker and her grandchildren for collecting the returnable bottles for money.

The Godly Play Chapel program begins at 9:50 going into the church during the Peace, receiving communion, and returning to the Chapel to continue the program. We will never be caught saying "we do not have enough time".

In the Fall season we will have the bible story of Noah; the 10 Commandments and the Good Shepherd and so forth until Advent. People will be asked to physically support our program this Fall season.



Wondering How You Can Get Involved?

by Betsy Elkins, Mission and Service Ministry Team

In August the Worship Ministry Team hosted a meeting of all team leaders (community fellowship, formation, mission and service) and wardens to discuss calendar events for the coming year. It was amazing to see so many events being placed on our calendar; we are a busy church offering special services, hosting concerts, providing meals and other hospitality throughout the year. This year, during our bicentennial, we will offer more events than usual.

This meeting reminded me of how exciting it is to be an active church offering so many opportunities to our people and to the greater community. You will hear more about specific events as the year goes along. Our church website includes all events/activities as they are scheduled. And you are invited to participate as you wish. While many of the activities/events we hold can be labor intensive they also provide a wonderful way to build community within our parish.

This summer we held a successful rummage sale thanks to the determined leadership of Doug Mouncey who said we WOULD DO this! It was, as he had been warned, lots of work. At a recap meeting about the rummage sale, we noted that success was measured in many ways. We offered items to the community and we made some money. But perhaps most importantly we worked and enjoyed time together. We had fun. This kind of community building happens whenever we hold some kind of event.

There are so many ways you can be involved in the life of St. Paul's. You may serve communion on Sundays; you may work with the Altar and Flower guilds to prepare for services. You may join with others to help serve at the Samaritan Center when St. Paul's serves a meal there. (The next opportunity for this is Saturday, November 14.) You may host coffee hour after services. You may help with receptions following special services and concerts. You may help with church dinners. Great fellowship happens when folks work together, especially in a kitchen providing food! We have a beautiful, clean building in which to provide so many forms of hospitality.

As a retired librarian I still love to connect people and the things they want/need to know. Don't be shy. Don't wait to be asked. If you hear about something that interests you speak up.





Phil Buffham with a Gift from Ieva Doyle

by Debbie Bogan

Here is a lovely picture of St. Paul's parishioner Phil Buffham with the perfect gift from Ieva Doyle. Ieva found this picture of a train at St. Paul's garage sale. Phil was a conductor on the Adirondack Railroad for many years. The picture lights up and makes train whistle sounds. Phil was very pleased to get this gift. Thank you, Ieva.

Phil currently resides in assisted living in Fulton. He would love to hear from his St. Paul's family. He looks forward to moving back to Syracuse, attending St. Paul's again, and of course, resuming his duties as Conductor.



Join us for a First Look at St. Paul's

Before walls go up and new apartments take shape, come see where it all begins! Join A Tiny Home for Good for an exclusive first look inside St. Paul's before the space is transformed into 10 new apartments—homes for our future tenants.

- **Tuesday, October 13 | 5:00–8:00 PM**
- **310 Montgomery St, Syracuse, NY 13202**
- *Charcuterie and beverages provided*
- *Casual attire encouraged, jeans suggested*

Please RSVP to Alexis by October 2:
alexis@atinyhomeforgood.org OR 315.532.3919



a tiny home
for good



Part of St. Paul's Bicentennial Event Series

Hohenfels TROMBONE QUARTET

Performing works from silent films, classical
arrangements, fun songs and more

SUNDAY
OCTOBER 18
4:00 P.M.

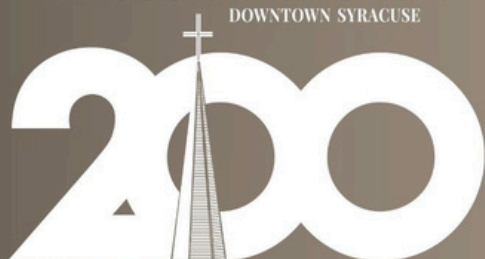


St. Paul's Episcopal Church
220 East Fayette Street
Downtown Syracuse

Open to the Public

Freewill Offering to Benefit
St. Paul's Friends of Music

ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
DOWNTOWN SYRACUSE



WHERE LOVE GROWS
1826 - 2026



Malcolm Williamson



Heather Buchman



Isabella Lau



David Seder

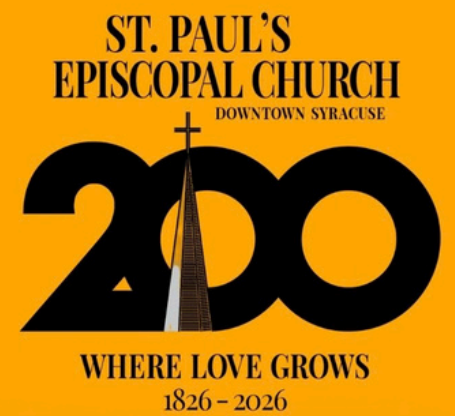




St. Paul's Syracuse

THE SYRACUSE ORCHESTRA &
THE SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY
ORATORIO SOCIETY

Present



CELEBRATION AT ST. PAUL'S

Concert

COMMEMORATING THE
200TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. PAUL'S SYRACUSE



**SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 8, 2026
3:00 PM**

Prepare for a wonderful concert
featuring the
St. Paul's Suite by
Gustav Holst and
Magnificat by John Rutter

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
220 East Fayette St., Downtown Syracuse

Tickets \$10-54 are available at syracuseorchestra.org and at the door



October Calendar



Thursday, October 1, 7:00 pm, Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, October 4, 10:00 am, Worship- Live Stream & In Person

Sunday, October 4, 9:50 am, Godly Play, Children's Sunday School Resumes

Sunday, October 4, 11:30 am, Future Directions Task Force--Brewster Room

Monday, October 5, 12:00 pm, Bible Study - Brewster Room

Tuesday, October 6, 5:00 pm, Bicentennial Steering Com -Zoom

Wednesday, October 7, 4:30 pm, Contemplative Prayer--Private Zoom Channel

Thursday, October 8, 7:00 pm, Choir Rehearsal

Friday, October 9, All Day Rehearsal for Syracuse Orchestra

Saturday, October 10, All Day rehearsal for Syracuse Orchestra

Sunday, October 11, 10:00 am, Worship- Live Stream & In Person

Sunday, October 11, 9:50 am, Godly Play, Children's Sunday School

Sunday, October 11, 11:30 am, Adult Formation Program-Brewster Room

Sunday, October 11, 3:00 pm, Syracuse Orchestra Concert-Casual 1

Monday, October 12, OFFICES CLOSED for Indigenous People's Day Holiday

Monday, October 12, 3:30 pm, Finance Meeting-Zoom

Monday October 12, 6:30 pm, Common Threads at The Nottingham

Tuesday, October 13, 5:30 pm, A Tiny Home For Good Open House on the 2nd Floor

Wednesday, October 14, Deadline for October Courier

Wednesday, October 14, 4:30 pm, Contemplative Prayer--Private Zoom Channel

Thursday, October 15, 7:00 pm, Choir Rehearsal

Saturday, October 17, 10 am to 12 pm, Open Pantry Drop Off

Sunday, October 18, 10:00 am, Worship- Live Stream & In Person

Sunday, October 18, 9:50 am, Godly Play, Children's Sunday School

Sunday, October 18, 11:30 am Pastoral Care Meeting: "Opening The Curtains"- Brewster Room

Sunday, October 18, 4:00 pm, Bicentennial Event--Trombone Concert

Monday, October 19, 12:00 pm, Bible Study-Brewster Room

Tuesday, October 20, 5:30 pm, Vestry Meeting--In Person

Wednesday, October 21, 10:30 am, YMCA Cider and Donuts Social

Wednesday, October 23, 4:30 pm, Contemplative Prayer--Private Zoom Channel

Wednesday, October 21, 7:30 pm, Feminist Theology--In Person, Brewster Room

Thursday, October 22, 7:00 pm, Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, October 25, 10:00 am, Worship- Live Stream & In Person

Guest Clergy Rev. Georgina Hegney and Rev. Phyllis Palsma

Sunday, October 25, 9:50 am, Godly Play, Children's Sunday School

Monday, October 26, 12:00 pm, Bible Study - Brewster Room

Monday, October 26, 1:15 pm, Bicentennial History - Brewster Room

Tuesday, October 27, 3:30 pm, Buildings and Grounds- Zoom

Wednesday, October 28, 4:30 pm, Contemplative Prayer--Private Zoom Channel

Thursday, October 29, 7:00 pm, Choir Rehearsal



St. Paul's Syracuse



JOSEPHINE MA 10/1
JOE MOORMAN 10/2
SANDY SANDERSON 10/3
LEXIE GREENHALGH 10/7
ANNA WRIGHT 10/9
HANNAH LANE 10/9
TIM SCHMIDT 10/12
DAVID RIDINGS 10/13
LAVERNE DOCTOR 10/13
JOHN WOODMAN 10/22
KIRA LANE 10/23
SUE BEECHING 10/26
DEMETRIO MUÑOZ 10/26
CATHERINE GERARD 10/26
AMY MANGRAM 10/28
KIRA DIRGHALLI 10/31



MELONIE CAVANAGH
& MICHAEL VAUGHT
10/5

JOSEPH VON SOUDER
& RYAN LYONS
10/27



The Deadline for the November Courier is Wednesday, October 14th



Send articles as an attachment using Word or Google Docs or another common word processing program and send any photos as JPG files.
A reminder: Please do not put in formatting such as **indents or bullets**.
We will add those during editing. Send final files only please.



Stained Glass Windows

North Aisle, Window #4, The Peck Window

By: Marion Greenhalgh, with thanks to Lester G. Wells, St. Paul's historiographer and author, and the 'findagrave' website.

Continuing with our St. Paul's stained-glass windows series, the next window west of the Granger window, was offered by their children in memory of Major General John James and Rhobie Loomis Peck. It was made by Cox, Buckley and Co., London, and installed in 1885. Their signature is on the right lancet.

General Peck (1821-1878) was born in Manlius, NY, being an early settler of Onondaga County. He graduated from the US Military Academy at West Point, 8th out of 39, in 1843 where he was a classmate of Ulysses S. Grant and other Civil War luminaries. He was posted to the 2nd US Artillery as a 2nd Lieutenant serving in garrison duty in New York before engaging in the military occupation of Texas (1845-46) and in the war with Mexico (1846-48). His bravery earned him a promotion in 1847. In 1849, he was scouting against the Navajo Indians in New Mexico.

On November 20, 1850, he married Rhobie Loomis (1822-1874) in St. Paul's Church (the second church building). He resigned his commission in 1853 after serving for ten years. Mr. Peck was a member of St. Paul's vestry from 1853 to 1861. Their residence was at 723 James Street (formerly 107), now occupied by the Farone Funeral Home. He rose to prominence in Syracuse as a businessman and railroad executive, and served as a Delegate to the 1860 Democratic Convention where he voted for Stephen Douglas' Presidential nomination.

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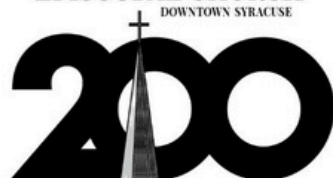
Bicentennial History Task Force
2026

FIFTH IN THE STAINED
GLASS WINDOW
SERIES

#29



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
DOWNTOWN SYRACUSE



WHERE LOVE GROWS
1826 - 2026

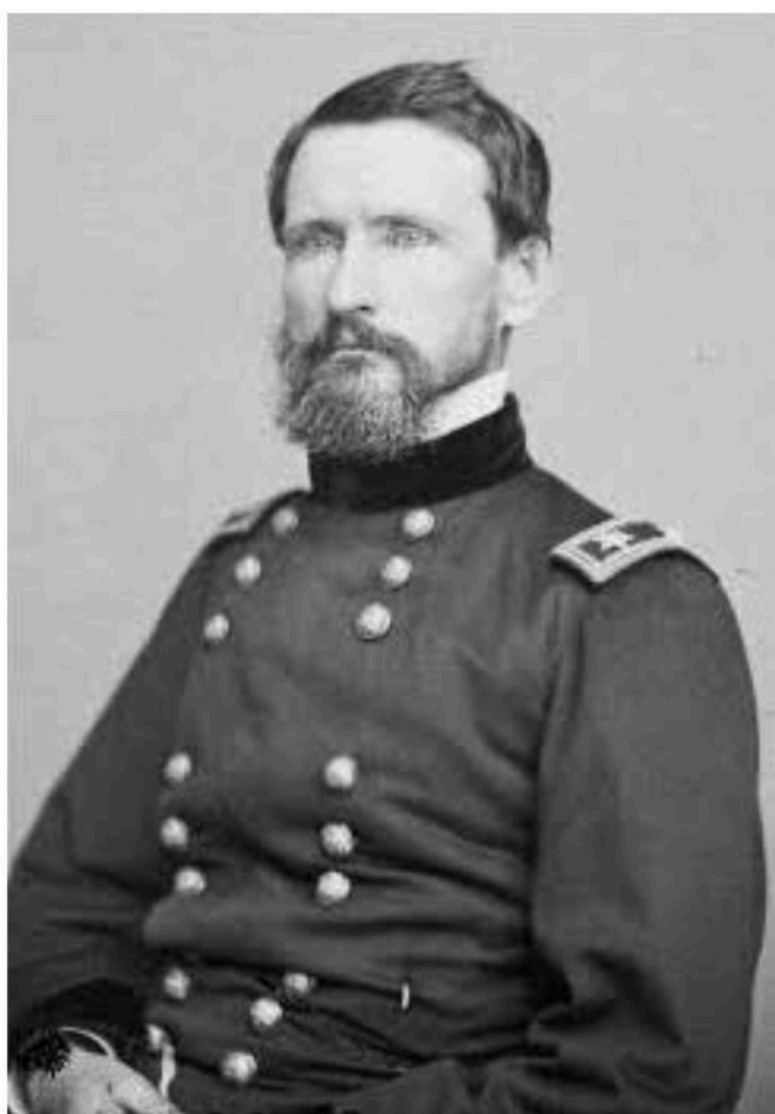
ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
DOWNTOWN SYRACUSE NY



Stained Glass Windows

North Aisle, Window #4, The Peck Window

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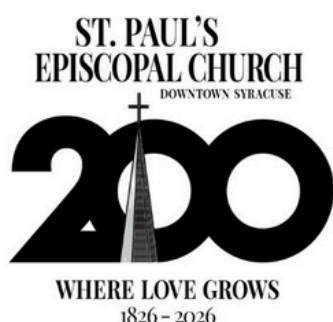


Major General John James Peck

Mr. Peck offered his services after the Civil War erupted, and was appointed Brigadier General of Volunteers on August 9, 1861. His chief military distinction was his service in the Civil War (War of the Rebellion). In 1862, he was made Major General. In the Spring of 1863, he successfully defended his command, but sustained a severe wound during the operation. In July, 1864, he was assigned to command the Department of the East's Canadian Border, where he was in control of relations with the Canadian provinces. On August 25, 1865, he was honorably mustered out of the Army and returned to Syracuse.

In Syracuse, General Peck helped organize the New York State Life Insurance Company. He led that business from 1867 until 1878 when his health declined from war wounds which led to his death.

In 1938, a marker was erected to General Peck's memory in the village of Manlius. In 1953, the late Major Allen P. Cowgill provided a stained-glass medallion of the arms of the US Military Academy to replace an inappropriate medallion (or quatrefoil) at the top of the window.



Bicentennial History Task Force
2026



Another Wonderful Bicentennial Event **Organ Concert** **Featuring Jeremy Filsell**

Photos by DJ Igelsrud

