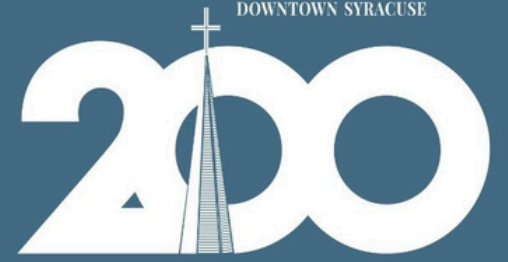


Celebrating 200 Years 1826—2026

ST. PAUL'S SYRACUSE COURIER

ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
DOWNTOWN SYRACUSE



WHERE LOVE GROWS
1826 - 2026

August 2026



*This wonderful photo was taken at our Bicentennial Dinner, on May 22 by
Michelle Breidenbach.*



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



What was Missing?

by Fr. Philip

Thanks to the support of our lay leaders, our staff, and the Rev. Perry Mouncey I was able to take a good, long vacation during the month of June. I spent the first two weeks of June hiking across the northern-most province of Italy: South Tyrol. South Tyrol is a region of mountains, farms, ancient villages and small cities. I met many interesting, helpful people. I ate delicious food. I saw many beautiful places.

But something was missing. Perhaps I wasn't looking in the right places, but I didn't see any communities or churches that seemed to be anything like St. Paul's Church. Being far away helped me see the ways St. Paul's is different from most other communities. St. Paul's is even different from many other Christian churches.

One of the things I noticed in South Tyrol is something I notice in most other places and communities. People segregate themselves into groups based on their age, or their wealth or lack of wealth, or their ethnic background, or education level, or the language they speak, or whether they are immigrants or native born.

At St. Paul's the people are all jumbled up together. The young people and the old people, the poor and the rich, the people with lighter skin or darker skin, the gay people and the so-called straight people, and the immigrants and the natives are all mixed up together. This is what God intends for us. The people are all jumbled up together, not by accident, but because each member has made the decision that love is more important than anything else.

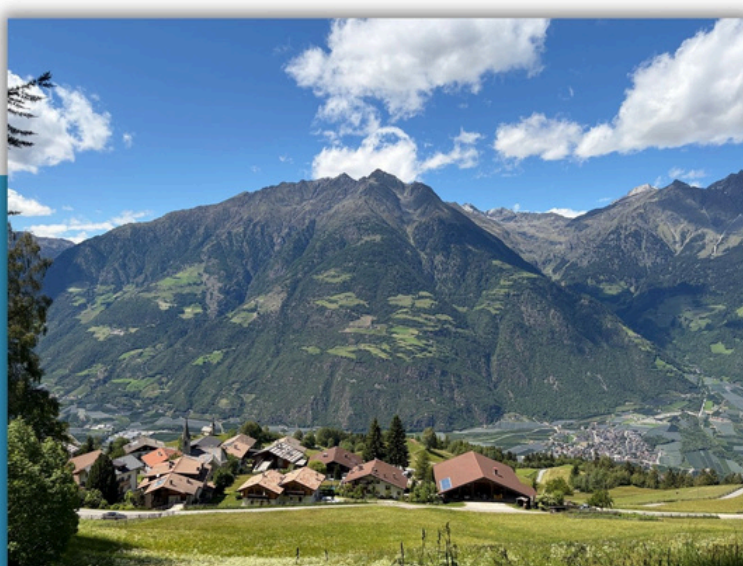
This points to the second thing I did not see during my journey. In spite of our differences, we share one thing in common. It's the most important thing. Each person at St. Paul's is seeking to follow the example and instructions of Christ Jesus.

Jesus took care of the people around him. Jesus paid attention to, and took care of, those who were sick or poor, and those who had been excluded. Jesus showed the people that he loved them. Jesus practiced self-giving love. Jesus took care of others, even when they didn't have the capacity to help or take care of him. Even though he was the son of God, Jesus acted like a servant. Jesus shared the love of God with people in ways that made them know that they were loved.

People at St. Paul's follow the example of Christ Jesus by sharing the love of God with others. This is the community formed by the instructions of our patron saint, St. Paul, who said, There is no longer Jew or Gentile, there is longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. St. Paul's is the community formed by the love of God.

* This article is adapted from a sermon of the same title delivered on July 5, 2026.

Philip +





Looking Backward and Forward to Glimpse our Future Directions

by Joe Russo, Warden

With St. Paul's Bicentennial celebration underway, members of the Future Directions task force are holding conversations with church members to discern directions for our path forward as a faith community. The project, which will continue through May 2027, will seek to identify strengths from the past: what you, as members, have participated in; what you feel we have done well, and when you have been most proud to be part of St. Paul's. These conversations will be predicated on four basic questions asked of all participants. The questions, developed by the task force, will generate open-ended discussion. Task force members have been encouraged to meet with St. Paul's members over coffee at a time and place that's convenient, with conversations running about 30 minutes. All responses from participants remain anonymous.

The conversational data gathering will conclude at year-end 2026. The task force will then review and assess what you have told us, looking for the positives from our past upon which we may build. When we have identified those positives and discerned the directions in which they point us, the task force will present its findings to the Executive Ministry Team and to the Vestry and, at a special closing Bicentennial event in May 2027, to the all the members of St. Paul's.

For newer members, if you have not yet been invited to participate in a Future Directions conversation and are willing to do so, please contact Joe Russo or Fr. Philip and it will be facilitated. Your input as a newer member drawn to St. Paul's is just as important to us.

As our Bicentennial demonstrates, we have a rich history full of initiatives and accomplishments driven in faith and love by the people of St. Paul's. This endeavor helps us to ensure that St. Paul's builds on this past as we move into the future.



St. Paul's

Office Hours Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 10-4

- Fr. Philip is usually in the office on Mondays and Tuesdays. He usually works from home on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Fr. Philip's days off are Thursday and Friday.
- Judy is in the office on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Judy works from home on Mondays and Thursdays.
- Jim and Doug are often at church four or more days each week, but there is no set schedule.

Note: staff vacations and appointments sometimes affects these hours. If you need to be let into the church during the week, you may want to check to make sure someone will be on site.



Bill & Betsy Elkins with grandson Riley Wales after his graduation from Buffalo City Honors High School. He will be attending Northeastern University in Boston in the fall.



Vivian Miner-Simmons graduated from her daycare, Children's Beginnings, and will be attending Montessori at Delaware this fall.



Tom Cantwell's Niece Ruby Shaw graduated from JK Mullen High School in Denver. She will attend St. Lawrence University.





Did You Know?

by Ieva Doyle, Warden



Did you know that:

- Our church located at 220 East Fayette Street is St. Paul's third church building.
- St. Paul's first church building was located on the triangle bound by East Genesee, Washington and Warren Streets.
- In May 1868, the Rev. Henry Lockwood presented a sermon titled "A Mission Service for the Six Nations of Indians" in the traditional Onondaga language and in English and later baptized members of the Onondaga Nation.
- The little rose window located over the northeast exit doors near the Peace Altar was installed in 1919 in memory of a young St. Paul's associate rector who was from Barbados.
- The earliest roots of the Onondaga County Public Library were planted here at St. Paul's.
- These and many other tidbits regarding the history of St. Paul's Syracuse are coming to light through the efforts of the Bicentennial History Task Force, which has been poring through boxes of St. Paul's Church historical records, photos, newspaper clippings and books.

The nuggets they have unearthed provide surprising glimpses into the history of our church. Some give perspective to names we've heard mentioned in casual conversations around the church (Sargent Foyer, Lockwood Parish House). Others give us an "Aha" moment that helps explain why we love St. Paul's as much as we do.

Bicentennial history articles appear in this newsletter and in the Wednesday e-blasts. All are posted as "Bicentennial History Minutes" on St. Paul's website at:
<https://www.stpaulsyr.org/bicentennial-history-articles>

Formed in February 2025, the Bicentennial Task Force is comprised of long-time and newer St. Paul's members: Marion Greenhalgh, Chair; and Betsy Barker, Liz Belden-Handler, Amy Mangram, Doug Mouncey, Laurie Sanderson and Anita Wagner. Special thanks and shout-outs to Marion and Amy for the many hours they've devoted to the Bicentennial history articles. I look forward to learning a lot more about St. Paul's throughout our bicentennial year! I hope you do too!

The Open Pantry

Take a look at this photo of Jim Doyle's car, loaded with close to \$1,000 worth of groceries received from InterFaith Works to support the St. Paul's Open Pantry.

According to Jim, this amount of food will be enough to stock the Open Pantry and feed our food insecure neighbors for about a month.





A Tiny Home for Good Update

by Betsy Elkins for the ATHFG Task Force



We are happy to report that by the time you are reading this article the demolition work on the second floor to prepare for building ATHFG apartments should be completed. This means that the entire second floor is cleared of all walls and it is one big empty space. It is now easier to envision how this space will be transformed into 10 small apartments, community space, an office for case managers and security. (We can arrange to have tours of this space if you wish.)

We know from our Open Doors project that securing the necessary building permits is a thorough and time-consuming process. ATHFG is sharing their design plans with the necessary city offices and is receiving favorable feedback. Once this is complete, they will finalize construction drawings and apply for the building permit which may take some “time.” Once approved and a contractor is selected, construction will begin and is expected to be completed within a year. We should be able to share a more precise timeline once construction starts.

As with the demolition work, construction access to the second floor will be by the temporary stairway that has been built in the alleyway (visible from the Hansen Dining Room) rather than through any of our spaces. Our parking lot, scheduled for its makeover in August, will not be used by construction vehicles or for a dumpster during the ATHFG construction.

The ATHFG Task force will continue to meet throughout the construction process and there will be opportunities for St Paul's people to view the progress when it is safe to do so and share in the excitement as this all comes together. We have a lease agreement in place and many decisions have been made about very practical things about our partnership. For example, ATHFG will cover the cost of trash removal and all water to the building. St. Paul's will cover the cost of snow removal and cleaning of common areas. St. Paul's provided many things to make this partnership a reality: new roofs throughout, new elevator, and restored windows. ATHFG is paying all construction costs of the second-floor spaces as well as maintenance going forward. We couldn't be happier with this partnership.

We also look forward to ways we can build community between ATHFG and SPC. If you are on social media and don't already “follow” A Tiny Home for Good you might consider doing that on Facebook to learn more about our partner organization. If you are available on Tuesday mornings at 10 a.m. you can join ATHFG staff, residents and friends for a walk and conversation. We have already set a date for a Thanksgiving dinner with ATHFG on November 20. (You will hear more about this in the fall.)



A Tiny Home for Good Update *continued*

We will continue to update you as this project progresses. Meanwhile if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask member of our task force. And finally, a shout out to Andrew Lunetta, the founder and executive director of A Tiny Home for Good. Andrew has received national recognition by being named a 2026 CNN hero for the work ATHFG does as a "Landlord that Cares." We are so proud to be partnering with this amazing non-profit on our city. Look for another article on page 10 in this issue of the Courier with more information about this recognition.



SPC Task Force Members: Philip Major, Betsy Elkins, Doug Mouncey, David Morgan, Amy Mangram and Joe Russo

Nan Dorr Endowment Fund Grant Applications



by Joan Sammons and Marion Greenhalgh,
Co-Chairs of Nan Dorr Special Committee



The 2026 earnings amount from this Fund is now available and is \$6,300. 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(s) for which members of the congregation are asked to submit proposals annually. A small committee is responsible for deciding on the most appropriate project(s), which then goes to the Finance Committee and finally to the Vestry for their approvals.

The Committee is now asking members of the congregation to submit a description of any project(s) they wish to propose, and to include detailed specifics on costs, and the name of the person who will be responsible for overseeing the proposed project. We will only consider a project(s) that is special and unusual, and which would not normally be part of the church budget. We also feel that it/they should be something that Nan Dorr herself would have liked. The deadline for submission is Friday, August 28, 2026. Once the proposals have been received, a small committee will review them carefully.

If you have any questions, please contact Joan Sammons at (315) 446-5854, or Marion at (315) 214-9061. Please submit your proposal(s) preferably via email to: mgreenha34@gmail.com, or by snail mail to Joan Sammons at 108 Brocton Lane, Dewitt, NY 13214.



Plan to Move Diocesan Offices to Diocesan Center on the West Side of Syracuse

Bishop DeDe Duncan-Probe recently announced the decision of the Episcopal Diocese of CNY to purchase a property on the West side of Syracuse to be redeveloped into a new, 6000 square foot, Diocesan Center. We expect the new Diocesan Center will open in 2027. You can learn more about plans for the Diocesan Center at cnyepiscopal.org or by subscribing to The Messenger, the electronic newsletter of the Diocese.



Joe Moorman's Letter to the Washington Post



Our own Joe Moorman had a letter to the editor published in the Washington Post. It was about how St. Paul's is repurposing our unused space for A Tiny Home For Good. Congratulations Joe!

"The June 19 news article "Episcopal Church puts N.Y. headquarters on market" reported that churches throughout the country are faced with underutilized buildings and are looking at real estate as a mission asset. St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Syracuse, New York, was itself in this position and found a way to repurpose the unused second floor of its large Parish House.

The church partnered with A Tiny Home For Good [stpaulsyr.org], a local nonprofit that provides safe, affordable and dignified housing for men and women coming out of the shelter system. A Tiny Home For Good is planning to rehabilitate [[instagram.com](https://www.instagram.com/atinyhomeforgood/)] the Parish House space into 10 single-occupancy units for homeless men. The congregation has been behind this effort from the beginning and see it as a service to their downtown neighbors whom the Gospel teaches us we should love unconditionally. This can be a model to other institutions with larger facilities than fit their needs. I hope the Episcopal Church will indeed find a mission-focused use for its headquarters property."



Announcements for the Weekly Newsletter

by Fr. Philip

Each Monday and Tuesday, Fr. Philip and Judy work together to create a weekly email newsletter for our congregation. Most weeks the weekly email newsletter is sent out on Wednesday afternoon. If you have an announcement for the weekly e-newsletter please send it to both Judy and Fr. Philip, as early as possible, but no later than 10 a.m. on Wednesday. In most situations we are able to include your announcement.

Construction Season

by Fr. Philip



For the past 18 months one of the main concerns for the Vestry has been to oversee the rebuilding of St. Paul's parking lot. As The Courier is being published, we have signed a contract with a paving company, and we expect work to begin in the middle of August. During construction members and staff will not be able to use the parking lot or enter the building through the West Entry or through the kitchen door. The duration of the project is estimated to be 4-6 weeks.

Please:

- Allow a few extra minutes when travelling to St. Paul's.
- Enter the building through the Montgomery Street entrance on Monday-Saturday.
- Consider offering a ride to others who might have difficulty walking around the block to get to the church.
- Consider carpooling to reduce the total number of parking places needed for our congregation.
- Keep reading the weekly e-newsletter to learn exactly when re-construction of the parking lot will commence.

We had a trial run for this challenge last winter, when the snow piles in our parking lot reduced the number of parking places. Our members worked together to find solutions; I'm sure we can do the same as we approach this slightly more difficult challenge.





Celebrating a CNN Hero

by Amy Mangram



We are delighted to share that Andrew Lunetta, founder and executive director of A Tiny Home for Good, has been named a CNN Hero for 2026.

The CNN Heroes series recognizes ordinary people doing extraordinary things to improve the lives of others and strengthen their communities. Ten heroes will be featured throughout the year, with Andrew being the first honoree announced. In the fall, five finalists will be selected, and the public will have the opportunity to vote for the overall winner, who will receive a \$100,000 award to support their work.

It is especially heartening to see this national recognition bestowed upon one of St. Paul's valued ministry partners. As I have read and watched the coverage, it has struck me that much of Andrew's success can be traced to a simple but powerful gift: his ability to listen.

By spending time with people experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity, Andrew gained a deep understanding of where traditional systems often fall short and what individuals truly need to achieve lasting housing stability. Rather than offering a one-size-fits-all solution, Andrew and the team at A Tiny Home for Good take the time to know each tenant, recognizing that every person's journey is unique. They listen, build relationships, and connect residents with the support they need to thrive.

For years, Andrew has pursued his vision of ending homelessness in Syracuse with passion, persistence, and humility. Along the way, he has built partnerships with organizations including St. Paul's Episcopal Church, McClurg Remodeling, National Grid, the University at Buffalo, and many others. We hope this well-deserved national recognition will create even more opportunities to expand this important work and bring hope to those in need.

I encourage you to learn more about Andrew and A Tiny Home for Good by following the organization on social media. In addition, there are some wonderful articles by the Post Standard and the CNN website as well. And when voting opens this fall, let's be ready to support our friend and partner!

I will conclude with the words David Morgan so beautifully shared during the announcements this past Sunday: Andrew embodies the vision of faith found in Micah 6:8; to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God.



Pizza & Sweet Treats Social for the Seniors at the YMCA

by Debbie Bogan, Parish Liaison for St. Paul's YMCA Seniors Outreach Ministry

On June 10, 2026, six St. Paul's YMCA seniors outreach ministry volunteers headed over to the senior residence at the Downtown YMCA. We were warmly greeted by Cheryl, our liaison in the Y Residence Office, Chris the Y maintenance man, and several senior residents.

We served pizza sponsored by Barry Pickard and Kira Dirghalli, milk, cookies and oranges sponsored by Debbie Bogan, Hal Brown III, Jessica Brooks, and Laurie Sanderson. Lovely pictures of the event were taken by DJ Igelsrud.

Many thanks to the Y team volunteers Chet, DJ, Hal, Jessica, Kira, and Laurie.

We had some good conversations with our downtown neighbor friends. We look forward to visiting them again. They appreciate our active presence in their lives.





The Hadley Chapel



By Marion Greenhalgh

Continuing with our Bicentennial Celebratory Year, below is a brief history and description of the Hadley Chapel. On May 21, 1883, the Vestry agreed that the third St. Paul's Church would be built of gray limestone and that Henry Dudley of Brooklyn, NY, would be the architect. Around this same time, erection of the chapel was started. It would be capable of seating 300 people.

The chapel would adjoin the church on its south side, and be built of stone with a walnut trim interior finish. The chancel stained-glass window came from the second St. Paul's church and was installed above the altar. However, the original was a five-lancet window. The window in the chapel in 1884, and now, is a three-lancet window. It has been conjectured that the window must have been completely remodeled, for the symbolic design elements appear to be complete and logically arranged.

In early July, 1883, St. Paul's bought the Alexander lot (lots four and five of Block 112) on the southwest corner of Fayette and Montgomery Streets, and recorded the deed in the Court House. Final plans for the church were approved. Financial troubles delayed the actual construction of the church, then winter continued the delay.



continued



continued

On Christmas Day the last services were held in the second St. Paul's Church. Worship thereafter was held Sunday afternoons at St. James' (currently Church of the Saviour) until Whitsunday, 1884, when the new chapel was used for the first time.

In 1929, the rear of the chapel was remodeled into a two-story wing providing three new classrooms, robing rooms for the choir and clergy, and a lavatory. In 1936, the parish initiated a drive to rebuild the old chapel. Morton E. Granger and J. D. Taylor were architect and contractor, respectively.

Changes made included: equipping it with a small, modern electric organ set into the south wall; reducing its depth, but capable of seating 74 persons; paneling it in oak, with white rough plaster walls above the carved rope-bordered panels of wood and high-ceilinged wooden arches; closing the south door that led to the Parish House vestibule; and, placing the Chancel window of the old church showing St. Paul, the patron saint, which had been placed over the chapel altar in 1886, in a similar position in the new chapel.





St. Paul's Syracuse



Catherine Baratta, speaking about Arria Huntington at a bicentennial special event in May.



Sunday Morning Service



Liz Handler, Georgette Schmidt & Joan Sammons at Common Threads



Tim Simmons & Vivian Miner-Simmons



Jim Doyle, Jessica King & Jim Doyle



Feminist Theology



Pictured here is our Feminist Theology group, which met at the home of Lorriane Markley to share a meal together on July 1. From left, Ieva Doyle, Derina Samuel, Anita Wagner, Betsy Elkins, Laurie Sanderson and Lorriane Markley.

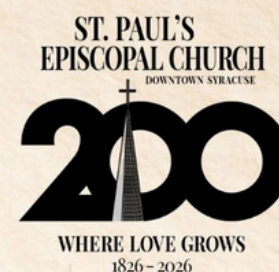
After a summer hiatus, our Feminist Theology group will meet again on **Wednesday, October 21, at 7:30 p.m. via the St. Paul's Zoom channel.**

We will be looking at two chapters from the book that first started Feminist Theology over 20 years ago! The book is *Struggle to Be Sun Again, a compilation of Asian Feminist Theology*. If you would like to join us, speak with Laurie Sanderson and she will provide the chapters.



St. Paul's Syracuse

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Bicentennial History Presentation Event

THE ERIE CANAL

The Ditch That Changed America

Presented by Derrick Pratt, Director of Education,
Erie Canal Museum

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

10:00 a.m. Worship Service ♦ 11:45 a.m. Presentation

Join Us at 220 E. Fayette St. in Downtown Syracuse

Free & Open to the Public



Livestream Link at stpaulsyr.org



August Calendar

Sunday, August 2, 10:00 am, Worship— Live Stream & In Person Guest Clergy Rev. Georgina Hegney & Joe Russo

Wednesday, August 5, 4:30 pm, Contemplative Prayer—Private Zoom Channel

Sunday, August 9, 10:00 am, Worship— Live Stream & In Person

Monday, August 10, 3:30 pm Finance Meeting —Zoom

Wednesday, August 12, 4:30 pm, Contemplative Prayer—Private Zoom Channel

Thursday, August 13—Deadline for September Courier

Saturday, August 15, 10:00-12:00 noon, Open Pantry Drop Off

Sunday, August 16, 10:00 am, Worship— Live Stream & In Person

Tuesday, August 18, 5:30 pm, Vestry Meeting--Brewster Room

Wednesday, August 19, 4:30 pm, Contemplative Prayer—Private Zoom Channel

Sunday, August 23, 10:00 am, Worship— Live Stream & In Person

Monday, August 24, 1:15 pm, Bicentennial History Meeting—Brewster Room

Tuesday, August 25, 3:30 pm, Buildings & Grounds—Zoom

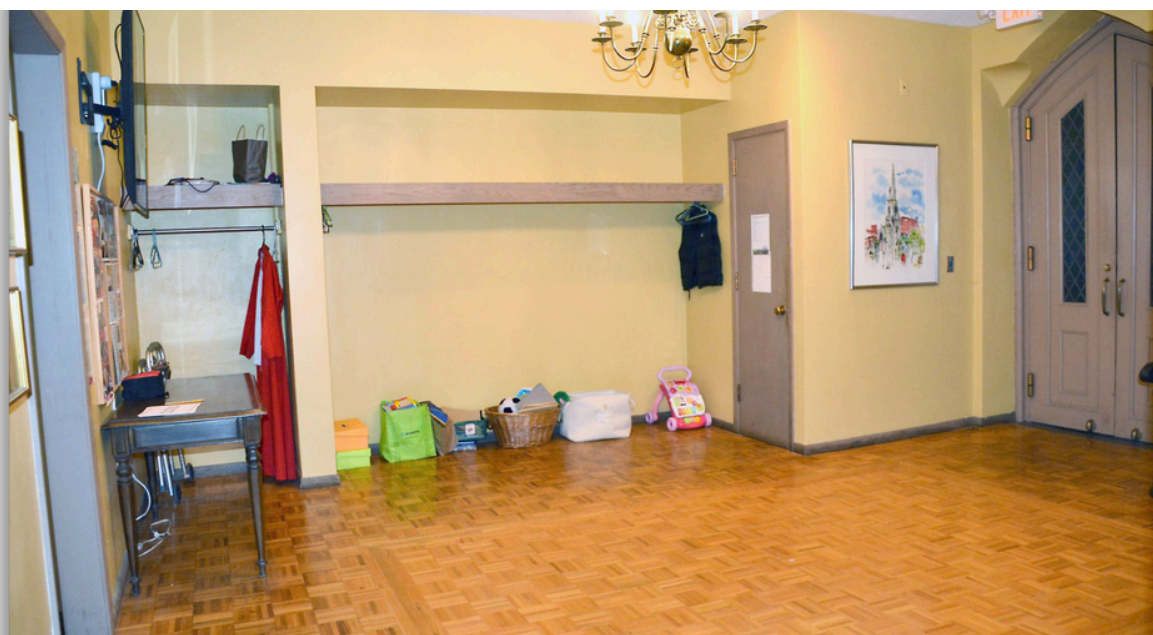
Wednesday, August 26, 4:30 pm, Contemplative Prayer—Private Zoom Channel

Sunday, August 30, 10:00 am, Worship— Live Stream & In Person

Before & After Photos of Open Doors

On our website, if you click on the OPEN DOORS PROJECT, you'll see a wrap up of the project and before and after photos. It's amazing to look back and see how far we've come. It's easy to forget the giant hole as they excavated the elevator pit or what the Sargent Foyer looked like without the new West Entry. Or the ugly old folding screen in the dining room. So many thanks to everyone who made it possible. From generous donors, to our Beaver Crew who did work outside of the scope of the project, to the leaders who worked so tirelessly in make sure everything was done right, our architect and Drulyk Construction.

Our website address is:
www.stpaulsyr.org





St. Paul's Syracuse

August Birthdays



HEATHER LAVENDER 8/6
THE REV. PHILIP MAJOR 8/11
JOE RUSSO 8/13
JEANNE AVERY 8/18
MAISIE JOHNSON 8/20
RICHARD MCKINNON 8/22
CHARLIE JOHNSON 8/24
DAVID MORGAN 8/28
ANNA HAYDEN 8/31

August Anniversaries



RON & HELEN FERGUSON 8/3
ROY THOMAS & DERINA SAMUEL 8/6
CHRIS & KATHERINE JOHNSON 8/8
IEVA & JIM DOYLE 8/20
DAVID & JOSEPHINE MA 8/24
NOLAN & PHYLLIS PALSMA 8/25



The Deadline for the September Courier is Thursday, August 13



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.



Stained Glass Windows

North Aisle, Window #2, The Alexander Window

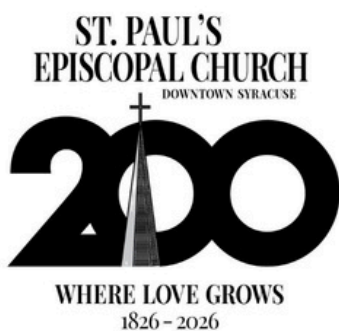
By: Marion Greenhalgh, with thanks to Lester G. Wells,
St. Paul's historiographer and author



Continuing with our St. Paul's stained-glass windows series, the next window west of the little rose window is in loving memory of William H. and Amanda Alexander, on whose homestead our current St. Paul's church is erected. This window was a gift of their daughter, Frances E. Alexander. The left lancet bears the makers name – Cox, Buckley and Co., London, England, 1885.

Our current St. Paul's was built on lots formerly owned by William H. Alexander. Purchase was made of the heirs of William H. Alexander II (1819-1881) in 1883. Work on the Chapel started in May of 1883; the cornerstone of the church was laid on June 25, 1884, and the first service in the church was on December 13, 1885. We paid the Alexander estate \$26,400 with permission to clear the two wooden houses on the site.

William H. Alexander (1786-1863) married Amanda Foote, and came to the village of Syracuse in 1828 where he became prominent in civic affairs. He entered the foundry business and was a director of many Syracuse corporations, including the Gas Light Company of Syracuse and the Syracuse City Bank. His home was on the church's building site. The house later became the Pompey House and was moved to the corner of Cedar and Almond Streets. The keeper of the Pompey House was Lew Smith, portrayed in Charles R. Sherlock's novel, Your Uncle Lew.





This was great press in the Post Standard for St. Paul's

St. Paul's Syracuse to hold July 4 prayer service marking America's 250th birthday

Published: Jul. 01, 2026, 3:08 p.m.



By Johnathan Croyle | jcroyle@syracuse.com

If you are looking for a quieter, more contemplative, Fourth of July, away from the noisy fireworks, parades and barbecues, St. Paul's Syracuse, the Downtown Episcopal Church, is worth a visit on Saturday.

The church, which celebrated its 200th anniversary this spring, will hold a special Fourth of July morning prayer service commemorating the day 250 years ago when the Second Continental Congress unanimously adopted the Declaration of Independence, marking the birth of the United States.

The 11 a.m. service is free and open to the public at "the church with the large red doors" found at 220 East Fayette St.

Portions of the Declaration of Independence will be read during service, along with readings from Frederick Douglass's reflections on "What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?"

Penned by Thomas Jefferson, the Declaration of Independence invoked universal ideas that began with the statement, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

Abolitionist Frederick Douglass' scathing speech was made on July 5, 1852, at Rochester's Corinthian Hall. In it he addressed the hypocrisy of the American founders allowed the institution of slavery to exist despite their lofty ideals of liberty and freedom.

"The rich inheritance of justice, liberty, prosperity and independence, bequeathed by your fathers, is shared by you, not by me," Douglass said. "The sunlight that brought light and healing to you, has brought stripes and death to me. This Fourth July is yours, not mine. You may rejoice; I must mourn."

"There are strong connections between the ideas of justice and equality expressed in the Declaration of Independence, and those found in the Older and Newer Testaments," St. Paul's rector Rev. Philip Major said.

"When it was first read out loud 250 years ago in the streets, churches and gathering places of the 13 original colonies, crowds reportedly cheered, cannons were fired and church bells rang," he continued.

"On the Fourth of July this year, let's ring the church bells and mark the day by offering our thanksgivings and prayers to God as we remember the soaring goals of equality expressed in our country's founding document."

The St. Paul's July 4 service is being held in conjunction with the church's bicentennial. St. Paul's Syracuse was founded on May 22, 1826, 50 years after the Declaration of Independence.

Its current building, found on the corner of Montgomery and East Fayette Streets, was completed in 1885. A link to St. Paul's livestream of the July 4 Morning Prayer service is available at stpaulsyr.org.

Additional information about the 200-year history of St. Paul's Syracuse and the bicentennial events it has planned is available at their website.



St. Paul's Syracuse

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
WHERE LOVE GROWS

Celebrating
200 Years



Bicentennial Events for 2026
with more to come in 2027

SATURDAY
MAY 16 3:00 PM

Bicentennial Celebration

Commemorations, celebratory worship and reception

Community events you could attend beforehand:

- *Open Up Downtown*, various locations, 10:00 am–3:00 pm, sponsored by Downtown Committee of Syracuse
- *Sacred Sites Open House*, 1:00–2:00 pm at St. Paul's, in collaboration with New York Landmarks Conservancy

MAY
22
5:00 PM

Bicentennial Dinner

on 1826 founding date of St. Paul's Church Syracuse

Worship, fellowship, dinner and program

MAY
31
11:30 AM

Legacy of Arria Huntington

Social activist daughter of Bishop of CNY, who led St. Paul's in 1872. Presenter: Catherine Barrata, PhD

JUL
4
11:00 AM

Celebrating Our Country's Semiquincentennial and our Church's Bicentennial

Celebratory worship service

JUL
16
5:30 PM

Neighborhood Picnic

Pop up event on E. Fayette Street sidewalk. Rain Date Friday, July 17

SEP
13
11:30 AM

The Erie Canal: The Ditch that Changed America

Presenter: Derrick Pratt, Erie Canal Museum

SEP
27
4:00 PM

Organ Recital by Jeremy Filsell

Former organist & choirmaster of St. Thomas Church, Fifth Ave, NYC, performs in Downtown Organ Crawl

OCT
18
4:00 PM

Hohenfels Trombone Quartet

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

NOV
8
3:00 PM

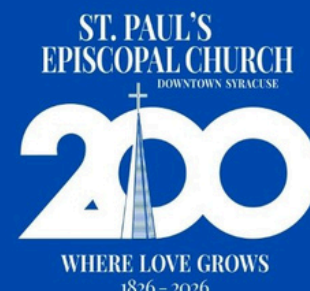
Syracuse Orchestra Bicentennial Concert

Featuring St. Paul's Suite by Gustav Holst



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