Celebrating 200 Years 1826–2026

ST. PAUL'S SYRACUSE COURIER

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
DOWNTOWN SYRACUSE
200
WHERE LOVE GROWS
1826 - 2026

December 2026



The Syracuse Orchestra concert in honor of St. Paul's 200th anniversary.

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



Let the wicked forsake their way
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
Let them return to the LORD,
that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.
Isaiah 55:7-8

Return

by Fr. Philip

When I have the opportunity to serve as a counselor for people who are preparing to get married I try to bring the idea of return into the conversation. Being married means returning to your wedding vows each day, and asking yourself a question. "What will I do this day to marry my life to the life of my partner?" Good answers to this question are different for each person, but we have one thing in common. It turns out that being married is mostly about the process of returning to the love and trust you are creating with the person you have married.

It's the same way for us in our relationships with God. Being a child of God is mostly about the process of returning to the God who has created you in the image of God. How do you return to God? Answers to the question are different for each person, but we have one thing in common. It turns out that being in a relationship with God is mostly about the process of returning to the one who created you out of love and for the purposes of love.

In the church year we have two seasons that are especially concerned with this idea of returning to God: Lent and Advent. We will begin our celebration of Advent on November 29th, on the Sunday we call Advent 1. We also consider this day to be the first day of our new church year. Advent is a season of preparation for Christmas, in the same way that Lent is a season of preparation for Easter.

For people outside the church, the weeks leading up to Christmas are often one of the busiest times of the year. It's different for me, and probably for you as well. Those of us who are preparing for the feast of the birth of God's love into the world in the person of Christ Jesus are setting aside more time for things that help us return to God.

During Advent, I encourage you to set aside some extra time to for activities that help you return to God:

- worship
- some sort of prayer time
- quiet times alone or with the people who are most important to us
- time in nature or with music that brings you closer to God
- whatever else might work for you

We return to God and rediscover the strength, the forgiveness, the hope, and the wisdom God intends for us. This brings us joy!



Community Announcements

by Fr. Philip

Some congregations have a tradition of sharing announcements in the middle of the worship service, such as after the Passing of the Peace. This has always struck me as akin to getting up from the dinner table in the middle of the meal in order to take out the garbage or do some other task. We shouldn't be interrupting the main part of our worship service.

At St. Paul's we share announcements near the close of worship, following the recessional hymn, and right before the dismissal and the organ postlude. This can be very positive for our members. We are being informed or reminded of opportunities that are helpful and relevant to our congregation. When our announcements are brief and tell about activities at St. Paul's or with our ministry partners (such as the Samaritan Center) the announcements provide a good way for our members to be informed about the work of the church.

In recent years, and especially in this Bicentennial Year, we have more announcements than ever before. This is good news in most ways, because many of your announcements are the result of our work with partners like A Tiny Home for Good, or our neighbors at the YMCA. There is only one problem: when the time for announcements exceeds more than a few minutes it strains our attention spans and our ability to stay together in that sacred time and place. As our congregation is growing and changing, it's important for us to make some adjustments when they are needed.

Going forward I ask our members to follow these guidelines:

1. Electronic Newsletter: Please send your announcements about church and community events to Judy via email by Sunday evening so that she can include them in the weekly electronic newsletter.

2. Leaflets: If you would like your announcement for a church event to be placed in the Sunday leaflet, please let Judy know when you send it to her.

3. Bulletin Boards: We encourage you to tack your posters for outside events to one of the church bulletin boards. Please write the posting date on any materials you add to the bulletin boards.

4. Spoken Announcements: We encourage you to make a brief announcement for church events or opportunities (such as 'We need people to sign up for coffee hour!'). Please check with me prior to making announcements about the same event on successive Sundays.

Thank you for working together to manage the total length of our announcement period. Announcements are shared in a time and place that is sacred for us, near the end of worship, but they are shared during worship. Thank you for treating the entire worship service, from the first note of the prelude through to the closing hymn, the announcements, the dismissal, and the postlude as sacred time.



Stewardship Talk

by Joe Moorman

The following is the Stewardship talk made by Joe Moorman at the Sunday service on November 15, 2026.

Good morning. I am Joe Moorman and I am speaking to you again today as Chair of the St. Paul's Finance Committee.

Last week, in announcing that the Stewardship mailing was going out, I told you all that over the years I have been awed by the generosity of this congregation, and that any time we have identified a need, it's been met. I have even told members that they should not be embarrassed to ask for money for a program at the YMCA, or a Bicentennial event, because when people hear it is needed someone always steps up.

Today I am taking my own advice. The Finance Committee, the Wardens, and Father Philip are preparing a budget for 2027 to submit to the Vestry, and we see the need for our stewardship pledges to increase by ten percent.

St. Paul's pledge income pays for only 30 percent of our operating budget. Most of the remaining expenses are paid for with money generated by our investments or taken from our endowment, and while there have been some big gains in our investment portfolio in the last five years, we've had to make some big withdrawals to pay for things like the completion of the Open Doors project, the renovation of the third floor apartments, and improvements to the heating and hot water systems. We do not think it prudent to assume that large investment gains will continue, and if we draw too much from the endowment there will not be enough left to generate the income we need to operate as we do now.

Our church building and Parish House are beautiful, but the costs to maintain them, heat them, and insure them keep rising. The parish staff are asked to do more and more on basically the same pay, and there are volunteers here every day working to keep St. Paul's a vital downtown institution.

I'm sure you've all had your own budget discussions, or heard the ones politicians have. You have to increase income, cut expenses, or a combination of the two. I can assure you that the Finance Committee and the Vestry closely monitor expenditures. They've made cuts in the past and are proposing more in 2027. But we want to avoid potentially painful changes to any of our operations or programs.





continued on next page

Stewardship Talk

by Joe Moorman *Continued*



If you have not pledged before, even if you've given money without pledging, please make a pledge so we will have a better idea of what our 2027 pledge income will be. And I ask everyone to prayerfully consider increasing your annual pledge - big or small - by 10%. I ask this because I know that St. Paul's does so many things for so many people and means so much to each of us.

For the next few weeks there will be an orange and a green box in the front of the church. The stewardship mailing contains two slips: and orange one for parishioner contact information, and a green one for your pledge amount. Please put the slips in the matching box. They are kept separate so that no one knows the amount you are pledging.

In preparing these remarks I thought of ourBicentennial logo. It has two main parts: the spire of this church building and the theme identifying St. Paul's as a place 'where love grows.' I'm asking us to show our love for the hungry who come to the Open Pantry for something to eat; to show our love for the children in our growing Sunday School program who are the future of this congregation; to show our love of the worship services, music, and fellowship each Sunday, and special services like Evensong and Lessons and Carols; to show our love for the Syracuse community, by hosting events like the Columbus Circle redesign presentation, the Martin Luther King Day commemoration, and Syracuse Orchestra Concerts, and to show our love for the least of our brethren in our partnership with A Tiny Home For Good, whose Thanksgiving dinner is at 11:30 on Friday, November 20th, in the Hansen Dining Room.

Throughout 2026 we have been celebrating 200 years as a church in downtown Syracuse, but we must also look to the future. I want the people of Syracuse in 2076, or 2126, to look at our great, gray spire and still say 'there is a place where love grows,' and our stewardship pledges today will put us on that path.

New Member's Class

Participating in New Member Classes is one way to formalize your participation as a member of St. Paul's. These three classes cover almost everything you might want to know about the ways we do things at St. Paul's.

Here is an outline of our sessions:

- Session 1: A Brief History of the Episcopal Church
- Session 2: Episcopal Approaches to Scripture and Theology
- Session 3: The Way the Work Gets Done in the Episcopal Church and at St. Paul's



What: A series of three 60 minute classes.
Where: The Rector's Office
When: Sundays at 11:45 a.m., Feb. 7, 14, 21
Who: New or experienced, everyone is invited.



Annual Meeting

by Fr. Philip

St. Paul's Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 31, 2027. There are three things that are most important to know about Annual Meeting:

1. During Annual Meeting the Nominations Committee of the Vestry puts forward a slate of three candidates to serve three year terms. The congregation has the option of nominating additional candidates from the floor. If these candidates meet all of the requirements for serving, they may be included on the ballot. With the exception of worship planning, the Vestry makes all of the most important decisions about the church. The Vestry is led by the Rector and the Wardens, and includes nine other members. Three new Vestry members are elected each year to serve three year terms.

2. The Wardens are part of the core leadership of the parish during their terms. Wardens provide legal, practical and pastoral leadership for the Parish when the Rector is absent. Just as important, the Wardens meet with the Rector several times each month to discuss the needs of the parish and oversee the work of the Vestry.

3. Jesus didn't seem to have really strict boundaries about who was included among his disciples, and neither do we. If you have attended worship at least a few times in the past year, in most cases wecount you as a Member of St. Paul's. (See p. 5 for information about our New Members Class)

If you have been active at St. Paul's in the past year I hope you will participate in Annual Meeting!



Fr. Philip's Continuing Education

by Fr. Philip

One of the privileges of serving as the Rector of St. Paul's is that I am given nine days each year to learn more of what I need to know to serve as your priest and pastor. In October I traveled to Princeton Theological Seminary for an academic conference about Paul's Letter to the Romans. This conference included about 24 hours of lectures about specific aspects of Romans.

About half of the lectures were presented by experts from the U.S., Canada, and the U.K. who are internationally recognized for their scholarship about Romans or Paul's letters. The other half were presented by New Testament professors, or by students working on their PhD degrees. I felt a little bit like an imposter, because I was one of just two pastors attending the conference. But I learned much that will enrich my perspectives about Paul's letters in the coming years. Thank you to the Rev. Georgina Hegney and the Rev. Phyllis Palsma for leading our worship service while I attended the conference.

During the first week in December I will be taking my four day week of study at home. I'll be attempting to learn more about the religion of the Jewish people prior to the year 539 BC by reading a book titled A History of Israelite Religion in the Old Testament Period (Volume 1). Thank you to the Rev. Nolan Palsma for providing me with some direct support by preaching the sermon for our worship service on December 6th.

St. Paul's Syracuse

Bicentennial History Presentation



Please join us for a film screening of

The Philadelphia Eleven

A 2023 documentary portraying the gradual, hard-won acceptance of women as ordained priests in the Episcopal church.

Friday, January 15th 2027
5 - 6:30 p.m. Potluck Dinner
6:30 - 8 p.m. Film Screening

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
DOWNTOWN SYRACUSE
200
WHERE LOVE GROWS
1826 - 2026

Please RSVP to Liz Belden-Handler: epbhandler@gmail.com

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
220 East Fayette St. Downtown Syracuse NY
www.stpaulsyr.org **@PhilElevenDoc**

Notes on A Tiny Home for Good

by Amy Mangram

Thank you to everyone who voted for Andrew Lunetta for CNN Hero of the Year! Voting closes on November 29th, and we will learn whether our efforts resulted in a win for Andrew during the CNN Heroes All Star Tribute on December 5 at 8 PM. The special will introduce all five nominees and offer an opportunity to learn about "heroes" around the world who are working to make their communities better. What wonderful national exposure for these five organizations!

There is one more opportunity this year to engage with the tenants and staff at A Tiny Home for Good. We are hosting a luncheon with them on 12/18 at 11:00 AM in the Hansen Dining Room. We need volunteers to help with this event. If you would like to help, please reach out to Betsy at (315) 949-1222.

ATHG is close to selecting a final contractor, and may have done so by the time this publishes. One of the finalists is a contractor we know well, Drulyk Construction. There have also been some positive developments regarding needed repairs to our existing building. ATHG will absorb the cost of replacing our existing boiler as they remove all the existing heating equipment from the second floor. They will also repair the leak from the second floor that has damaged the dining hall. They are wonderful partners, helping us as much as we are helping them.



Cider and Sweet Treats social at the YMCA Senior Residence

by Debbie Bogan, Parish Liaison for the YMCA seniors outreach ministry

On October 21, St. Paul's hosted a cider and sweet treats social for the senior residents at the downtown YMCA. We had some good conversations with our neighbors and enjoyed delicious, fall festive, decorated cookies made by Georgette S. Kira D also donated tasty cider and donuts. It was a lovely morning with the Y seniors and Y residence office staff.
Many thanks to all of St. Paul's YMCA outreach volunteers, Chet W, David M, Georgette and Tim S, Hal III, Joan S, Kira D, Ruth B, and Sophie H who made it a special and fun day for the Y seniors and Y residence office staff.



If you would like to participate in the December 16th social at the Downtown YMCA senior residence, please see Debbie Bogan. We will deliver holiday plants, greeting cards made by the Sunday school, have a sing a long led by Tim S, and have a bite to eat. It will surely be great fun.



Formation Program on Aging Continues

by Jeanne Avery

We had a delightful and informative presentation from staff members of Interfaith Works. I thought I was informed but the organization has added so many new programs!
The Center for New Americans: Since they are no longer being able to welcome new refugees, they are focusing on creating an enriched life for our New Americans. I was delighted with this news.

Center for Healthy Aging is available in our area. So many programs! We can gather and have a discussion of becoming involved as a volunteer or as a recipient of any of the services. We can make contact individually or as a group.

Interfaith Works: 315 449-3552, Benefits Enrollment Coordinator, Cynthia Barnaby ex. 216, Senior Companion Program Manager, Emily Grant ext. 224, Retired Senior Volunteer Program, Cathie Slabaugh ext. 214

See poster on page 11 regarding the December formation presentation.

Children's Ministry



by Jeanne Avery

We are focusing on the bible lessons that Godly Play offers. When the girls were two years old, the children focused on John the Baptist eating bugs. They lost the importance of the Baptism of Jesus but they are certainly not going to eat bugs. Just recently the girls reminded us of that fact. As the years go by, the children spend time translating it into their lives and what this story means for them. Some of the stories are over 3000 years ago so we try to discuss what do we take away how is this important in our lives. For example: The Good Shepherd, world communion and communion today in our lives.

The story of Moses receiving the Ten Commandments of the arc in the desert being moved by the people and then the arrival in Jerusalem and the Tabernacle being built. Thousands of years go and there is nothing remaining for people to embrace in Jerusalem. However, the Ten Commandments remain known throughout the world.

We had difficulty discussing the story of Jonah and the Whale. Anna was determined that it did not happen and kept repeating "It did not". I am not sure that Joseph won but we certainly were able to laugh.

Our All Saints Day special was delightful. Stories of our Saints, special crafts and a difficult sheet of identifying why certain people have been sainted.

Our warden, Joe Russo, stopped in to count the number of people. I was not sure the children were going to let him go. They certainly welcomed him.

We have beautiful tiles that tell the story of Advent. We look forward to the Christmas Eve Service at 4:00 p.m. We are thankful and are enjoying the rotation of parish members in the Godly Play Chapel. Their willingness makes this year possible.

Crisis in Cape Haitian

by Georgette Schmidt

HAITI EDUCATION MISSION

On August 27, 2026, 161 people were deported to Haiti from the United States and the Bahamas. All of these human beings landed at the Cape Haitian airport because it is unsafe to land at the airport in Port au Prince. Some of the children deported were born in the United States. The main highway connecting Port au Prince, the capital, to Cape Haitian is controlled by gangs. There are kidnappings, robberies, rapes and assaults by the gangs all along this highway.

Now that 350,000 people have been deprived of Temporary Protection Status, the current administration in Washington is preparing to increase deportation to Haiti from once a month to once a week. All of these deportees will arrive by plane and land in Cape Haitian, a city with a population of 800,000.

What will be the effect of "depositing" 350,000 people into Cape Haitian? Although the gangs are not active in northern Haiti, many refugees have already fled to the north to escape the gang activities in the south and in the center of Haiti. These refugees have run on foot to escape the gangs who were burning their homes and hospitals. Many women and girls were raped by the gangs. Family members were witnesses to the murders of their loved ones. Children were traumatized. Parents literally ran to the north carrying their children and sometimes carrying their elderly grandparents.

There is extremely high inflation, food scarcity and shortage of medical care for those who are currently living in the north. Now, with a projected influx of 350,000, the situation will be even more difficult. Since 2009 the Haiti Education Mission has been in a partnership with the community of Paulette. In 2025, the village of Paulette, 30 minutes from Cape Haitian, experienced an increase in population because of refugees fleeing the gangs. Forty-eight children running from the gangs came with their families to Paulette. They needed water, food, medicine, clothing. They also needed to go to school. The rural schools are overloaded already as are the hospitals and clinics.

According to Louis Ronald Espoir, an administrator at Hospital Fort Saint Michel, all the hospitals in the region are full with the current population. They cannot take in anyone else. The former Mayor of Cape Haitian, Angie Bell, estimates that the population of Cape Haitian has increased from 350,000 people in the 2003 census, to at least 800,000 today. There is an extreme lack of housing so people who work in the city must live in the rural outskirts.

Members of the Haiti Education Mission Inc have not been able to travel to Haiti since 2019 because our own government has issued a level 4 high alert and told us it is too dangerous to go. The gangs control 95% of the capital city and parts of central Haiti. The Haitian communities in these areas are subjected to gun violence, kidnappings, rape, arson. Even the airplanes landing in Port au Prince were shot at by gangs.

Please pray for Haiti as Cape Haitian is overwhelmed by deportees. Please pray for the children and adults who will need potable water, food, education, housing and medical care as they land in the over-populated city of Cape Haitian.







Adventures in Lay Preaching

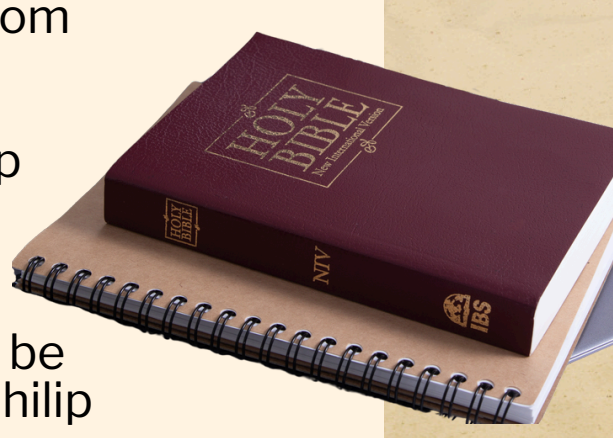
by Joseph von Souder



I am delighted to share that I was recently accepted into our Diocese's Lay Preaching Program, after being encouraged to apply by Father Philip. It has been a wonderful experience so far, and even though it's a lot of work- I'm having so much fun!
The program is designed to prepare laypeople to share the ministry of preaching in our congregations, deepening our understanding of Scripture and helping us develop the skills to bring its message to life through sermons.

We gathered in September for a full day of study, which turned out to be both fascinating and enjoyable. Along with listening to and discussing eight different sermons, we explored New Testament exegesis (the study and interpretation of biblical texts) and even ventured into some Old Testament studies. We had a crash course in Hebrew etymology, learning a little about the origins and meanings of biblical words and how they can enrich our understanding of Scripture. (If you see me around, make sure to ask why I had to sing 'Zadok the Priest')

The program is taught by The Very Rev. Scott Parnell and The Rev. Dr. Rebecca Drebert, who bring a wealth of knowledge, insight, and enthusiasm to our sessions. There is much to learn, and I'm thoroughly enjoying the opportunity to explore Scripture in new ways, learn from others, and grow in my faith!



Our next in-person meeting is in December, when we will do a deep dive into The Book of Mark, as well as hear and discuss 8 more sermons! I can't wait!

I'm especially excited that January will bring a new milestone: I will be preaching my very first sermon, right here at Saint Paul's! Father Philip will be in attendance, which is both reassuring and just a little nerve-wracking. I'm looking forward to the experience and to sharing a little of what I've been learning with my parish family.

More to come in the new year! Please pray for me, and for the other participants in this amazing program.

Adult Formation Program

Understanding Alzheimer's & Dementia

Sunday, December 13 at 11:30 am
in the Brewster Room

Lori DiCaprio Lee, Care Services Dept. with Education Support will be the presenter.

- The many differences between Alzheimer's & Dementia
- Current research and treatments available
- Guests are welcome





THE ANNUAL REPORT

Articles Due

For those parish leaders who are writing reports, please note the following:

- All reports are due no later than Sunday, December 13th. Please send by email to: jmcadoo@stpaulsyr.org.
- Please limit articles to a couple of paragraphs--around 200 words.
- Only send the final article to Judy. Do not copy her in on emails requesting edits from other people.
- Feel free to look at last year's annual report for ideas or inspiration. You are encouraged to include a list of members who participate on your team or committee. Just scroll toward the bottom of the front page of the church website for the link. stpaulsyr.org

Thank you for your time and willingness to help to create this special report documenting a year in the life of St. Paul's.

DUE TO THE ANNUAL REPORT AND MEETING, THERE WILL BE NO JANUARY COURIER

ATHFG Thanksgiving





St. Paul's and A Tiny Home for Good came together to celebrate a joyful community Thanksgiving dinner on Friday, November 20th!







Sunday, November 29, 4:00 p.m.

The Choir of St. Paul's Episcopal Church will offer a service of Advent Lessons & Carols, Sunday November 29 at 4:00 p.m. Please come and invite a friend to this special service.



2027 Giving Envelopes Are Here

In the back of the sanctuary, you'll find 2027 giving envelopes. Please help yourself to a box. We no longer use ID numbers, so you can take any box you'd like. It's not necessary to use the envelopes, they are for your convenience.



Christmas Flower Memorials

If you would like your loved ones listed in our Christmas Flower Memorials, please send the names to Judy by

Monday, December 14th

Email to: jmcadoo@stpaulsyr.org

When sending in your donation for the flowers, please write 'Christmas Flower Memorials' in the memo line.

Greening of the Nave

Come and lend a hand decorating the sanctuary for Christmas.

Afterwards, we will have a soup lunch to share in the Hansen Dining Room.

It's always a special time of working together.

Sunday, December 20th 11:30 a.m.

YMCA Christmas Flower Delivery & Social



Please join us on Wednesday, **December 16 at 11:00 a.m.** to help deliver flowers and spread Christmas cheer to the YMCA senior residents, including a sing along and a bite to eat.

Contact Debbie Bogan for more information.



VOICES OF SPRING

Sunday

JANUARY 10, 2027 3:00 PM

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
220 EAST FAYETTE STREET
DOWNTOWN SYRACUSE

For tickets: syracuseorchestra.org

In the heart of winter, this concert offers a welcome breath of spring. The lilting Voices of Spring Waltz shimmers with buoyant optimism, while Frederick Delius's On Hearing the First Cuckoo of Spring unfolds in gentle, pastoral hues, evoking thawing landscapes and a renewal that is soon to come. Anchoring the program, Johannes Brahms's Serenade No. 2 offers warm lyricism and graceful charm, its sunlit textures and flowing melodies suggesting the promise of brighter days ahead.

THE SYRACUSE ORCHESTRA

YOU'RE INVITED TO

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

At St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Sunday, November 29th 4:00 p.m.
Advent Lessons & Carols

Thursday, December 24th 4:00 p.m.
Family Christmas Service

Thursday, December 24th 9:00 p.m.
Christmas Choral Service

Friday, December 25th 10:00 a.m.
Christmas Day Service

Sunday, December 27th 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship Service

We are located at:
220 East Fayette St. Downtown Syracuse

www.stpaulsyr.org

December Calendar



Wednesday, December 2, 4:30 pm, Contemplative Prayer—Private Zoom Channel
Thursday, December 3, 7:00 pm, Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, December 6, 10:00 am, Worship– Live Stream & In Person
Sunday, December 6, 9:50 am, Godly Play, Children's Sunday School
Monday, December 7, 12:00 pm, Bible Study-Brewster Room
Wednesday, December 9, 4:30 pm, Contemplative Prayer—Private Zoom Channel
Thursday, December 10, 5:00 pm, ATHFG Staff Dinner
Thursday, December 10, 7:00 pm, Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, December 13, 10:00 am, Worship– Live Stream & In Person
Sunday, December 13, 9:50 am, Godly Play, Children's Sunday School
Sunday, December 13, 11:30 am, Formation Program on Aging
Sunday, December 13, Deadline for Annual Report
Monday, December 14, 12:00 pm, Bible Study-Brewster Room
Monday, December 14, 3:30 pm, Finance Meeting-Brewster Room
Monday, December 14, 6:30 pm, Common Threads at the Nottingham
Tuesday, December 15, 5:30 pm, Vestry Meeting--In Person
Wednesday, December 16, 10:30 am, YMCA Christmas Social
Wednesday, December 16, 4:30 pm, Contemplative Prayer—Private Zoom Channel
Wednesday, December 16, 7:30 pm, Feminist Theology--Zoom
Thursday, December 17, 7:00 pm, Choir Rehearsal
Friday, December 18, 11:00 am ATHFG Lunch
Saturday, December 19, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm Open Pantry Drop Off

Sunday, December 20, 10:00 am, Worship– Live Stream & In Person
Sunday, December 20, 9:50 am, Godly Play, Children's Sunday School
Sunday, December 20, 11:30 am, Greening of the Nave with soup lunch afterwards
Tuesday, December 22, 3:30 pm, Buildings and Grounds- Zoom
Wednesday, December 23, 4:30 pm, Contemplative Prayer—Private Zoom Channel
Wednesday, December 23, Time TBD, Flower Guild Greening of the Nave Part 2
Thursday, December 24, 4:00 pm, Family Christmas Service
Thursday, December 24, 9:00 pm, Christmas Choral Service
Friday, December 25, 10:00 am, Christmas Day Service

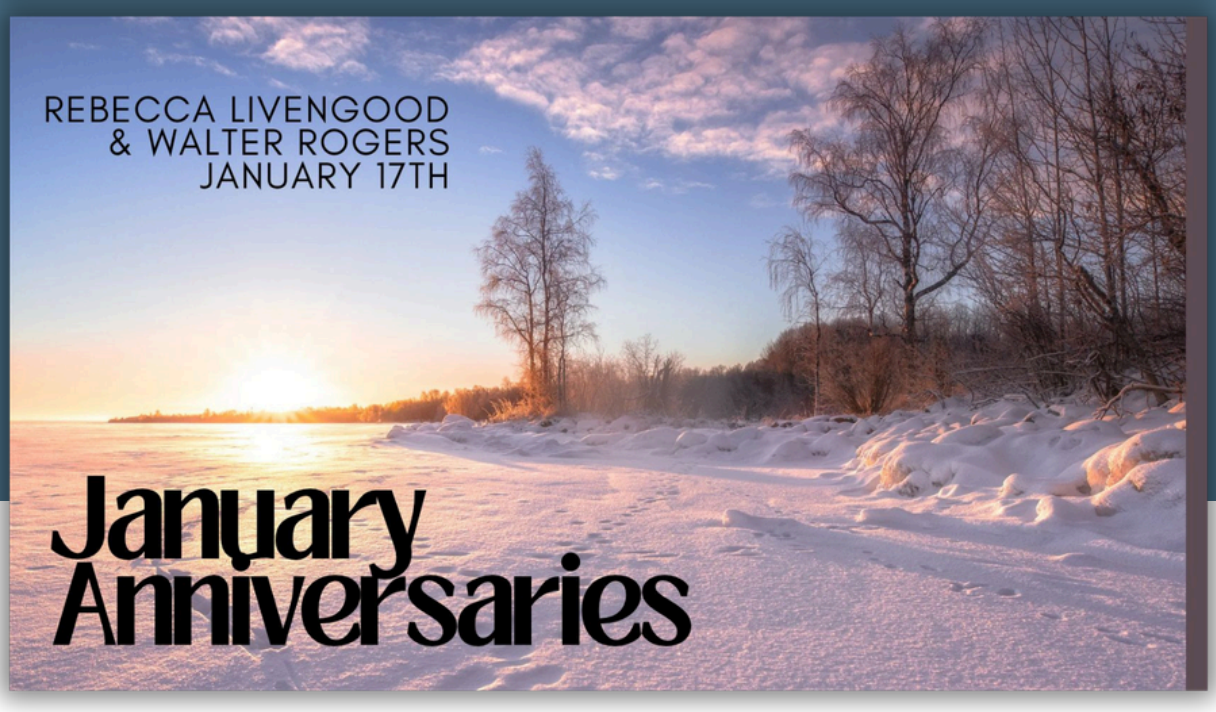
Sunday, December 27, 10:00 am, Worship– Live Stream & In Person
Wednesday, December 30, 4:30 pm, Contemplative Prayer—Private Zoom Channel











Hello from Barbara & David

David and I are doing well in our little town of Le Bourget, which is only 6.2 miles from Paris or 25 minutes by metro. We go into Paris on Sundays to the American Cathedral when we can.

We have visited as many museums that are a bit more obscure as we can! We go to the market next door twice a week, and walk everywhere to our doctor, the Post Office, the Pharmacy, etc. Can you imagine that in Syracuse? Here is a photo of us taken Thursday October 22 at the Air and Space Museum here in Le Bourget.

We miss you!



BICENTENNIAL HISTORY MINUTE

#40

A Pastor Remembered: Rev. Henry Harrison Hadley

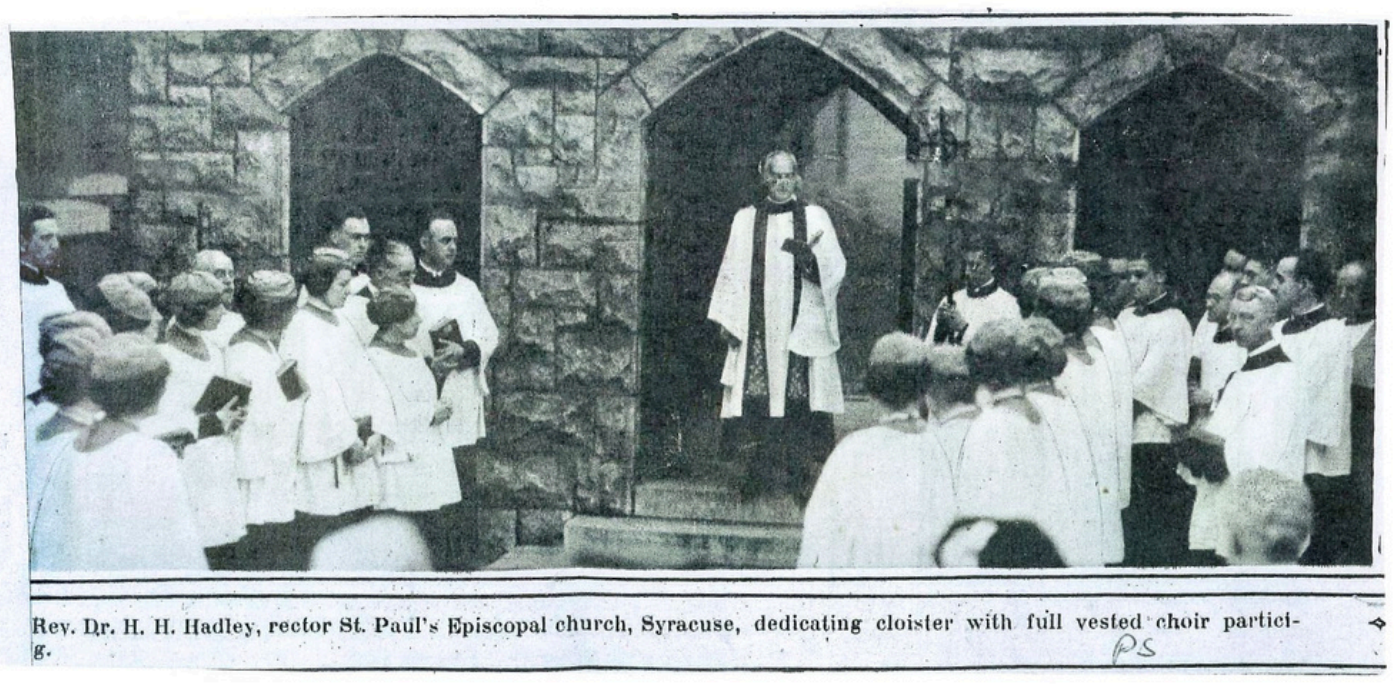
By Amy Mangram

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH DOWNTOWN SYRACUSE 200 WHERE LOVE GROWS 1826 - 2026

The Reverend Henry Harrison Hadley was appointed rector of St. Paul's in 1916 and served for nineteen years until his death in 1935. To appreciate the impact of his leadership, it helps to understand the city and world in which he served. During his tenure, he guided the parish through World War I, the postwar economic boom, Prohibition, and the onset of the Great Depression. At the same time, Syracuse was undergoing significant transformation. The city's population grew by nearly 30 percent, the Erie Canal was filled in and became Erie Boulevard, Prohibition contributed to rising crime, and new cinemas and nightlife helped revitalize downtown. Against this backdrop of rapid change, Rev. Hadley provided steady leadership to St. Paul's.

When Rev. Hadley arrived at St. Paul's, the parish faced considerable financial and physical challenges. The church carried approximately $12,000 in debt and had a long list of deferred maintenance needs. Seventeen repair projects required immediate attention, including problems that sound familiar even today, such as water intrusion. Rev. Hadley responded quickly by launching the "Every Member Campaign," which inspired parishioners to contribute more than $9,000 and doubled annual pledge revenue during his first year.

He continued to improve the parish facilities throughout his rectorship. In 1929, the parish house underwent a major renovation and expansion, driven largely by the remarkable growth of the church school. The $60,000 project included a substantial two-story addition with six classrooms, an assembly room, offices, and a new kitchen. Under Rev. Hadley's personal supervision, the church school grew from a modest program into one of the largest and most effective in the Diocese, serving 366 students with a staff of 33 teachers.



Rev. Dr. H. H. Hadley, rector St. Paul's Episcopal church, Syracuse, dedicating cloister with full vested choir partici-
g.

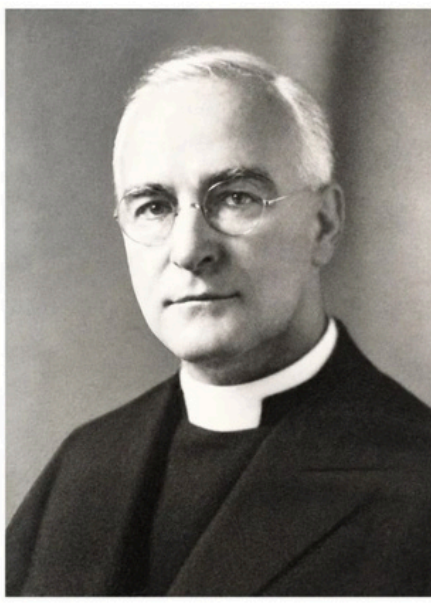
BICENTENNIAL HISTORY MINUTE

#40

A Pastor Remembered: Rev. Henry Harrison Hadley

By Amy Mangram *Continued*

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
DOWNTOWN SYRACUSE
200
WHERE LOVE GROWS
1826 - 2026



To better understand the kind of leader who achieved these results, it helps to turn to the words of those who knew him best. Shortly after his death, the Men's Club published a memorial pamphlet honoring his life and ministry. The following observation, preserved in the St. Paul's archives, provides insight into his legacy.

"St Paul's Church in 1935 is the best memorial to Dr. Hadley that could be desired. It's financial condition had been improved to a wonderful degree. Through Rev. Hadley's executive genius, the Parish organizations have prospered. In particular the St Paul's Society, which includes all the women of the parish, has during the past five years become not only a great part of the financial structure of the parish, but also a priceless benefit to the family feeling of friendly unity of all the women of St. Paul's. Likewise, the Women's Auxiliary, Men's Club, Choir, and numerous other organizations benefited from the rector's encouragement, vision, and support".

The Men's Club also reflected on the devotion he inspired in his congregation:
"Few clergy brought a stronger desire to serve those in need. The countless acts of kindness Dr. Hadley extended to parishioners, neighbors, and strangers alike could never be fully recorded. Those who came to his office found not only a welcoming smile and encouraging words, but also practical assistance and genuine friendship. He was remembered as a capable, generous, and loving pastor.

Dr. Hadley also took a deep interest in the growth and well-being of Syracuse. He believed that the city's spiritual health depended in part upon its economic, social, and political integrity. He did not hesitate to criticize actions he believed were harmful to the community, nor did he fail to support efforts that would benefit the city and its residents."

Rev. Henry Harrison Hadley served as rector until his sudden death in 1935. Up to that time, he was regarded as perhaps the most beloved leader in St. Paul's history, rivaled only by Rev. Henry Lockwood. He guided the parish through World War I, the economic prosperity of the 1920s, and the early years of the Great Depression. Through his visionary leadership, dedication to Christian formation, emphasis on excellent music in worship, and unwavering commitment to the people of Syracuse, he left a legacy that shaped St. Paul's for generations.

SEVENTH IN THE STAINED GLASS WINDOW SERIES

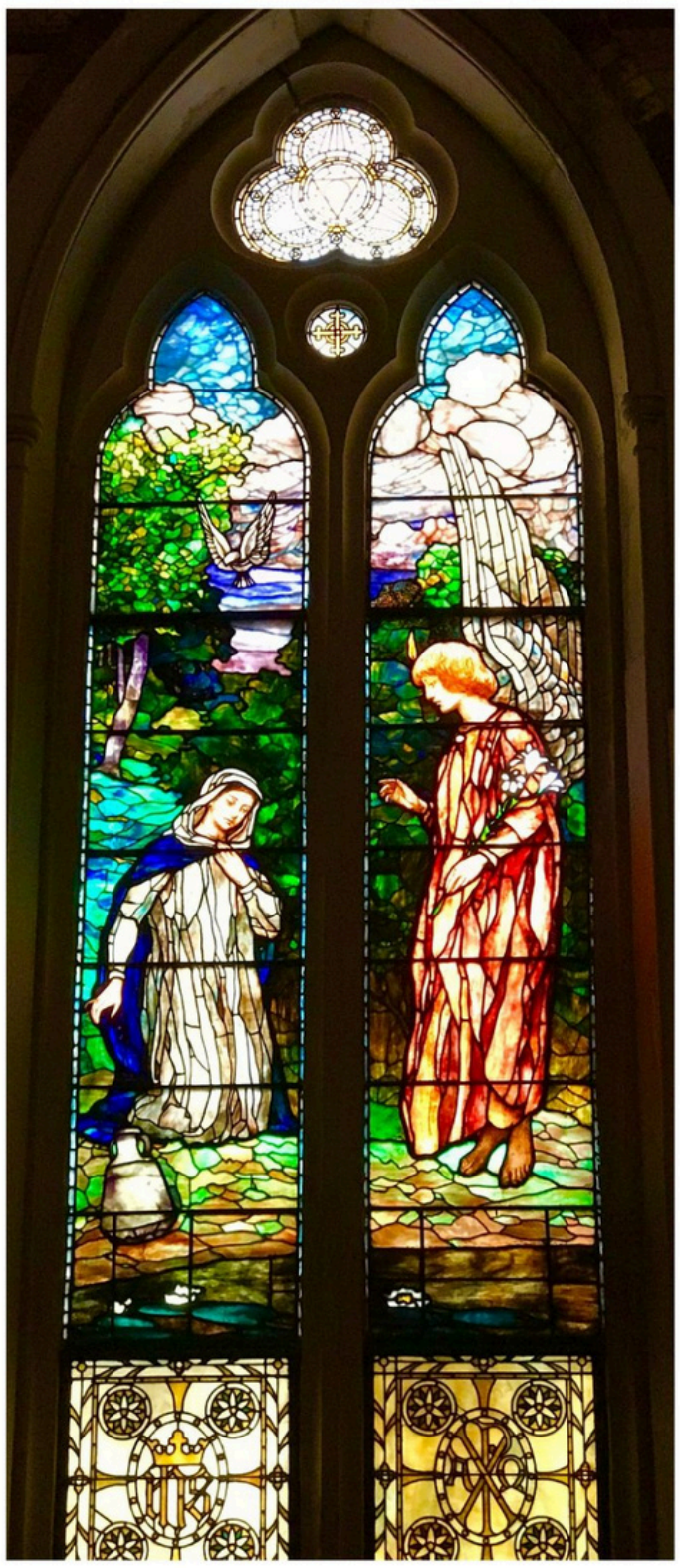
Stained Glass Windows

South Aisle, Window #1, The Pierce Window

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

#41





Continuing with our St. Paul's stained-glass windows series, we move to the south side of the nave for the next window, which is closest to the baptistry. It was given in memory of Sylvester Phineus and Cornelia Marsh Pierce by their son William K. Pierce. There is no scriptural quotation on this window, but its subject is the Annunciation – the angel announcing to the Virgin Mary that she would be the mother of the Messiah. The Book of Common Prayer sets aside March 25 as a commemoration of this event, and in England, the day is referred to as "Lady Day". This window is not signed; however, a well-known stained-glass maker describes it as a "Tiffany type or style". It was installed in 1905, 20 years after most of the other stained-glass windows had been installed.

Sylvester P. Pierce was born in Sauquoit, Oneida County, New York, in 1814, the son of a pioneer central New York medical doctor. He moved to Syracuse in 1839 and opened a crockery store in partnership with Ransom Curtis, which developed into an importing and jobbing business. When illuminating gas became common, Sylvester opened a gas fitting and piping shop which led to establishing Pierce, Butler, and Pierce Manufacturing Company. The Pierce residence was on the corner of James and Lodi Streets, where the present Regency Tower Apartments are located.

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH DOWNTOWN SYRACUSE NY

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Bicentennial History Task Force
2026

SEVENTH IN THE STAINED GLASS WINDOW SERIES

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Continued

#41



In 1841, Sylvester married Cornelia March (1819-1890), who was born on Onondaga Hill and was confirmed by Bishop DeLancey. She was active in numerous civic organizations and was a charter member of the Syracuse Home Association.

Their son, William Kasson Pierce (1851-1915), who gave the window in memory of his parents, married Ellen Burt Rust in 1880. He was active in the industrial and social life of the city, and associated with his father's business. William was also instrumental in promoting the use of electricity for lighting purposes and was one of the organizers of the Syracuse Heat and Power Company, a predecessor of the Syracuse Lighting Company. He was a director of the National Bank of Syracuse, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Onondaga Golf and Country Club. William was also president of the Century Club, a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and of the Cornell Club of Syracuse. He was a vestryman of St. Paul's from 1900 to 1915.



SYLVESTER P. PIERCE, *1893
MANUFACTURER AND MERCHANT
PRES. PIERCE, BUTLER & PIERCE MFG. CO.

Sylvester and Cornelia's children inter-married with the Butlers and the Beldens, many of whom bear names well known in the life of St. Paul's. Perhaps you've heard of Liz Belden-Handler?

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Bicentennial History Task Force 2026

St. Paul's Syracuse



ST. PAUL'S SYRACUSE

2027 BICENTENNIAL EVENTS



Friday, January 15 5:00 p.m.

Potluck Dinner & Film Screening of
"The Philiadelphia Eleven"



Friday, April 9 5:00 p.m.

Potluck Dinner & Presentation by
Onondaga Nation Representative

Sunday, May 16 11:00 a.m.

Future Directions: Lunch &
Conversations about the Future



St. Paul's Episcopal Church
220 E. Fayette St. Downtown Syracuse

More Details to Come...

www.stpaulsyr.org

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