

# The Courier

The Newsletter of St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
Downtown Syracuse, New York

## September 2025



Some of the crew  
who came out to  
help clean our  
kitchen and get it  
back in shape.



We  
appreciate  
you all!



Putting the  
Kitchen Back  
Together



St. Paul's  
Syracuse

The Downtown  
Episcopal Church

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

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



# The Final Chapter

by Fr. Philip



*Then one of the elders addressed me, saying,  
“Who are these, robed in white, and where  
have they come from?” I said to him,  
“Sir, you are the one who knows.”  
Then he said to me, “These are they  
who have come out of the great ordeal;  
they have washed their robes  
and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.  
Revelation 7:13-14*

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

**T**his summer, several beloved members of our congregation made their way through the final chapter of life. As always, I learned a lot during the weeks I spent with them, going through the final chapter of life next to them. I thought it might be helpful to share one story of the final chapter of life with you.

David Garvey was a lifelong Episcopalian, but didn't get very involved at St. Paul's until six years ago. Dave died on July 10th. During the last two years of his life Dave was being treated for a recurrence of cancer, and was living in Oriskany Falls (his hometown) where he was cared for by a dear friend from his childhood, Judy Engle. Dave and Judy often participated in our worship services via the LiveStream during the last two years of his life. Since Dave was living in Oriskany Falls it was difficult for me to visit him, so we arranged to meet at the medical office where he was treated for cancer.

On June 6th I received a phone call and an email from Dave's son-in-law asking me to visit Dave in Oriskany Falls. Dave had made the decision to stop his cancer treatments and he was getting close to the end of his life. So I travelled to Oriskany Falls and spent two hours with Dave and Judy.

The three of us talked through many questions and decisions about Dave's final chapter of life. Dave told me about a few parts of his life that were most important, including stories of the most painful times of his life. Dave made the decision to move into hospice care. Dave told me several important details for planning his burial service.

During the next month I visited Dave three more times, including on the day he died. The first two visits were filled with meaningful conversation, and Dave was often quite energetic and focused as we talked. On Thursday, July 10th we knew Dave was getting close to the end. So I travelled to Abraham House Hospice in Utica to spend time with him and his loved ones, including two who participated by video conference from California.

As with most parts of life, in the Episcopal Church we have a liturgy (a worship service) that is for use near the time of death. (You can find it in *The Book of Common Prayer*, pp. 462-467.) We said these prayers



together and said the things that seemed most important to say as Dave finished his journey back to God. It wasn't an easy time for Dave or for us, but it was a very meaningful time.

Dave died a few hours after I left. I met with members of his family via Zoom a few days later, to listen to what was important for them and to make plans for Dave's burial service. On Sunday, November 9th at 1 p.m. you are invited to join us as we celebrate the love and grace of God revealed to us in Dave's life. I asked Dave's family for permission to share this story with you, because I want to encourage you to do what they did. I urge you to call me if you or someone you love would benefit from the support of a pastor, and especially when you or someone you love is in the final chapter of life.

I don't know everything about death, and I am not a doctor, but I have been with many people at the time of death. One of the most important parts of my job as your priest is to support you during difficult times, especially when someone is in the final chapter of life.

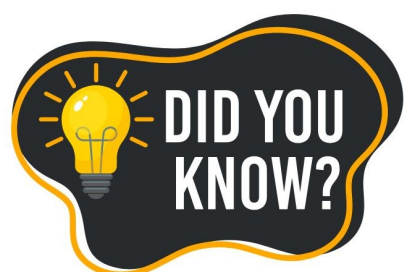
We often avoid thinking about the end of life. We often avoid talking about death. We avoid it because we have experienced terrible grief from the death of loved ones, or because death always involves loss. St. Paul's is a community that is gathered around this person, Christ Jesus, who was willing to talk about death. The church is a community where we can support each other in difficult conversations. We build a healthy, strong community when we are able to tell the truth to each other and to ourselves. The truth is that we are mortal. In a way that might seem a little upside down, we find more meaning and more love in our lives when we are able to talk about the end of life.

I encourage you to share my phone number and other contact information with the people closest to you. (St. Paul's doesn't publish my phone number but I am glad to share it with any of our members. You can also ask any member of our vestry for it.) I encourage you to ask your loved ones to call me if you are seriously hurt or if you are getting close to the end of your life.



I also encourage you to talk about what you want your final chapter to be like with the people who are closest to you. This could include some legal things, such as making decisions about organ donations, a medical proxy, and other questions. St. Paul's *Formation Team* has discussed the possibility of organizing an adult education event around the theme of end-of-life planning. Please speak with Jeanne Avery, convener of the *Formation Team*, or with me if you are interested in helping.

Phyllis +



Each year St. Paul's is one of the sponsors for FAIRNY who has the LGBTQ Booth at the NY State Fair. They publish a Network Guide which includes a directory of LGBTQ organizations, ally, health, social justice and faith organizations. For more information: [www.fairny.org](http://www.fairny.org)



*Save  
The  
Date*

**Yes, the Open Doors project is ending!**

**Open Doors Ribbon Cutting  
Friday, October 17, 2025  
12 Noon**

**In the St. Paul's Parking Lot**

- Remarks by Rev. Philip Major, Syracuse Mayor Ben Walsh, NYS Senator Rachel May, Andrew Lunetta, Cathy Wolff
- The Donor Wall unveiling. Meet the artist Margie Hughto, tours, and light refreshments.
- Bring your family and friends to help usher in the next century of St. Paul's Church's mission in downtown Syracuse.

## The Ballad Of Open Doors

(by Joe Moorman with apologies to Edgar Allan Poe)

Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered, weak and weary,  
Over many a quaint and curious bible verse o'er which I'd pore—  
What I thought was indigestion, really was the bleak suggestion  
Of the existential question, nagging as I paced the floors.  
"I must keep the faith," I muttered, but the thought had pierced my core—  
"Will we finish Open Doors?"

After two years of construction, we have planned an introduction  
To display the finished product that we have been waiting for.  
Elevator, windows, kitchen, were completed, then we pitch in  
Decorating spaces which in celebration we'll explore.  
How long will the spirit linger that inspired Open Doors?  
Quoth the Rector "Evermore!"



**OPEN DOORS**

220 East Fayette St. Downtown Syracuse [www.stpaulsyr.org](http://www.stpaulsyr.org)



# Senior Warden's Report

By Joe Moorman, Senior Warden

I have sung in church choirs since high school, following the example my father set of singing in church choirs from his high school years and well into this 60s. It puts me in touch with the breadth and depth of the church's liturgical history, and, personally, provides the occasional glimpse into the divine. There are certain composers, such as Herbert Howells, who, I am convinced, heard angels singing and just wrote it down.



A recent *Washington Post* article explained how singing is also good for your health. Studies have shown that listening to music we enjoy is associated with better subjective well-being, stress reduction, and better coping with negative emotions while lifting up positive ones. Music can be an effective way to alleviate feelings of depression and anxiety. It releases dopamine and activates the brain's reward system.

Making music with our voice or an instrument adds another dimension to the experience. One 2022 study of 305 older adults found that singing karaoke was linked to increased feelings of flow and meaning in life. Making music can protect brain health as we age and can help our brains maintain their resilience.

Making music with others — like in a choir — supercharges these benefits. And what is it we all do on Sunday mornings at the beginning, at the end, and in the middle of worship? The entire congregation sings hymns together. Singing as a group synchronizes our behaviors with the musical beat and with each other. Imaging studies have shown that neural activity becomes more similar in the brains of people engaged with the same music.

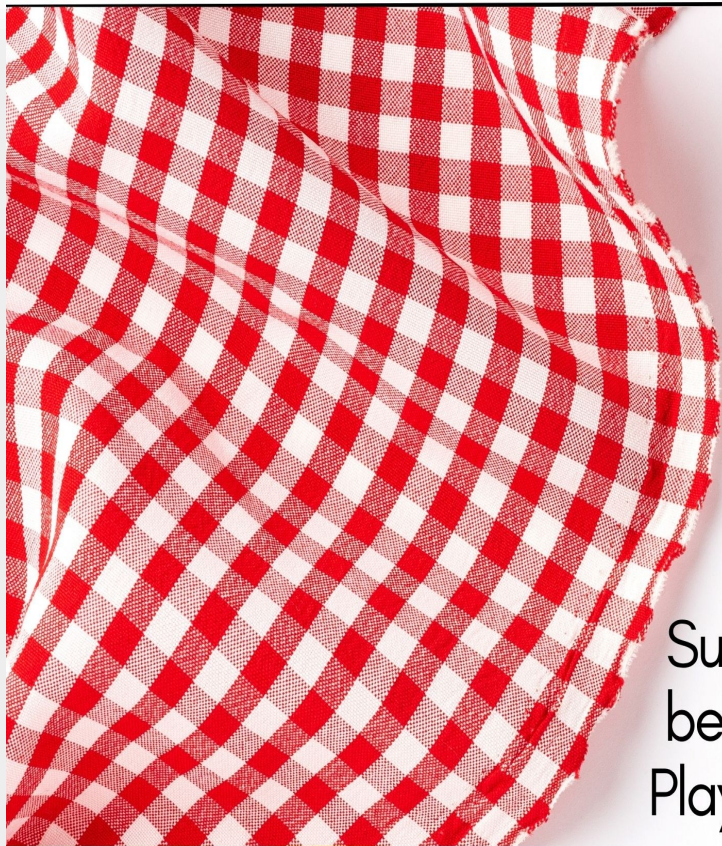
Singing in groups can decrease cortisol, a stress hormone, and increase the release of oxytocin, a neuropeptide and hormone important for social bonding. The oxytocin release may further amplify the reward system. As an example, think about how good you feel after joining in to sing "Happy Birthday" at a family gathering.

Music is a powerful force with benefits we are just beginning to fully understand. Our last Parish Survey revealed the importance of music to our congregation. Communal singing is both a bonding experience and is good for you, and I didn't really need scientists to verify that for me. Please note that the science says nothing about how well you sing, just that you join in.

So remember this on Sunday mornings when we are asked to join in singing a hymn. Sing out everyone! You'll be glad you did.







Mark Your Calendar!

# Church Picnic

## Sunday September 7

Sunday, September 7th, is Welcome Back Sunday. It will be the first Sunday back for our Choir and for the Godly Play program for children. To celebrate, we'll be holding a picnic in the parking lot following our 10 a.m. worship service.

St. Paul's will provide burgers and hot dogs. You're invited to bring something to share: desert, some sort of salad, or whatever you like to bring to a picnic!

MONDAYS @ NOON -- IN PERSON

## Bible Study

Everyone is invited to join us for Bible Study, held most Mondays at noon in the Brewster Room.

- No preparation, experience, or materials are needed.
- Each Monday we read and discuss the scripture readings that will be read during worship the following Sunday.



Bible Study Begins  
Monday, September 7th  
12:00 Noon





# Fr. Philip will Attend CREDO September 30–October 6

**C**REDO stands for Clergy Renewal, Education and Development Opportunity. The Episcopal Church invites active clergy members to participate in these conferences at the beginning, in the middle, and near the end of the time when they are serving as priests or bishops. These conferences are extremely helpful for priests and productive for the congregations they serve. Participants spend a week working through a series of spiritual and practical activities, supported by a community of clergy and highly skilled leaders. One of the helpful parts of CREDO is that *The Church Pension Group* pays a large share of the cost, so the financial burden for priests and parishes is not so heavy.

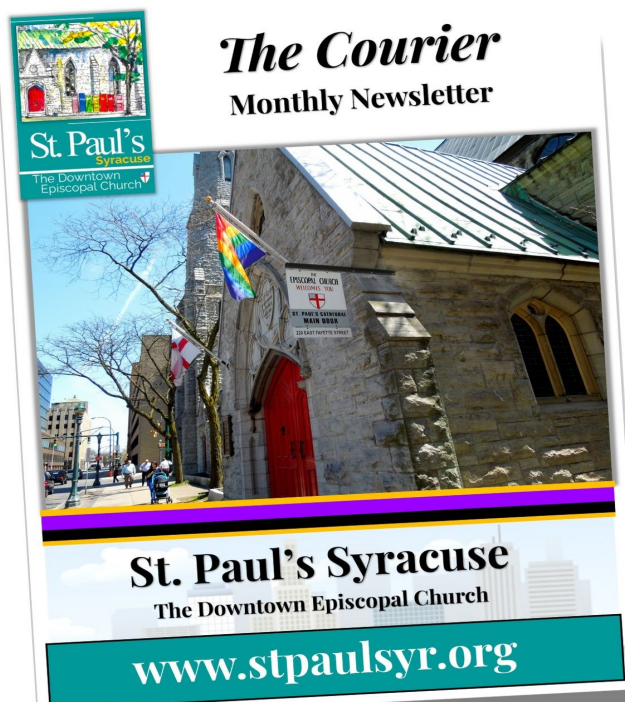


I received an invitation to participate in a CREDO conference several months ago and signed up to participate within an hour of opening up the invitation. This will be my third CREDO conference and will be held at the Roslyn Conference Center near Richmond, Virginia. I am eager to participate again for three reasons:

1. During *Open Doors* construction many additional duties have been added to my job description, so it is more important than ever for me to have time to get reoriented to my core values and core responsibilities.
2. My first two CREDO conferences were extremely productive times of discernment and strategic-planning for me.
3. At previous CREDO conferences I made strong connections and learned a lot from other priests.

As always, St. Paul's will be led by a strong team of leaders during my absence. The Rev. Perry Mouncey will lead our 8 and 10 a.m. worship services on Sunday, October 5th. Please contact one of our wardens in case of pastoral emergency during my time at CREDO.

Fr. Philip +



## The deadline for the October Courier is Wednesday September 17

Please 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.



# Join Us At The Picnic!

By Liz Handler

**H**ello everyone!

The kitchen is getting put back together, and Open Doors is finishing up, so it's time to party!

Following the service on Sunday, September 7, we are having a parish potluck picnic in the parking lot. The last picnic we had was so much fun we decided to do it again! Please join us. Making/baking a dish isn't necessary (although your yummy food is always appreciated). A bag of chips, store bought cookies, a tub of dip, it's all appreciated. We will need help bringing out tables, chairs, plates, etc, and more help bringing everything back in after we're done enjoying being together. See you there!



*More information on page 6*

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# Orchestra Concert Reception on September 28—Help Needed!

By Betsy Elkins

**W**e are excited to again be hosting the Syracuse Orchestra's Casual Concert series this year. There will be 6 concerts (and 12 performances—one on Saturday evening, another on Sunday afternoon) The six candidates being considered for the new Artistic Director (conductor) of the Syracuse Orchestra will each be conducting a Casual Concert at St. Paul's. This is a wonderful opportunity for concert goers to meet the candidates as they experience a concert in our lovely sanctuary.

AND we will host a reception following the Sunday concerts throughout the year. The first Sunday concert will be on September 28 at 3 p.m. We have missed being able to host these receptions during our construction and are pleased that we may now resume this hospitality. (Quick side story: I met a member of the Orchestra board this weekend at an event at the VIEW Art Center in Old Forge. This gentleman lives in Oswego and when I said I lived in downtown Syracuse and attended St Paul's he remarked about how lovely the church is, how much he enjoys the Orchestra concerts there AND the nice receptions the church people provide!)



If you would like to help with this hospitality on September 28, please let me know. We will be looking for contributions of finger foods (crackers, cheese, small sandwiches, cookies, savory snacks) or some money to purchase some of the food. We will also need help with setting up and clean up!



# Construction Update and When Will it All End?

By Betsy Elkins

**I**t seems we have been providing Open Doors construction updates for a very long time. It feels like Covid when it seemed we were waiting forever for things to be normal again. At that time, I kept telling my friends to stay strong, “wait well” (i.e. be patient) this will all be over soon. I seem to be doing the same now. It will all be finished and worth the wait. And I really do believe that. We are sprinting to the finish now! By the time you are reading this:

- There will be new tile floors in the Sargent Foyer, Kitchen and in the Montgomery Street Lobby.
- Flooring on the stairs to the second and third floor and in the hallway to the Hansen Dining room will have been installed or will be very soon.
- The kitchen will have a fresh new look (new window, new floor, fresh paint, new lights and new closet. Appliances and counters will be back in place and clean! A new refrigerator (thank you Nan Dorr funds) will be in place. All the kitchen stuff that has been stored in the dining room for the last 18 months should be clean and set in cupboards and shelves. We can start using the kitchen again for coffee hour and other hospitality events. (See note about Orchestra concert reception on Sept. 28 elsewhere in this Courier.) We will add a handwashing sink next to the fridge later this fall.
- The toilet rooms adjacent to the Sargent foyer will have fixtures and doors and should be operational very soon.
- The Sargent foyer will be looking very elegant and the new door to the parking lot should be installed.
- The Montgomery Street lobby will be nearly complete with the door to the street refurbished and reinstalled soon.



*Laying the new floor in the Sargent Foyer*

As with any construction project there are delays and unexpected things that come up and we have certainly had our share of this. Most recently we have found that we are in competition with other construction projects that our contractor and subcontractors are working to complete by strict deadlines (in schools for example). By the time we host two Orchestra concerts the end of September we expect to have a lovely new accessible entrance from the parking lot and a foyer with wonderful new toilet rooms! Wait well everyone! See the article about our Ribbon Cutting event (on page 4) by Joe Moorman on October 17 and plan to come!



# Watercolors, Community and Connection at the YMCA

By Joseph von Souder

**E**arlier this summer, I had the opportunity to lead a watercolor class for our neighbors at the YMCA on Montgomery Street as part of *National Watercolor Month* - and I can honestly say, it was one of the most rewarding experiences I've had in a long time!

What started as a simple idea turned into something much bigger. With the support of Debbie Bogan and Commercial Art Supply (my employer, who generously donated all the materials), we set up a bright, welcoming space for the residents to come in, try their hand at watercolor painting, and most importantly, have fun! I was overwhelmed (in the best way) to see just how many residents came through the doors. Some stopped by just to see what was going on; others sat down, picked up a brush, and let their creativity shine.

It didn't take long for the room to fill with color, conversation, and laughter. There was a genuine sense of joy and connection that can only happen when people create together. A few St. Paul's volunteers came along to lend a hand and join the fun, and I couldn't be more grateful for their presence and support! It truly felt like a shared effort - a collaboration between our church, and the YMCA community.

The experience was so uplifting that we've already started planning a return visit during the Christmas season, this time for a festive holiday craft with the residents. If you're interested in being part of it, please reach out to Debbie Bogan! We would love to have more hands, more hearts, and more creativity involved!

As someone who works in the arts and loves seeing how it brings people together, I'm proud to be part of a church like St. Paul's that values and supports creative outreach. Whether it's through providing space for groups like Symphoria or hosting cultural events, St. Paul's plays an important role in our city's cultural life. I was so honored to help carry that mission forward in my own small way!

Thank you to everyone who helped make this watercolor class a success. Let's keep creating (and connecting) one brushstroke at a time!







# Common Threads

St. Paul's Common Threads will not be meeting in September. We will begin meeting again on **Monday, October 13th at 7:00** at the home of Tim & Georgette Schmidt. All are welcome to this time of fellowship. You are welcome to bring something to knit, crochet, embroider, mend, sew, quilt etc.

You are also welcome to come without a project and just enjoy the conversation and company.

## Blessing of the Animals

**Sunday, October 12th  
4:00 p.m. in Lemp Park**

(behind the church parking lot)

- Bring your favorite animal for a special blessing
- In case of rain, the service will be held in the Fayette Street Porch at St. Paul's




**There will be a  
single service at 10:00 a.m.  
Sunday,  
September 7th**

And don't forget the picnic afterwards!







The deadline  
for submission  
is Tuesday,  
September 2

## Applications for Grants from the Nan Dorr Endowment Fund

The 2024 earnings amount from this Fund - \$6,460.00 - is now available. This Fund was set up in 2011 by the Dorr Family in memory of Nan Dorr, a much-loved member of St. Paul's, who died in 2009. The fund is devoted exclusively to the Women of St. Paul's to be used for an annual project or projects for which members of the congregation are asked to submit proposals annually. A small committee is responsible for deciding on the most appropriate projects submitted and these then go to the Finance Committee and finally to the Vestry for their approval.

We are now asking members of the congregation to submit any project(s) they wish to propose and to send them in writing, with detailed specifics of costs, and the name of the person responsible for overseeing the project. We will only consider those items that are special and unusual, and which would not normally be part of the church budget. We also feel that they would be something that Nan Dorr herself would have liked.

The deadline for submission is Tuesday, September 2.

Once these proposals have been received, a small committee will review them carefully. If you have any questions please contact Joan Sammons at 315 446-5854.

Please submit your proposal(s) preferably via email to:  
Marion Greenhalgh at [mgreenha34@gmail.com](mailto:mgreenha34@gmail.com)

-Joan Sammons, Chair of Special Committee





*In Loving Memory*



# Jason D. Pilgrim

A Memorial for Jason will be held at  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church on

**Saturday, August 30 at 3:00 p.m.**

Street Address: 220 East Fayette St.  
Downtown Syracuse, NY

An interment ceremony will immediately follow the church  
service. It will be held at DeWitt Cemetery across the street  
from the DeWitt Community Church.

*In Loving Memory*

In loving memory of our dear friend

# Harry Lewis

**April 30, 1927 – June 23, 2025**

whose kindness, wisdom, humor  
and beautiful smile lit up our world

A Memorial for Harry will be held at  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church on

**Saturday, September 6 at 3:00 p.m.**

220 East Fayette St. Downtown Syracuse



*In Loving Memory*

# David Garvey

**May 31, 1942 – July 10, 2025**



Dave loved St. Paul's, and was one of a significant  
group of our members who participate in our worship  
service through the LiveStream.

A memorial service for David will be held  
at St. Paul's on

**Sunday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.**





# In Loving Memory of our Friend, Harry Lewis

Printed in the Syracuse Post Standard



**H**arry Lewis was born on April 30, 1927, and grew up in Warren, PA. During his long life, Lewis “embodied resilience, kindness, and a quiet strength.” He was a loving spouse to Mary Francis Ungerman Lewis and an extraordinary father to Sylvia, Robert, and Cynthia, guiding them “with a steady hand and a kind heart,” his obituary said. “He imparted invaluable lessons in humility, perseverance, and kindness. Harry had a life that reflected his passion and commitment.”

Lewis graduated from the Salisbury School in 1945. He served in the United States Army from 1950 to 1957 before being honorably discharged as a sergeant. He graduated from Syracuse University’s Whitman School of Business at Syracuse University.

He settled his family in the South East University Neighborhood, where he became a longtime member and treasurer of the neighborhood association. The community is eclectic,” he told The Post-Standard in 1999. “It’s a wonderful mixture in that it’s university people. It’s a mix of single-family, two-family and student rental houses. There’s always a variety of people in the area.” His obituary said he worked “tirelessly as a salesman for over 40 years.” Lewis’ “hard work was an inspiration to his loved ones but to all those whose lives he touched along the way.”

He also served the Syracuse community. He was former president of the PTA for Onondaga County, president and was one of the founding members of SEUNA. When asked by the newspaper about his ideas about leading a civic group, he said: “Listen. Keep your mouth shut. Listen to what the other person is saying. It keeps me from making a fool of myself, and when someone talks long enough, they can talk themselves out of what’s bothering them in the first place. And I never even took psychology.” Lewis was a



frequent face in the crowd at the meetings of the Syracuse Common Council, housing court, codes enforcement, and zoning appeals boards, to name a few. "I've been very active in the area," he said in 2008. "To be active you have to be looking at the political end of it. To improve our area, we have fought many a battle." He contributed to many codes that are on the books today. There is even a code referred to as the "Harry Lewis Law." In 2003, he was grand marshal of the Westcott Street Cultural Fair. Lewis was also a devoted member of Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, delivering communion to homebound members. He also drove people to medical appointments as a volunteer with hospice.

"For over 20 years," his obituary said, "Harry created a Sunday morning pedestrian walkway on a section of Meadowbrook Drive alongside Barry Park." Lewis was allowed to place temporary barriers from 6 a.m. until noon on one side of the road. Eventually, the DPW changed the road permanently making it forever a pedestrian walkway. In April 2019, the city proclaimed that section of the road to be named the "Harry Lewis Ave."

"His presence was a constant source of comfort and joy to those who knew him," his obituary said. "Through his warm laughter, his wise words, or the manner in which he always made time for those in need, Harry had a gift for turning everyday common occurrences into something extraordinary."

As we say goodbye, we choose to celebrate the life he lived—a life filled with love, laughter, and a profound impact that will echo in our hearts forever. Though his absence leaves a void, his memory will remain a guiding light, reminding us to live with empathy and purpose."

Lewis is survived by Sylvia, Cynthia and Robert Johnson, Robert and his family Panicha, Jonathan and Disi, his sisters Anne and Christina, along with an extended circle of friends and loved ones who mourn his loss and honor his memory. His family wishes to "thank everyone for their love and support during this difficult time."

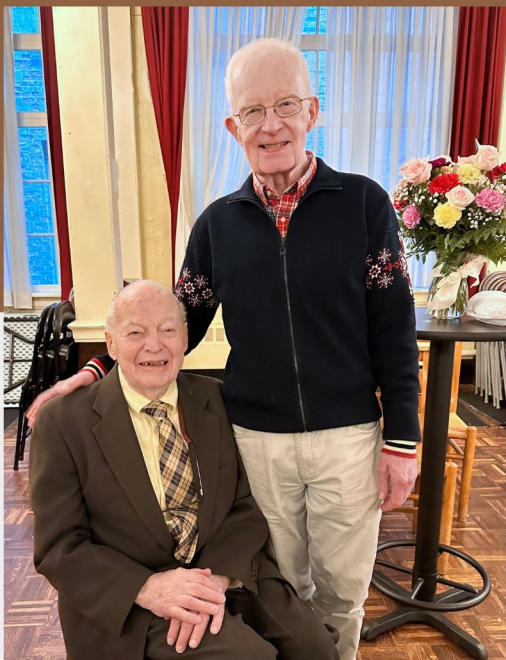


They ask the community to share any memories and stories of Lewis as they come together to celebrate his remarkable life on Saturday, September 6, at 3 p.m. at Saint Paul's Cathedral, 220 East Fayette St. Syracuse.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations to [St. Paul's Cathedral](#) in honor of Harry Lewis "and his commitment to making the world a better place "





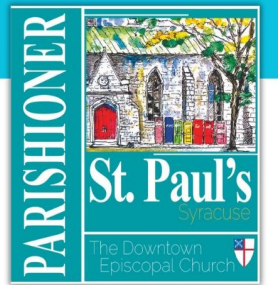


# Memories of Harry





# Important Parking Reminders



Please do your best to park within the lines of the parking places. We know some lines are hard to see, and may be smaller than a normal parking place dividing line. When cars are not correctly in a spot, we lose valuable parking places on Sunday mornings.



Also, please remember, when you come to the church on weekdays before 5:00 p.m., PLEASE do not park in our tenant parking places that have been paid for. We have a few spots on the fence that are available for St. Paul's but that is about it until the construction is complete. We are so sorry for any inconvenience.



Make sure you have your parking sticker visible. We don't want to accidentally tow your car. If you need a new sticker, please contact Judy. Email: [jmcadoo@stpaulsyr.org](mailto:jmcadoo@stpaulsyr.org)

*Have you ever read our "About Us"? It's included on our website as well as a sign outside on the corner. Our display case is next to the bus stop so it gets great exposure.*



St. Paul's  
Syracuse  
The Downtown  
Episcopal Church

## About Us

We are professionals, day laborers and unemployed. We are gay and straight. We are inclusive. We are large families and families of one. We are liberal and conservative, Democrats and Republicans and everything in between. We are life-long Episcopalians and "converts". We are faithful. We are doubters. We are skeptics, we are believers. We are marvelous in God's eyes, and yet we make mistakes. We pray together, laugh together, struggle together, cry together and journey together.

No matter who you are or where you've been, there is a place for you at St. Paul's Syracuse.

## God's Doors are Open To All!





St Paul's Syracuse



The Syracuse  
Orchestra Presents

# FAIRY TALES



Featuring four works inspired by fairy tales, this concert takes you from Mother Goose to Shakespeare to Greek mythology featuring selections by Ravel, Grieg, Tchaikovsky and living composer Stacy Garrop.

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The Syracuse Orchestra will be  
performing at  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
220 E. Fayette St.  
Downtown Syracuse

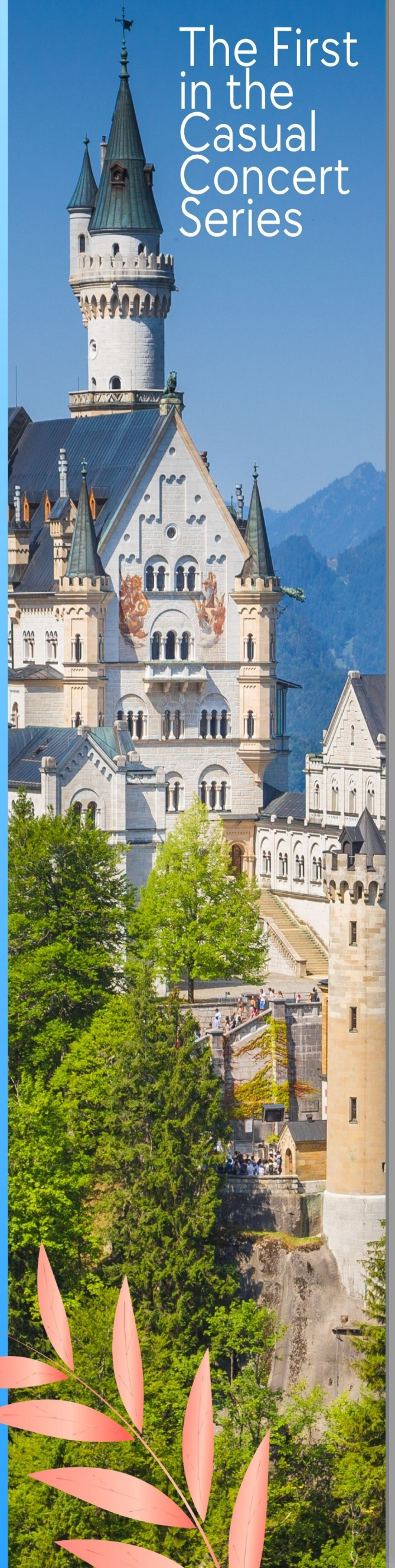
**Saturday, September 27**  
**7:00 pm**

**Sunday, September 28**  
**3:00 pm**

Tickets available at the door or online:  
**[www.syracuseorchestra.org](http://www.syracuseorchestra.org)**



The First  
in the  
Casual  
Concert  
Series





# Children's Ministry

by Jeanne Avery, Children's Ministry Leader

Come Back Sunday is September 7. Our first Sunday was September 2021!

We have our first graduate-Sophia is moving to the other side of the room. We are praying she will like it!

The Rev. Phyllis Palsma has given hours of mental and physical work to guide us towards a truly Godly Play environment. We are so grateful. Barbara Bell continues as the coordinator of the nursery program with Kira Lane, assisting.

Kira Lane has also provided nursery care throughout this summer with the additional staffing of one volunteer each Sunday. I want to express my appreciation to all of you. The nursery was totally underused but it was open if needed.

Often the children have been coming to the Chapel with a toy from home. The problem is that by the time they reach the Chapel they have created their own agenda for the day. We are wondering if the term "Godly Play" is giving the wrong message to the children. We are going to use the term "Godly Play" less often and in addition require the children not to bring toys or tablets or...from home. If they insist the toys can be in the Soft Space for after class.

We have a wonderful curriculum. The Rev, Phyllis Palsma is guiding us on our journey to be able to have the attention of the children to present approximately 30 different lessons this year. The biblical story will be told at the Chapel altar rail with the children sitting on a chair. Hopefully they will know they must listen and without a toy. We are looking for people willing to prepare one lesson.

Come Back Sunday is September 7. The following Sunday, September 14, the children and Fr. Philip invite parents and grandparents to a short meeting and lunch at 11:30am. Fr. Philip has some "dreams" he would like to share.

Please pray for the Chapel Program as we start a new year.

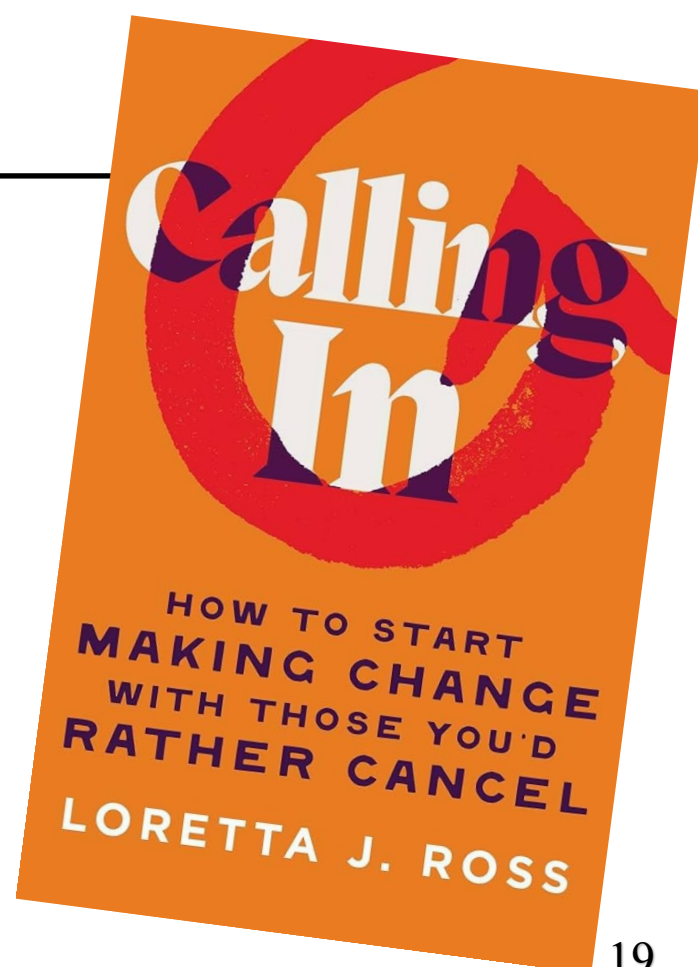


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# Feminist Theology

by Laurie Sanderson

Feminist Theology looks forward to beginning another year on Wednesday, October 15th at 7:30 online. We are now reading the book: *Calling In. How to start Making Change with those you'd Rather Cancel* By Loretta J Ross. Derina Samuel will lead our discussion. All are welcome. Questions? Please speak with Laurie Sanderson. Closer to the starting date, we will send out the information on how to connect.





JOHN D. MARSELLUS

# Chairman of casket manufacturer was a scion of a clan of cabinet makers

**Johnathan Croyle** [jcroyle@syracuse.com](mailto:jcroyle@syracuse.com)

At least once a month, John Marsellus would return to the site of his family's casket factory in Syracuse and reflect.

His great-grandfather built the Marsellus Casket Co. building at 101 Richmond Ave. in 1889 and it served as the business' headquarters until 1990.

Marsellus told Post-Standard columnist Dick Case that, after the company moved to DeWitt, he would "park my car and look at the building. I'd look at it and see people working. The soul of that building, oh my.

"It took on a human quality, anthropomorphic, for me. I could reconstruct it. Every brick had a story to tell. That's where the soul of the company developed."

Case called John Marsellus the "scion of the clan of casket-makers."

He started working there in 1964. He took over as president in 1978. In 1993, he became chairman of the company.

John Douglas Marsellus, 86, died recently from pancreatic challenges.

Marsellus lived and worked in Syracuse all his life, his obituary said.

"He grew up in Syracuse's Sedgwick area, a neighborhood where his family had lived for generations." The Post-Standard reported. "His great-grandfather lived on Summit Avenue, his grandparents and dad lived in a red brick house on Sedgwick, and his mother was raised nearby on James Street. Marsellus grew up on Brattle Road and Scoville Avenue, attending Salem Hyde school and Manlius Pebble Hill School in DeWitt."

He graduated from Deerfield Academy and the University of Virginia and enlisted in the U.S. Army and was assigned to the Intelligence Corps.

He studied German for six months, and then was sent to Frankfurt, Germany, where he helped debrief and resettle East German refugees.

After his service, Marsellus began a 40-year business career with the Marsellus Casket Co. "It was never something I was told to do, asked to do, or expected to do," he said in 1998. "I just felt a responsibility to try it since my name was on the sign."

"In 1964, as a new sales trainee, he was given a card table with fold-up legs, a testa-

ment as to the uncertainty of his career," a Post-Standard report said. "He soon developed a passion for the craft of casket-making."

The company enjoyed the reputation of being the leading manufacturer of fine hardwood caskets in the world and provided caskets for presidents, including John F. Kennedy and Richard Nixon.

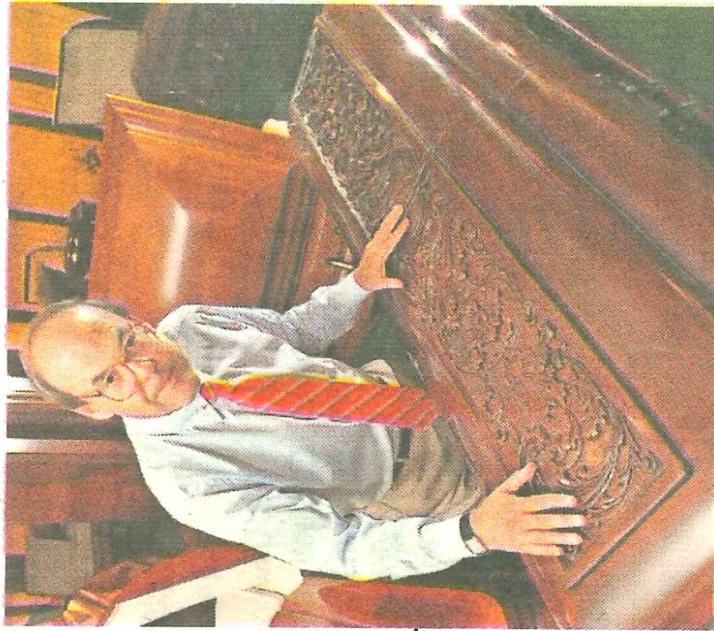
Throughout Marsellus' life, he consistently enjoyed and supported volunteerism and creative philanthropy.

Marsellus served in leadership positions and as a trustee and director of various local civic organizations.

"Besides loving his family and enjoying all types of people, John had a cheerful enthusiasm with a special zest and curiosity for travel and adventure," his obituary said. He even skydived in 2018.

He enjoyed Skaneateles Lake, Boca Grande, Florida, the arts, sailing, skiing, tennis, and traveling with his wife and life partner, Candace.

A private burial service will be at the family gravesite in Oakwood Cemetery, Syracuse.



**John Marsellus, chairman of the Marsellus Casket Co., in the display room at their Richmond Ave. plant in 1997. The casket he's standing behind is solid mahogany with an inlaid carved top.**

John Marsellus was a great benefactor of St. Paul's and had a long family history here. We honor his memory.





# Church Life



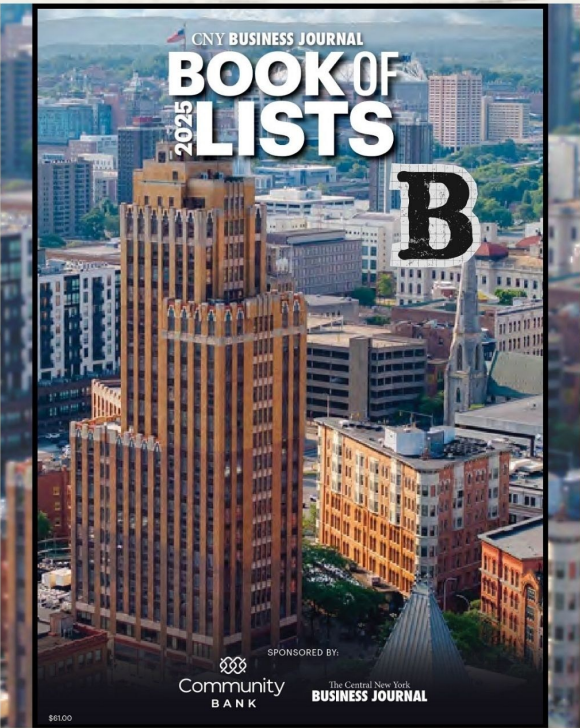
Rebecca Livengood and Walter Rogers recently celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with a party at their lake house.



John Marsellus, David Garvey and Harry Lewis



Summer Service August 24th



We almost made the cover...this was one of the designs that was voted on for the CNY Business Journal's Book of Lists



Christ Krispie Treats

Just for fun



# September Calendar



Monday, September 1, Labor Day-Offices Closed  
Tuesday, September 2, 5:00 pm Bicentennial Steering Committee—Montgomery Zoom  
Wednesday, September 3, 4:30 pm, Contemplative Prayer—Private Zoom Channel  
Saturday, September 6, 3:00 pm, Funeral for Harry Lewis

Sunday, September 7, 9:50 am, Godly Play Sunday School & Nursery in the Hadley Chapel  
Sunday, September 7, 10:00 am, Single Worship Service – Live Stream & In Person  
Sunday, September 7, After the Service, Picnic in the Parking Lot  
Monday, September 8, 12:00 pm, Bible Study —Brewster Room  
Monday, September 8, 1:15 pm, Executive Ministry Team —Brewster Room  
Tuesday, September 9, 5:00 pm, Vestry Meeting —Brewster Room  
Wednesday, September 10, 4:30 pm, Contemplative Prayer—Private Zoom Channel

Sunday, September 14, 8:00 am, Worship – In Person  
Sunday, September 14, 9:50 am, Godly Play Sunday School & Nursery in the Hadley Chapel  
Sunday, September 14, 10:00 am, Worship– Live Stream & In Person  
Sunday, September 14, 11:30 am, Sunday School Parents Meeting and Luncheon  
Monday, September 15, 12:00 pm, Bible Study —Brewster Room  
Tuesday, September 16, 4:00 pm, Worship Ministry Team—Brewster Room  
Wednesday, September 17, 5:00 pm, Deadline for October Courier  
Wednesday, September 17, 4:30 pm, Contemplative Prayer—Private Zoom Channel  
Saturday, September 20, 10:00-12:00 pm, Open Pantry Drop Off—Fayette St. Door

Sunday, September 21, 8:00 am, Worship – In Person  
Sunday, September 21, 9:50 am, Godly Play Sunday School & Nursery in the Hadley Chapel  
Sunday, September 21, 10:00 am, Worship– Live Stream & In Person  
Sunday, September 21, 11:45 am, Pastoral Care Team—Brewster Room  
Monday, September 22, 12:00 pm, Bible Study —Brewster Room  
Monday, September 22, 1:00 pm, Bicentennial History Meeting—Brewster Room  
Tuesday, September 23, 5:00 pm, Joint Meeting—Buildings & Grounds and Building Task Force  
Wednesday, September 24, 4:30 pm, Contemplative Prayer—Private Zoom Channel  
Friday, September 26, All Day—Syracuse Orchestra Rehearsal  
Saturday, September 27, Morning/Afternoon—Syracuse Orchestra Rehearsal  
Saturday, September 27, 7:00 p.m. Syracuse Orchestra Concert—Casual 1

Sunday, September 28, 8:00 am, Worship – In Person  
Sunday, September 28, 9:50 am, Godly Play Sunday School & Nursery in the Hadley Chapel  
Sunday, September 28, 10:00 am, Worship– Live Stream & In Person  
Sunday, September 28, 3:00 pm, Syracuse Orchestra Concert—Casual 1  
Monday, September 29, 12:00 pm, Bible Study —Brewster Room

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*Father Philip will be away for continuing education September 29 through October 6.*





RACHAEL THOMAS 9/2  
SANDY WILEY 9/2  
JAMES MCCLOSKEY 9/5  
BARRY PICKARD 9/6  
ANITA WAGNER 9/11  
HELEN REED FERGUSON 9/12  
BARBARA BELL 9/15  
JULIA FINE 9/18  
WENDY HOBLYN JONES 9/19  
BETSY BARKER 9/25  
FLORIAN BRUNO 9/25  
ELEANOR MAJOR 9/26  
ROBERT WAGNER 9/26  
TIM CASSAVAW 9/27  
KERSTIN JOHNSON 9/28

# September Anniversaries



LIZ & RICHARD HANDLER  
SEPTEMBER 3  
  
DEMETRIO MUNOZ & FLORIAN BRUNO  
SEPTEMBER 7  
  
SANDY & NEWT WILEY  
SEPTEMBER 10  
  
MARY & BARRY PICKARD  
SEPTEMBER 15  
  
REV. PERRY & DOUG MOUNCEY  
SEPTEMBER 16  
  
TIFFANY MINER & TIM SIMMONS  
SEPTEMBER 30

# Did You Know?

St. Paul's website has a live calendar and a list of special upcoming events?  
Check out this great resource of all things St. Paul's.

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







**H**ave you noticed the new sign outside the Fayette Street entrance?

This sign has also been made into rack cards—which is much like a large business card. You can find those in the brochure rack in the nave. Help yourself to some cards. It's a great way to invite friends or family to see what St. Paul's is all about.



# Open Pantry Drop Off

The third Saturday of each month from 10:00 a.m. to Noon.  
You can drop off food at the E. Fayette St. door.