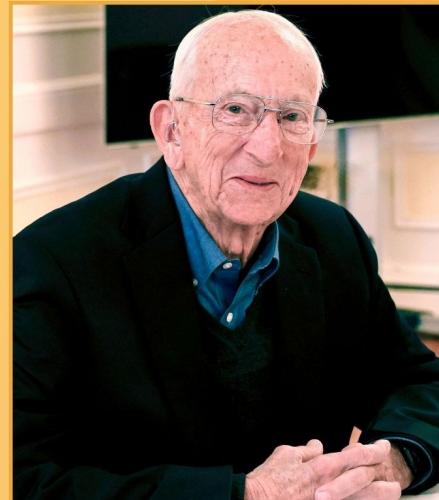


# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



**St. Paul's is People...Caring**



## Church Life



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## Agenda

### A

*All activities will be held in the nave of St. Paul's and will be presented on the live stream. Voting and participation in discussions at the annual meeting are limited to those who are present in the building.*

9:30 Worship

10:40 Annual Meeting:

- a. The Annual Meeting is called to order.
- b. The officers of the meeting are announced: Anita Wagner, Clerk, leva Doyle, Chair of the Nominating Committee, the Rev. Philip Major, Presider, DJ Igelsrud and David Webb, Tellers.
- c. Approve minutes of January 2025 Annual Meeting.
- d. Nominations committee report—leva Doyle
- e. Call for nominations from the floor
- f. Balloting begins. By NY State law, ballots may be cast up to an hour after the beginning of voting.
- g. Rector's Report
- h. Treasurer's Report
- i. Election Results
- j. Closing Prayer and Adjournment of Annual Meeting

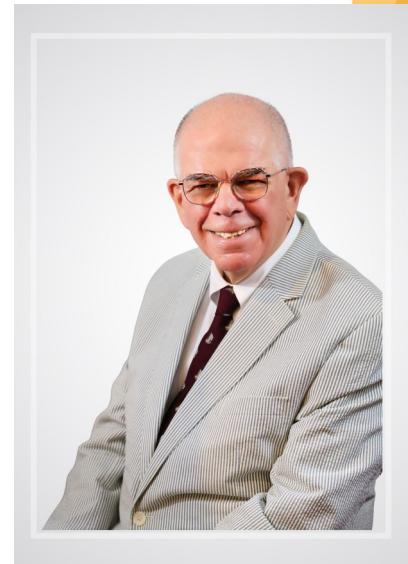
# Minutes of the 2025 Annual Meeting

Respectfully Submitted By Joe Russo  
Clerk of the Vestry

**T**he annual meeting was held on January 26, 2025 and was opened with prayer by the Rector, the Rev. Philip Major, at 10:45 a.m.

## Officers of the Meeting:

The Reverend Philip Major, Presider  
Elizabeth Barker, Parliamentarian  
DJ Igelsrud and David Webb, Tellers  
Joseph Russo, Clerk of Vestry



## Approval of the Minutes of January 28, 2024 Annual Meeting

A modification to the minutes' Open Doors report was read by the Rector. Approval of the modification was moved by Cathy Wolff; seconded by Matthieu van der Meer, and passed. Approval of the minutes as amended was moved by Robert Wagner; seconded by Elizabeth Belden-Handler, and passed.

## Nominations Committee

Joe Moorman reported out the committee's nominees: for a two-year term as Warden, leva Doyle; for three-year terms on Vestry, Willson Cummer, Joe Russo and Tim Simmons.

Warden: The Rector called for nominations from the floor. Being none, Robert Wagner moved to close the nominations and cast a single unanimous ballot to elect leva Doyle as Warden. Jeanne Chu seconded the motion and it was passed.

Vestry: The Rector called for nominations from the floor. Being none, Larry Almeida moved to close the nominations and cast a single unanimous ballot to elect the committee's nominees. Susan Stinson seconded the motion and it passed.

## Rector's Report

The Rev. Philip Major opened by recognizing those present who participated in the new members class and presenting the Book of Common Prayer to each. He then spoke of the challenges with which we dealt in 2024, including the Open Doors renovations on which work continues. He recognized Betsy Elkins and Doug Mouncey as those who have worked closely with him on a weekly basis, moving the project forward. The unanticipated work of removing hazardous materials from the roof and the need for a new fire and security alarm system added to the challenges and the timetable for completion. He thanked the Vestry, Finance and Building and Grounds Committees for additional efforts to oversee the project.

The Rector thanked Tom Cantwell, Michael Mach and David Morgan for their service on Vestry, having completed their terms. He recognized Marion Greenhalgh for her service as Warden for the past two years.

## Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Doug Mouncey being away, Joe Moorman delivered the report, noting that the Diocesan audit conducted in 2024 found St. Paul's finances to be managed responsibly. An audit of the Clergy Discretionary Fund conducted by the Wardens and the Treasurer also found all finances in proper order. He reported that the church benefits from a generous and giving congregation and that for 2024 pledge and plate income exceeded budget. He remarked also on donations and other monies supporting the church and its work. He also reported that the Haiti Education Mission that had been a pass-through in the church's finances had successfully established its own 501c3. With regard to the third-floor apartments to be constructed and leased in the parish house, he stated that, in the long term, these apartments would generate a new income stream for the church.

## Open Doors Report

Cathy Wolff cited the financial report on the Open Doors project in the 2024 Annual Report, detailing donations, grants and all monies committed to the project. She noted some monies will be received later as reimbursements and some as a consequence of multi-year pledges. She said expenses are expected to be higher than budgeted as a result of the unanticipated need for asbestos remediation and the new fire and security system. At the conclusion of her report, the Rector thanked Cathy for her work in leading the Open Doors capital campaign.

The Rev. Philip Major concluded the meeting by remembering those who had passed and will be missed: Neva Pilgrim, John Philip Jones, Edith Russell, John Rohde and June Bisson. With no further business, he adjourned the meeting with prayer at 11:29 a.m.



## Church Life

## Joe Russo

### Nomination for Junior Warden

Organization



**I** have been a resident of the Syracuse area for the past 25 years. It is here that I raised my two daughters. Retired after 40 years in publishing, banking and finance, transportation and the utility industry, I have served on various church and not-for-profit boards, including the Samaritan Center, as well as a national task force on immigration and refugees. I have served as a lay preacher, a confirmation teacher and a lector. I began attending St Paul's in November 2022. It was the culmination of a long faith journey. Here at St Paul's I have served as a reader, an usher, a member of Vestry, a member of the Altar Guild, an unskilled laborer and painter in the "beavers" work crew, and volunteered with others at the Samaritan Center. In each of my roles I have been guided by an abiding faith in God, a belief in the redeeming power of God's love, and a commitment to sharing that love in service to the people of St. Paul's and the community.

## Joseph von Souder

### Nomination for Vestry

**I** am a graduate of St. John Fisher University in Rochester, and have lived in Syracuse since 2011 with my husband, Ryan, a legal clerk in Oswego, and our spirited Yorkshire Terrier, "Perseverance" - known lovingly as Percy.

I work at Commercial Art Supply, where I manage social media, website oversight, marketing, outreach, and event planning for both digital and in-store operations. I have a love of the theater, and enjoy painting, drawing, writing, reading, collecting objets d'art, and traveling.



I joined St. Paul's in 2024, drawn by the warmth of the community, and have since participated in several ministries and parish groups, serving as an Usher, Lay Reader, and Prayer Writer, as well as working on the Future Directions Task Force, and the Open Doors Gala planning committee. I am excited for the opportunity to serve my St. Paul's family in a new capacity, bringing with me my deep faith, creativity, and my dedication to outreach, community engagement, and service through love.

## Amy Mangram

### Nomination for Vestry



**I** began attending St. Paul's in the Summer of 2023 after searching for a new church home. I was drawn to stay because of the church's strong mission and service within the Syracuse community, the genuine welcome extended by its members to all who enter through the red doors, and the stability of its leadership and finances.

Since joining, I have been grateful for the opportunity to serve as an usher, help stock the pantry, and contribute to both the A Tiny Home for Good and the Bicentennial Steering Committees. These experiences have deepened my connection to the congregation and strengthened my commitment to the mission. I am honored to be considered for a position on the Vestry. In this role, I hope to bring the leadership skills I have developed through my career and nonprofit work to help guide the church with prayerful care. I look forward to listening to the voices of the members of St. Paul's to ensure that they feel supported, and working to sustain the spiritual and financial health of our community.

# Catherine Gerard

## Nomination for Vestry

Organization

**M**y husband, Joe, and I came to St. Paul's 30 years ago when we joined the choir. We moved from Albany when I took a job at Syracuse University as professor and administrator, from which I retired in August 1994 (though I am still teaching).

I love the worship at St. Paul's and the talented and dedicated congregation that never shies from a challenge and is always trying to model love for each other. I am currently chair of the Open Doors Donor Wall Committee and part of the St. Paul's group of beavers (only painting, no carpentry). I also serve on the boards of ARISE/EFR and Interfaith Works, which have similar missions of affirming dignity and lives of fulfillment.



As a member of the Vestry, I hope to continue the good work underway. I am very interested in thinking about the future and how to continue the growth of our congregation. There has never been a more important time to open our doors and demonstrate God's love.

## Nominating Committee

by leva Doyle, Junior Warden

**A**s convener of the Nominations Committee, I extend a big "thank you" to 2025 Nominations Committee members Tom Cantwell, Willson Cummer, Marion Greenhalgh, and DJ Igelsrud. Our committee gathered recommendations from the congregation and prayerfully considered suggestions to fill Vestry and Warden vacancies created by completed terms. Our goal was to provide a slate of nominees for election at the January 25, 2026, Annual Meeting.

We considered communicants in good standing at St. Paul's, those who regularly attend Sunday worship and take an active role in parish activities, those who support St. Paul's financially, and those who actively listen and pray for the needs of the parish.

The Nominations Committee is pleased to present the three nominees who agreed to serve the Vestry for three-year terms beginning in 2026 -- Catherine Gerard, Amy Mangram and Joseph von Souter. One nominee, current Vestry member Joe Russo, has agreed to serve a two-year term as Warden starting in 2026.

We trust that the Holy Spirit has led these candidates to leadership positions at St. Paul's, where they will work with other faithful followers of Christ to move St. Paul's into its third century of ministry.



# Rector's Report

By Rev Philip Major

**T**hank you for taking the time to read St. Paul's Annual Report. This booklet includes reports about once-in-a-generation accomplishments (*Open Doors*), vital, new ministries (*A Tiny Home for Good*, p.xx), and dozens of continuing ministries and groups that faithfully build St. Paul's as a community where love grows. As I approach the tenth anniversary of the beginning of our work together, my primary thought is that I am grateful for the people of St. Paul's. I thought it might be helpful to take this opportunity to reflect on the gifts and diversity of our people.

For me, St. Paul's is like a tapestry. At St. Paul's, God is weaving together the young people and the elders, new members and veterans into a blessed community.

In this blessed community, diversity is a strength and a gift. In this blessed community each person has different needs and makes a different sort of contribution to the work. In this blessed community we are supported and nourished as we move through the transitions in our lives. I see seven different strands or perspectives in the tapestry of our congregation and understand that many of us bring more than one of these perspectives to our participation.

### The Young Ones

In 2025, we have been blessed by the engagement and leadership of our children. Our youngest members are taking on new leadership roles: reading from Holy Scripture, writing the Prayers of the People, distributing communion and more. We give thanks for the intelligence and energy they bring. Let's consider that some of these children might be leaders at St. Paul's in 2040, 2060, or 2080. We give thanks for these children, we give thanks for our *Godly Play* teachers, and we give thanks for the parents and grandparents who bring them to St. Paul's each Sunday.



### Those Near the End

We have been blessed by the grace and love of our members who are near the end of their journey back to God, including several who have completed their journeys in 2025. We give thanks for their wisdom and perspectives, informed by many years of experience at St. Paul's. We give thanks for times made more joyful by their presence with us.

### The Welcomed

We are blessed by the presence of many visitors to St. Paul's. These people have different reasons for coming through those big red doors for the first time. Like the rest of us, our visitors are seeking to fill some sort of empty space in their lives. When we see the faces of our visitors, we remember that Jesus was an outsider in many places he visited. As we welcome and serve them, we are welcoming and serving Christ.

### The Seekers

In 2025 we have been blessed by a significant number of people who came as visitors and kept coming back to join us for worship. These seekers are like the rest of us, because each of us is seeking to fill that 'God-shaped hole' in our lives. The seekers bring a special gift for us; they bring fresh eyes to see the gifts, opportunities and challenges of St. Paul's. We trust that, like the rest of us, these new members are coming to know more of God's truth, love, and presence through worship and other activities at St. Paul's.

### The Faithful

As God is weaving this tapestry of people together, one particular type of thread is vital for the strength and resilience of St. Paul's: our experienced members. I think of our experienced members as 'the faithful', because they keep coming back, week after week, year after year. Our experienced members have a deep love for St.

Paul's Church. We are blessed by the way these faithful people invite and encourage visitors, seekers and young people to participate. Our experienced members are willing to share, and the most valuable thing they share is the love God has given them.

### The New Leaders

In 2025 we have been blessed by the energies and skills of new leaders. Some of our new leaders are new members and others have been members for many years, but all of them bring new skills and insights. Like our more experienced leaders, these new leaders follow Christ's example of servant-leadership. Our new leaders serve in many ways as they support our worship, fellowship, service, or formation activities, or the work of the Vestry, Finance Committee, or the Bicentennial Steering Committee. The presence of these new leaders among us is invigorating and brings us hope.

### The Shepherds

In 2025, we have been blessed by the continuing leadership of individuals who are like shepherds. These shepherds are experienced! They have been leading the church for many years. They watch over the parish and our members. The shepherds pay special attention to those on the edges of our congregation: visitors, new members, and those who are nearing the end of their journeys. We are blessed by the way these shepherds watch over the details that must be completed for our success and survival. The shepherds watch over some of our most essential work each year, from the beginning through to the end. We are blessed by their deep faithfulness and their long-term perspectives about the way God is working beside us and through us.

### God's Gift

In the following pages you will see photos and read stories of our parish in 2025. We have much to be thankful for, but the greatest gift of St. Paul's is you, the people of this parish. St. Paul's has been blessed with people of tremendous faith and generosity, with people of deep love and wisdom. This is a gift of God's grace.

Philip +

## Executive Ministry Team

By Rev Philip Major

**M**ost Episcopal Churches are led by a Vestry which functions like the Congress of the United States. St. Paul's has an extra team of leaders, not found in most other churches. It's called the Executive Ministry Team. The Executive Ministry Team (EMT) has two functions: responding to the immediate needs of the congregation and considering the long-term needs and possibilities for the future. Among other tasks, in 2025 our EMT created proposals for the Vestry to consider about the redecoration of the parish house following the conclusion of *Open Doors* renovations.

In 2025, the Executive Ministry Team included:

- \* the convener of the Formation Ministry Team - Jeanne Avery
- \* the convener of the Mission & Service Team - Betsy Elkins
- \* the convener of the Community Fellowship Team - Liz Belden-Handler
- \* the convener of the Worship Ministry Team - Laurie Sanderson
- \* the Treasurer - Doug Mouncey
- \* the Wardens - Ieva Doyle and Joe Moorman
- \* the Rector

We are blessed by the wisdom and faithfulness of the EMT as they consider the long-term needs of St. Paul's.

# Senior Warden's Report

By Joe Moorman

Organization



**T**his report is supposed to look back at 2025, but in reviewing the year, so much of what happened was because we are looking to the future.

Our most apparent accomplishment was finishing the Open Doors Project. The Open Doors capstone events were the public ribbon-cutting and the Gala Dinner that recognized the tremendous work of the Open Doors task force leaders and allowed all of our members the chance to pat themselves on the back for persevering through the protracted construction period.

Open Doors improved the accessibility to all areas of St. Paul's, making it welcoming to people of all abilities. The enlarged restrooms in the Sargent Foyer adjacent to the new West Entrance from the parking lot, now allow us to comfortably host the community events that make St. Paul's a vital presence in downtown Syracuse. The new elevator inside the Montgomery Street entrance makes the second floor of the Parish House ready for eventual tenancy of *A Tiny Home For Good*. The renovation of the third floor apartments is nearly done and will create a new income stream to the church from the rental of the two top-floor apartments. The kitchen was reassembled and restored, and that meant monthly pot luck dinners could resume.

The other way St. Paul's looked forward by looking backward, was in the establishment of the Bicentennial task forces. Through their planning our Bicentennial celebrations will express our gratitude and honor the faith of those who came before us, will acknowledge the love and work of our present community, and look for ways to share our joy and inspire growth.

Since for everything there is a season, we should recognize the more than fifty years of service that David Ridings has given to St. Paul's Church. He was most recently the co-chair of the extraordinarily successful Open Doors capital campaign and has chaired the church's Finance Committee for many years, helping to steward our sure, financial foundation. David is stepping down from these roles which have meant so much to the life of St. Paul's. It is because of the contributions of time, talent, and treasure by members like David, that we all can boast that St. Paul's is a place *where love grows*.

# Junior Warden's Report

By Leva Doyle



**W**hen the Bicentennial Steering Committee (including co-chairs Derina Samuel and Anita Wagner, Father Philip, Joe Moorman and myself) first discussed possible themes for our 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2026, LOVE was the one word that kept coming up.

That's because for all of us, LOVE appropriately describes what St. Paul's is all about! Our LOVE of God shows up during Sunday worship services. Whether we're preparing the altar, arranging flowers, operating our livestream, greeting people, singing in the choir, serving as LEMS, or offering coffee and refreshments following worship, LOVE abounds.

LOVE guides our way of being in downtown Syracuse. Our big, red doors are open to all, visually enhanced by rainbow doors during warmer months. Our Open Pantry and ministries with the Samaritan Center and senior residents at the YMCA are other expressions for our LOVE of neighbor.

LOVE also steers our everyday work. It's what motivates our leaders and those serving on various ministry teams, including everyone who make sure our buildings and grounds are maintained and our finances are secure.

"Where Love Grows" – the bicentennial theme the Vestry eventually settled on – perfectly captures the spirit of St. Paul's. May this bicentennial theme inspire us to continue our work toward building a beloved community where we LOVE God and LOVE neighbor.

# Vestry Report

By Rev Philip Major

**I** am especially grateful to the vestry for their work during the past year. This group of twelve had to handle more complex financial and construction related questions than I have ever encountered, rivaled only by the 2024 Vestry! There were many difficult decisions to make. Some resolutions were approved and others were rejected. All members of the vestry acted with concern for the interests of St. Paul's and our mission to serve God's people.

Your Vestry is responsible for many of the practical and legal details of St. Paul's, including:

- appointing members to serve in critical positions, such as convention delegates.
- approving bids for contracted services and repairs to the church
- overseeing the development and execution of church programs
- creating a budget for the following year.

Each year at Annual Meeting, three members are elected by the congregation to serve 3-year terms. In January of 2026:

\* Barbara Bell and Matthieu von der Meer are finishing their terms.

\* Tim Cassavaw, Jeanne Chu, and DJ Igelsrud have one year remaining in their terms.

\* Willson Cummer, Joe Russo, and Timothy Simmons have two years remaining in their terms.

\* Doug Mouncey served as Treasurer, Sandra Yingling served as Assistant Treasurer, and Anita Wagner served as Clerk of the Vestry in 2025.

Each year one Warden is elected to serve a two-year term. Our Wardens do all of the work of



Vestry members, and they meet several times each month with the Rector to consider the immediate and long-term needs of the congregation. In January of 2025, Leva Doyle is completing her first year as a Warden. Joe Moorman is completing the final year of his two-year term as warden.

St. Paul's has leadership and a governing board that is resilient and strong:

1. There is a measure of continuity each year, as some members are serving the second or third years of their terms.
2. Fresh energy and new insights are brought into our leadership each year.
3. Since the Wardens and Rector work together, and the total body of the Vestry is twelve members, there is depth in all aspects of our administration and oversight.

It has been my privilege to serve alongside these faithful people.

# Financial Report

## By Doug Mouncey, Treasurer

**I** submit this report with thanks to the following:

**Finance Committee** David Ridings, Chair; Doug Mouncey, Treasurer; Jeff Averill, Tom Cantwell, Ieva Doyle, Joe Moorman, Bill Pitcher, Sandi Yingling; also attending Fr. Philip Major and Judy McAdoo-Pelton

**Audit Committee** Amy Mangram led the audit review following the Diocese of Central New York guidelines. Tom Cantwell, Marion Greenhalgh, Amy Mangram, Joe Moorman, Sandi Yingling; also attending Judy McAdoo-Pelton and Doug Mouncey.

Elsewhere in this report, you'll see recognition of David Ridings for his service on the Finance Committee. As he transitions from our Committee, I'm keeping his contact information close at hand because I know it won't be long before I'll be seeking his advice.

Adjacent to this narrative report is a summary of our income and expenses compared to our budget for 2025.

### INCOME

We have a very generous congregation. For at least the third year in a row, Pledge & Plate contributions exceeded the budgeted amount. In fact, it was almost 11% higher!

- Total Donations: includes various designated contributions. For example, we give thanks for the contributions throughout 2025 in Memory of Andrew Bessemer, June Bisson, Walley Francis, Harry Lewis and John Marsellus.
- Total Program Donations: for example, earnings in the Nan Dorr Memorial Fund and contributions to the YMCA Seniors program and The Open Pantry. Special thanks to Deb Bogan and Jim Doyle for their leadership of these programs.
- Total Other Income: includes contributions to the Endowment Fund in honor of June Bisson and in thanksgiving by John Marsellus, and earnings from the Sanford Trust Fund.

### EXPENSES

- Total Salaries & Related Expenses: slightly lower than budget
- Total Other Personnel Expenses: higher than budget due to legal expenses
- Total Copier Costs: higher than budget due to some prior year expenses paid in 2025
- Total Buildings & Grounds: lower than budget due to parking lot repairs being deferred
- Total Outreach: higher than budget due to designated gifts received in 2025 for the Haiti Education Mission.
- Total 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Apartments Renovations: These apartments are not part of the Tiny Homes for Good apartments on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Rental income from the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor apartments will be used to repay funds transferred from the Endowment Fund for the renovations.

### Total Support from Key Investments

Although the Support from the Key Investments exceeded the budgeted amount, that was due to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Apartments Renovations that will be repaid over time to the Endowment Fund. Excluding that, approximately 84% of the budgeted amount of Support from Key Investments was spent on our general operating activities.

In closing, thank you for your continued gifts of time, talent and financial support.

## St. Paul's Syracuse

Budget vs. Actuals January - December 2025: unreconciled; unaudited

	Actual	Budget	Variance	Comments
			from Budget	
<b>INCOME</b>				
Pledge & Plate Income	175,900	160,000	15,900	
Designated Donations	21,599	2,850	18,749	Memorials, flowers, FOM, etc.
Designated Program Donations	18,194	2,300	15,894	YMCA, Open Pantry, etc.
Earned Revenues	31,679	26,618	5,061	Parking Lot & Other Rental
Other Income	24,646	8,000	16,646	Gifts to Endowment; Sanford Trust
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>272,019</b>	<b>199,768</b>	<b>72,251</b>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Salaries & Related Expenses	219,454	222,295	-2,841	
Pension Plan Contributions	25,882	25,881	1	
Employee Benefits	32,542	33,488	-946	Workers Comp, Medical, etc.
Payroll Taxes	14,932	15,000	-68	
Other Personnel Expenses	18,576	8,500	10,076	Internet, Accounting, Legal, etc.
Non Personnel Expenses	6,487	10,100	-3,613	Banking fees, office supplies, etc
Copier	5,080	3,746	1,334	Copier Lease & supplies
Occupancy Expenses	78,948	78,565	383	Utilities, taxes, insurance
Buildings & Grounds	70,368	99,000	-28,632	Contracted services, etc.
Travel & Meetings Expense	125	600	-475	
Diocesan Assessment	40,170	40,170	0	
Education	1,390	1,800	-410	Adult, children, staff
Music	3,864	4,800	-936	Music, instrument maintenance
Outreach	7,202	3,390	3,812	YMCA, Open Pantry, HEM
Pastoral Care	120	300	-180	
Memorials	3,010	0	3,010	
Nan Dorr Fund Grants	6,809	0	6,809	
Friends of Music Expenses	2,296	0	2,296	
Clergy Discretionary Fund Assistance	769	0	769	
WOSP Group Expenses	-1,196	0	-1,196	
Advertising	0	200	-200	
3rd Floor Apartments Renovations	242,135	0	242,135	To be repaid from rental income
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>778,961</b>	<b>547,835</b>	<b>231,126</b>	
<b>NET OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>-506,943</b>	<b>-348,067</b>	<b>-158,876</b>	
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>				
Bicentennial Donations	21,088	0	21,088	Includes Donor Wall
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>21,088</b>		<b>21,088</b>	
<b>OTHER EXPENSES</b>				
Bicentennial Expenses	21,412	0	21,412	
<b>Total Other Expenses</b>	<b>21,412</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21,412</b>	
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<b>-324</b>		<b>-324</b>	
<b>TOTAL NET EXPENSES</b>	<b>-507,267</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-159,200</b>	
<b>SUPPORT FROM KEY INVESTMENTS</b>	<b>535,000</b>	<b>348,067</b>	<b>186,933</b>	3rd Floor Apartments 45.28%; Bicentennial .06%; General Operations 54.68% of Actual
<b>NET AFTER INVESTMENTS SUPPORT</b>	<b>27,733</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>27,733</b>	

**Open Doors Project, St. Paul's Church**  
**January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2025: unaudited**

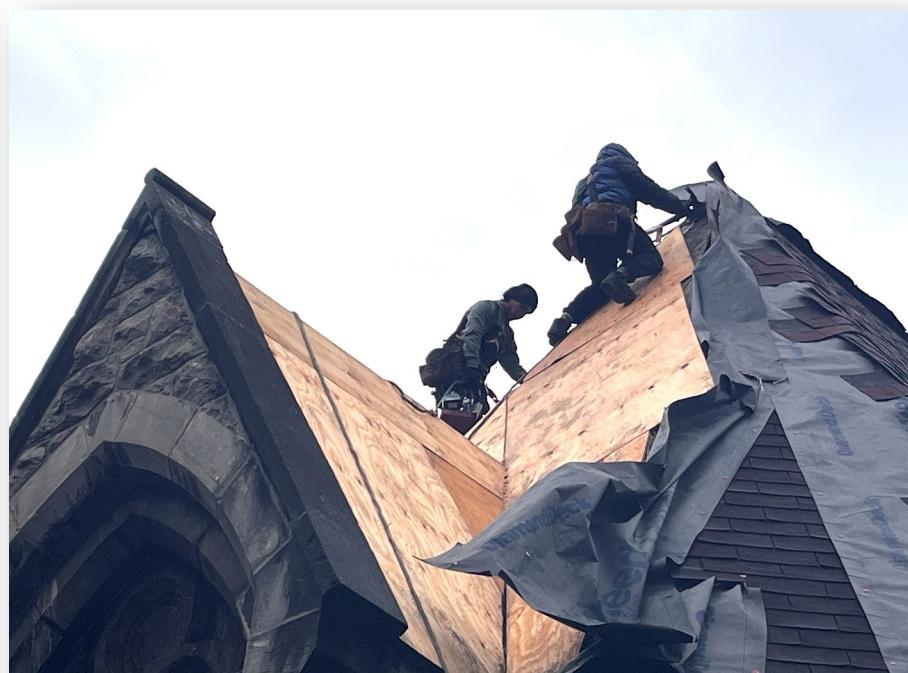
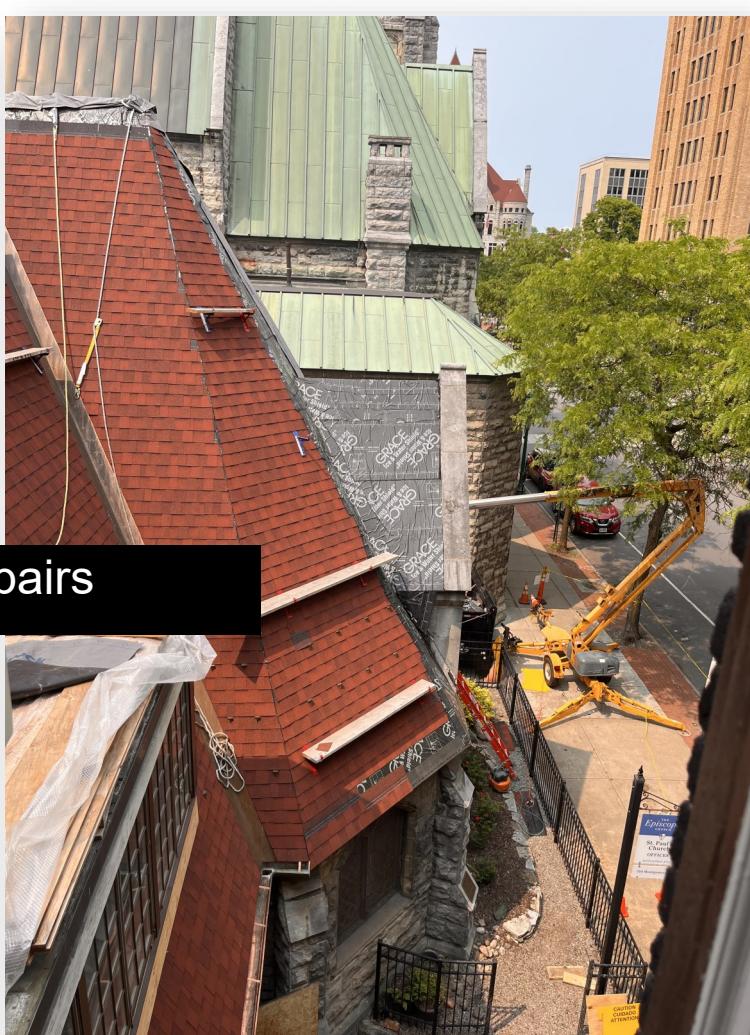
Due to the size of the Open Doors Project and being a multi-year project, a separate bookkeeping system from the general parish activities was established.

**Income: Pledged & Actual Received**

Government	556,988	New York State - EPF - Heritage Area Grant
Foundations	300,000	New York Landmarks Conservancy's Sacred Sites Program, Howard A. Drescher Foundation, National Fund for Sacred Places, Richard Mather Fund, VanWoerken Family Fund of the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation
Individuals	1,342,388	Individuals & former members and Community Members
Corporations	1,000	
Other Income	185,077	
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>2,385,453</b>

**Expenses**

Professional Services	249,847	Architect, Legal, Interest on Loans, Fundraising
Construction: Exterior	831,731	Masonry, Windows, Roofing
Construction: Interior	602,147	Elevator & Shaft, Fire & Security systems, Montgomery Street Entrance & Lobby, Kitchen
Construction: West Entrance	301,247	New West Entrance, Sargent Foyer & New Restrooms
Construction: Hazardous Materials Abatement	363,315	
Administrative & Office	29,191	
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>2,377,478</b>
	<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>-149,380</b>



**W**hile Open Doors project is finishing the interior and exterior renovations, B&G has been focusing on other maintenance and needs of the church buildings and property.

During 2025, several major projects are in the planning and construction phases.

**Repaving the Parking Lot:** The Eckel Theater was demolished in 1979, and the parking lot was created. Anyone, who has been in the lot, can see the result of 45-years of settlement. Terry Horst, landscape architect, has been preparing construction documents for rebuilding the lot. Current plans include: two new entrances from East Fayette street, new circulation pattern and parking space layout, excavating and removing old construction debris, installing a new layer of structural fill material, and new asphalt pavement.

**Third Floor Apartments:** Drulyk Construction is finishing up the interior renovations of the apartments: new kitchens and bathrooms, storm windows, hot water tanks, kitchen appliances, paint all rooms, and new flooring. In addition, other contractors are providing new heat pumps, new attic insulation, and electrical modifications, that will provide full heating and air conditioning. There are discussions about hiring a rental company to handle the operation, maintenance, and tenant relations.

**Internet Service:** The existing Spectrum cable, serving the church, presently goes through the Warren Street parking garage. The new Onondaga Hotel project has proposed demolition of the garage in the near future. Without relocation of the existing cable, that demolition would cut off our live-streaming of services, the telephone service and access to the internet. We have been meeting and discussing with Spectrum for relocation of the cables to maintain current service levels. In addition, maintaining existing services levels, we are looking to the future and have requested proposals for new fiber optic cable into the church buildings to provide increased capacity for the apartment tenants and Tiny Homes for Good spaces.

**Church Boiler Upgrading:** The 20-year old boiler needed new burners to extend its useful life. The replacement burners have been received by the contractor and will be installed soon.

**Bi-centennial Task Force & B&G Projects:** In September the two groups had a joint meeting to discuss all remaining renovation and repair needs. From the combined list, some projects will be done by volunteers, and some projects by contractors. The B&G projects include: storm window repair on the stained glass windows, copper roof repair, chapel hallway repairs,

**The (eager) Beavers:** A group of volunteers, finished construction of the new storage closet in the dining room, and are currently repainting the dining room.

**Kitchen items:** To put the final touches on the renovations, the commercial kitchen hood was repaired, cleaned, inspected, and certified. It is planned to install a new hand wash sink to meet Health Department requirements. Additional light switches and outlets are included in the Electrical Modifications.

**Electrical Modifications:** B&G collected the various needs requests for new items. With the new remote entry capability, people would be entering an unlit building, hunting for light switch locations. The new restrooms have occupancy-sensor light switches which automatically turn on and off the lights. The project includes replacing light switches to provide automatic on/off lighting from the parking lot to the parish offices. Additional outlets and switches are included for the church, kitchen and dining room.

**Future Planning:** B&G is developing proposals for a new janitor closet next to the office area, repair courtyard foundation & wall, new falling-ice guards for church windows, parking lot lights, and donor wall lighting, and hiring of a heating engineer to make recommendations for modifications of the parish house systems resulting from A Tiny Home for Good construction.

# Parish Choir & Music Program –

By Jim Potts, Organist & Choirmaster

Worship

**T**he choir continues to be a dedicated group of people who sing approximately 40+ Sunday services along with Evensongs and Advent Lessons & Carols.

Over the past year there were a number changes with the quartet due to family matters and job changes. Special thanks to Tessa Jensen-Hedgecock, Carole Brzozowski, Alex Bodenham and Andrew Sievers who supported the volunteers.

We offered Evensong for Last Sunday of Lent with a varied recital presented by Michael Guarneiri, a freshman organ major at Syracuse University.

We also presented Choral Evensong for All Saints' followed by a recital of works for English horn, oboe, bassoon and harpsichord by friends from the Syracuse Orchestra.

As is our tradition, we offered Lessons & Carols for Advent – one of the few parishes in the diocese who offer this wondrous service.



I am, especially, thankful for the support and encouragement of our parishioners for the music program.

## Friends of Music

By Jim Potts, Organist and Choirmaster

**T**he kind and generous contributions to this fund have again allowed us to enrich our liturgies and musical events, through the year.

This fund contributed to Evensongs and the recitals that followed. The Friends of Music also contributed to guest instrumentalists throughout the year.



Contributions to this fund in support of our musical offerings are always greatly appreciated.

## Lay Eucharistic Ministers

By Jeanne Chu

**L**ay Eucharistic Ministers (LEM) help with a vital part of worship: preparing and serving the Eucharist. We're also honored to serve as acolytes, crucifiers, and bearers of the Gospel book. We wear white robes as we serve, not as a sign of being special, but to be like 'a blank slate' or 'an empty page' as we hold each communicant in prayer. In 2025, Betsy Barker, Jeanne Chu, Jim Doyle, Tina Emanuelli, Tiffany Miner, Matthieu van der Meer, and David Webb served as LEMs. We welcome new volunteers!

We've been working on streamlining our scheduling and communications. Thanks to the team for joyfully serving and mutually supporting one another.

# Worship Ministry Team

By Laurie Sanderson

Worship

**T**he Worship Committee has met regularly through the year, planning for each season and reviewing how things were experienced. We are committed to keeping tradition alive. Many are stepping up and finding ways to serve. For this we give thanks.

## Altar Guild

By Rev. Philip Major

**T**he work of preparing the Altar for the celebration of the Lord's Supper is a sacred duty for the members of the Altar Guild. Members of the Altar Guild in 2025 included: Ruth Brown, Julia Fine, Ellyn Hass, DJ Igelsrud, Joe Russo, and Georgette and Tim Schmidt.

2025 was an important year of growth and transitions for the Altar Guild as the individual members of the team took on various elements of leadership of the team. Members of the team are sharing leadership by taking on extra tasks, such as:

- \* revising and maintaining the Altar Guild manual.
- \* laundering the fine linens used at the altar.
- \* ordering supplies for worship services.

By the end of 2025 the Altar Guild had welcomed several new members. We give thanks especially for the ministry and servant-leadership of several of our members who served faithfully for many years, shared their wisdom with us, and have stepped aside from regular Altar Guild duties: Ruth Brown, Julia Fine, Nancy and Harry Lambright, and Margaret Sherwin.



## Prayers of the People Group

By David Webb

**T**he Prayers of the People group writes prayers for Sunday worship. The goal is to have prayers that go along with the readings for the Sundays and Holidays of the year and repeating no more than twice. The prayer writers are David Morgan, Joe Morman, Joe Russo, Betsy Elkins, Laurie Sanderson, Jim Doyle, Margaret Sherwin, Tom Cantwell, Anita Wagner, Joseph von Souder, and David Webb.

## Communion Bread Bakers

By David Webb

**T**he Bread Bakers group provides home-baked bread for Holy Communion at the 10:00 am service on Sundays and Holidays. The importance of this ministry is signified by the procession of the Elements from the back of the Church. The bread bakers are Bob Wagner, Derina Samuel, Ellyn Hass, Betsy Elkins, Tim Schmidt, and David Webb.

# Flower Guild

By Marion Greenhalgh & Jim Potts co-chairs

Worship

**T**he Flower Guild (a subset of the Altar Guild) selects, purchases and arranges flowers for St. Paul's high altar, and for various other altars and locations, as needed, throughout the year.

Special requests for memorials, weddings, funerals, etc., can be made as we arrange flowers to honor loved ones and their special events. In general, the Guild uses weekly rotating teams of 1 to 2 people to make the flower arrangements throughout the year. Flowers are purchased at Best in Bloom off Thompson Road, or at a grocery store, Regional Market, or brought from home gardens. For Christmas and Easter we embellish our supply with flowers/plants from Chuck Hafner's and/or other local nurseries/farms. In addition, people can now sign up to honor loved ones any week of the year by offering donations for flowers dedicated for a special day. This will also be listed in our weekly church program. This sign-up list will be set out near coffee hour on a regular basis for a couple of weeks for any additions or corrections.

If you are interested in helping us with this very rewarding ministry, please join us! We will be glad to work with you, and desperately need new members. Our current members are: Harriet Averill, Tim Cassavaw, Betsy Elkins, Marion Greenhalgh, Chair, Liz Belden-Handler, Jim Potts, and Sandy



## Usher Ministry

By Barbara Bell and Ieva Doyle

**A**s head ushers for the 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. worship services, we thank everyone who has graciously given their time to serve as an usher over the past year. This ministry greets and welcomes people to St. Paul's for Sunday worship and other special services, and you are invited to join us!

Among the faithful ministers of God's welcoming presence among us are: Tim Cassavaw, Willson Cummer, Jim Doyle, Patricia Glavin, Harry Lambright, Amy Mangram, Doug Mouncey, David Ridings, Joe Russo, Derina Samuel, Georgette Schmidt, Tim Schmidt, Susan Stinson, Roy Thomas, Greg Tuttle, Joseph von Souder, Anita Wagner, and Robert Wagner. Thank you!



# Mission & Service

By Betsy Elkins, Convener

Mission &amp; Service

**I**t is interesting to reflect on the number and variety of mission and service activities in which the people of St. Paul's engage. There are so many ways in which we reach out to our community in service to others.

For example:

- We serve a meal together at the Samaritan Center at least 3 times each year and many parishioners have weekly volunteer shifts either serving or preparing food. Davida Highland coordinates this effort.
- We place food in the Open Pantry in front of St. Paul's to help feed hungry neighbors downtown. Additional information from Jim Doyle, who coordinates this work, can be found in this annual report.
- We host social events for our neighbors at the YMCA on Montgomery Street. Debbie Bogan coordinates this work and has provided more information in the annual report.
- We have a formal partnership with A Tiny Home for Good which provides housing for those at risk of homelessness. There is more information from Amy Mangram in this annual report.
- We collected funds to purchase gift cards for Interfaith works to help refugees purchase essential items. Jeanne Avery alerts us regularly of how we can support the work of Interfaith works.
- Many parishioners support the Haiti Education Mission which is led by Georgette and Tim Schmidt.

Our ministry team doesn't meet often as the work described above "just happens" thanks to those who coordinate our efforts.

## Common Threads Group



## Office Volunteers

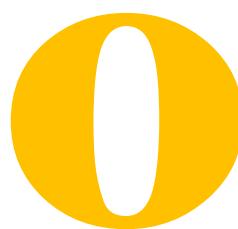
**W**e are so thankful to Betsy Elkins, Liz Handler, Kira Dirghalli, and Sandi Yingling who assist with various mailings, signing checks, making deposits etc. We couldn't do what we do without them all!



# —Open Doors Project Management—

By Betsy Elkins

Organization



pen Doors, our major construction project, has been a central focus for St. Paul's for over a decade! We planned, we consulted, we raised money (2.29 Million) through grants, and a remarkable capital campaign (over \$1.2 million from individuals) and construction began in the fall of 2023. Finally at the end of 2025 we completed this important project for us and for Syracuse.

We now have two lovely accessible lobbies. On the west side there is a new entrance to the Sargent foyer with new flooring, enhanced lighting, and upgraded toilet rooms. On the east side at the Montgomery Street entrance there is new flooring, lighting, and an elevator to the second floor. Roofs have been replaced on the parish house and over 70 windows were restored. A state-of-the-art security and alarm system was installed throughout the buildings. We constructed a large storage closet at the end of the Hansen Dining room and improved our kitchen with new lighting, flooring, fresh paint and a window! And before any of this could happen there was a huge abatement project to remove asbestos from the buildings.

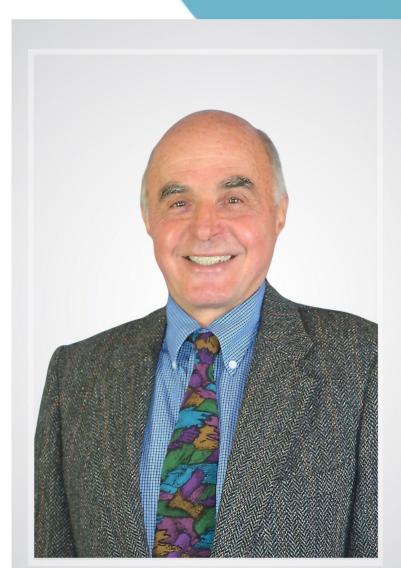
It was an ambitious and complicated project, and we are delighted that it is finished! We celebrated this accomplishment in the fall with a ribbon cutting event for the greater community and a gala dinner for our parishioners when we recognized the hard work of those who led Open Doors. The Preservation Association of Central New York (PACNY) honored St. Paul's at their annual meeting in December with a Stewardship award for our project.

To further celebrate and recognize those who donated to Open Doors, we commissioned Margie Hughto an internationally renowned ceramic artist to create a "wall of honor" in the Sargent foyer. This installation should be complete and in place in January 2026.

We now are looking to the future when A Tiny Home for Good will build tiny apartments on the second floor of the parish house.



David Garvey



Grant Dolge



Harry Lewis



Marilyn Sharron

IN LOVING MEMORY  
OF THOSE WE LOST IN 2025



# 2026 Bicentennial Steering Committee

by BSC Co-Chairs, Derina Samuel & Anita Wagner

Organization

**I**n 2026, St. Paul's Church begins its 200<sup>th</sup> year on May 16 with a commemorative, community-wide event, followed on May 22 with a worship service and gala dinner for St. Paul's congregation and friends. With celebratory events and activities envisioned through April 2027, please invite your friends and neighbors to join us during St. Paul's bicentennial year!

Your Bicentennial Steering Committee began meeting monthly in February 2025. It is comprised of eight task force chairs (below); wardens (Joe Moorman, Ieva Doyle); staff (Fr. Philip Major, Judy McAdoo-Pelton); plus, co-chairs Derina Samuel and Anita Wagner.

Approximately 35 SPC members serve on task forces:

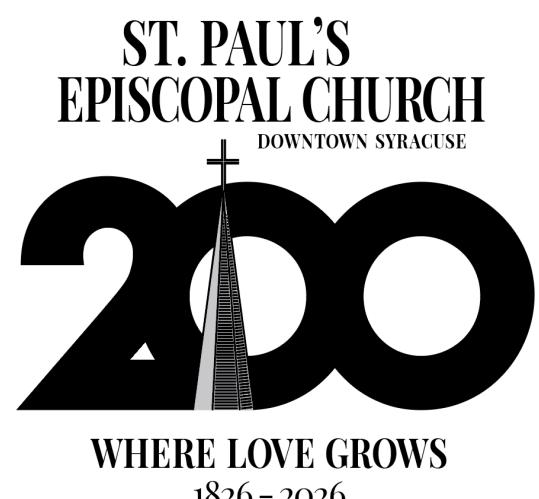
*History – Marion Greenhalgh.* Creating informative projects honoring St. Paul's rich history.

*Events – Joe Moorman.* Facilitating bicentennial-themed events and activities May 2026 through April 2027.

*Community Engagement – Betsy Elkins.* Strengthening our community connections.

*Building – Fr. Philip Major.* Coordinating finishing touches to the building.

*Promotional Goods – DJ Igelsrud.* Producing items to celebrate the bicentennial.



*Future Directions – Joe Russo.* Creating a vision statement to guide St. Paul's into the future.

*Open Doors Donor Wall – Catherine Gerard.* Keeping bicentennial planning in sync with the donor wall installation.

*Tiny Homes Partnership – Amy Mangram.* Developing plans for welcoming A Tiny Home for Good residents and staff to their new facilities in the Parish House.

# St. Paul's Staff

By Rev Philip Major

Organization

**T**o understand the work of our church staff, it's helps to know a bit of our history. In 2016 St. Paul's had three full time staff members, a half-time organist/choirmaster, and four part time staff members. In order to secure the long-term financial health of the parish, between 2017 and 2021 St. Paul's eliminated one full time staff position, and three of the four existing part time staff positions. This change brought three long-term results:

1. Financial: St. Paul's is in a much healthier financial position.
2. Volunteers: St. Paul's members have taken on more responsibility for duties that were previously the responsibility of staff members.
3. Teamwork: The remaining members of the staff work have taken on additional responsibilities. Our staff now works together more closely as a team. Several responsibilities are shared among staff members or shared between staff and church members.

In 2025, St. Paul's Staff includes seven individuals:

Mark King - The pandemic prompted us to make our worship services available through our YouTube channel. Mark King began serving as our technical engineer in August of 2020. Mark also serves as our technical services contractor. Through his work our church files and internet services have been made much more secure.



Cyrus Grant - Cyrus and his team from Dovesview LLC have served as our cleaning contractors since 2020.

Doug Mouncey - Doug first worked as an administrator at St. Paul's from 1987-2005. At the end of 2020 Doug stepped up to handle many of the loose ends that came from our reduction in staff. Given his deep experience at St. Paul's and with non-profit organizations in Syracuse, Doug is often the best person to address the needs and questions that come to our church office. Doug does all of his work as a volunteer.



Although his staff title is *Administrative Assistant* many of us think of Doug as our *Guardian Angel!*



The Rev. Philip Major - Fr. Philip came to St. Paul's in 2016 to serve as our rector. His leadership responsibilities include worship, pastoral care, administration, and communications.

Derek Lane - Derek has served as our security person since 2014. Derek skillfully handles one of the toughest assignments for a church in the heart of the city: treading the difficult path of welcoming everyone, while trying to keep our members safe, and our worship services focused on worship.



Judy McAdoo-Pelton - Judy is our operations manager. A member of our staff since 2011, Judy handles all of our financial transactions, builds and maintains our website, organizes and maintains program records and materials, works with outside groups, creates all sorts of communications materials, and is the communications hub for St. Paul's.



Jim Potts - Jim began his work as organist and choirmaster of St. Paul's in 1995. In addition to preparing music for the organ and the choir for all of our Sunday worship services, Jim organizes and leads all of the music for Lessons & Carols and Evensong services. For the last several years, in addition to his music leadership, Jim has taken on several non-musical assignments that draw on his extensive knowledge and skills. Since 2021 Jim has created all of our service leaflets and has overseen maintenance of, and repairs to, our building and mechanical systems.

## Church Life



# - The Caring Place & Open Pantry -

By Jim Doyle

"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink?' (Matthew 25:37)

**T**he Open Pantry is one way that St. Paul's continues to serve our community. It's a cabinet near the E. Fayette Street entrance where non-perishable food items are provided 24/7 to our downtown neighbors. This food primarily is donated by members of St. Paul's and others who live and work downtown and has fed hundreds of our downtown neighbors since its inception in 2020.

THANK YOU to all who are helping to serve Christ in our neighbors through donations of food and financial resources to The Open Pantry!

A special THANK YOU to everyone who daily restocked the shelves of The Open Pantry in 2025: Larry Almeida, Liz Belden -Handler, Barbara Bell, Michelle Breidenbach, Willson Cummer, Kira Dirghalli, Harriet & Karen Dross, Betsy Elkins, Derek Lane, Fr. Philip, Amy Mangram, Doug Mouncey, Dick Pilgrim, Susan Stinson and David Webb.



YOU can help feed our hungry neighbors by bringing food and personal hygiene items to the Fayette Street narthex entranceway on any Sunday morning or by placing them directly into The Open Pantry cabinet. And on the third Saturday of each month between 10 am and 12 noon, we provide curbside pickup of your donated items.

WE NEED YOU!! You can help The Open Pantry by continuing to provide food, personal hygiene and financial donations. Also, please contact me if you'd be willing to serve as a shelf re-stocker.

The Open Pantry is a way to faithfully respond to Jesus' call to Mission in Matthew 25 to provide food and drink to Christ in our neighbor.

**Welcoming New Members**



# YMCA Ministry

## By Debbie Bogan, Parish Liaison

Mission & Service

**T**his ministry began in 2015 by Deacon Chuck Stewart. What started out with serving a holiday meal to the 30 senior residents at the Downtown YMCA, flourished into a fine fellowship with our downtown neighbors. Our relationship with our Y neighbors is extremely welcome to them. It's a mutually successful and important relationship as well!

The current active members of this ministry team (volunteers and financial donors) include Anonymous Angels, Barry Pickard, Betsy Elkins, Chet W., Chris Deets, Chuck Stewart, Cyrus Reed, David Morgan, Debbie Bogan, DJ Igelsrud, Doug Mouncey, Ellie Major, Georgette and Tim Schmidt, Hal Brown III, Jeanne Avery, Jessica King, Jim and leva Doyle, Judy McAdoo-Pelton, Joan Sammons, Joseph Von Souder, Kira Dirghalli, Laurie Sanderson, Ruth Brown, Sandi Yingling, Sophie Harris and Sue Stinson. Activities at the YMCA in 2025 included socials with food and beverages, delivering holiday plants and greeting cards made by the Sunday school children, and Debbie Bogan sending out birthday postcards made by Judy McAdoo-Pelton and get-well cards. A new activity this year was a sing along led by Tim Schmidt on his guitar. Another new activity this year was watercolor and rock painting classes taught by Joseph Von Souder.

Donations of goods to the Y seniors included new towels by Debbie Bogan, clothing by leva Doyle, knitted scarves by Sue Stinson, and clothing and books by Sandi Yingling.

The little house open pantry has been a source of supplemental food for many of the Y residents. Based on the many notes of thanks that we have received from Y residents and staff, we know that our relationship with the Y is meaningful to them.



### YMCA Ministry Through the Year



# A Tiny Home for Good

By Amy Mangram

Mission &  
Service

A Tiny Home For Good Committee Members Fr. Phillip, Betsy Elkins, Doug Mouncey and Amy Mangram

**A** Tiny Home for Good will construct ten studio apartments, along with community space and offices for case workers, on the second floor of our parish house. These residences will provide safe, affordable, and dignified housing for men over the age of 55 who are experiencing housing insecurity. Beyond offering shelter, the project will create opportunities for residents to connect with one another and build meaningful relationships that strengthen our wider community.

a tiny home  
for good.

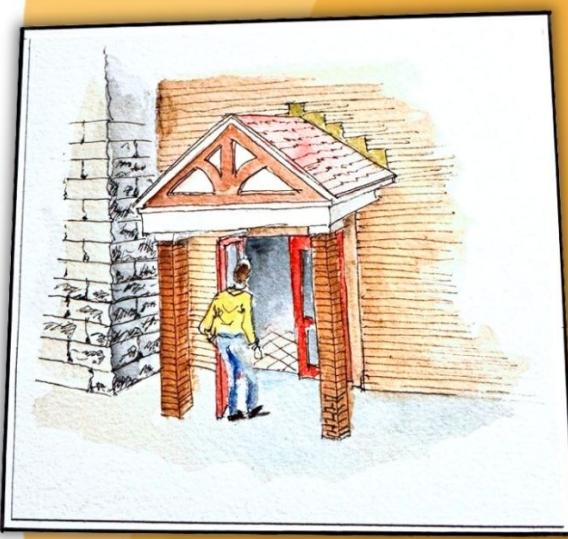
Over the past year, our partnership with A Tiny Home for Good has deepened. We moved from a memorandum of understanding to a formal lease agreement, approved by both the Diocese and the State Attorney General. This important step reflects our shared commitment to addressing housing needs with compassion and collaboration. Together, we also co-hosted a Thanksgiving lunch, celebrating fellowship and the bonds that unite us.

Looking ahead, we are excited to continue nurturing this partnership. We anticipate more opportunities for shared meals and gatherings as A Tiny Home for Good works to secure the remaining funding needed for the second-floor buildout of the parish house. We extend heartfelt thanks to our parish members and neighbors whose support makes this vision possible.



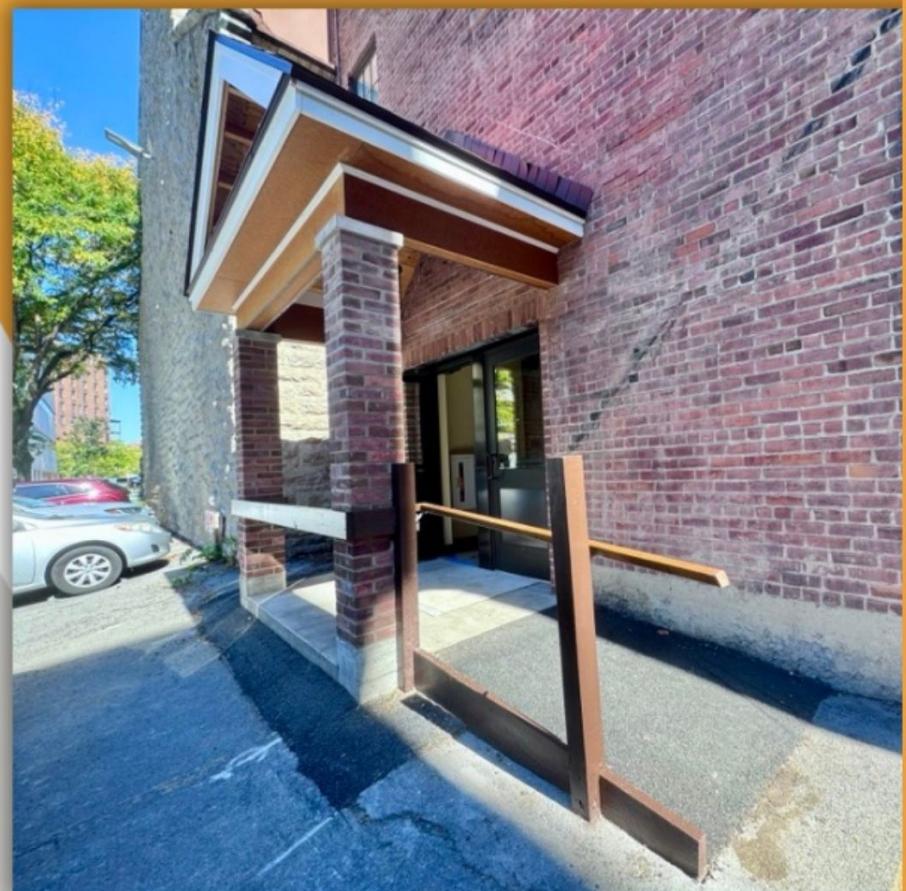
**Thanksgiving Meal  
served to the Tiny  
Home for Good  
Community**





**Open Doors  
Before & After**

## The New West Entry



# Formation Ministry Team

By Jeanne Avery

**T**he team consists of: D.J. Igelsrud, Jeanne Chu, Laurie Sanderson, Sue Wright, Dick Pilgrim and Rev. Philip Major.

Two of our programs have enjoyed using Zoom and will continue. For many years Laurie Sanderson has coordinated Feminist Theology. On Zoom, now the group chooses a book and meets for a series of time, then takes a break and reschedules with a new book. People have moved across the country and stay in touch through the program. Sue Wright meets weekly on Zoom as well, leading Contemplative Studies & Practices. This also is a longstanding program. Dick Pilgrim has resigned his position as the coordinator of the St. Paul's Readers. He has been so faithful for so many years but now is planning on traveling. We will miss him but wish him well.

Two of our programs meet weekly. Fr. Philip leads the weekly bible study discussing the lessons for the coming week. His group has doubled in size this year. Children's Ministry is open every week in the Chapel. The Rev. Phyllis Palsma spent many hours converting the chapel into a proper Godly Play environment. We are very grateful and has as an extra bonus created a schedule for lessons for the entire year. She, also, has donated many storytelling props. The children in our program now age from 2-8. Barbara Bell and Kira Lane are in attendance every week.

To find a program you are interested in please check the calendar on our website or in the Courier. Our first program on the series of Aging and what you need to know" was held in November. We have scheduled monthly through May with guest speakers presenting their programs. We have waited two years to do this. They are scheduled for the second Sunday of each month.

## Contemplative Studies & Practices

By Sue Wright

**T**his group, which meets weekly, is engaged in an on going study of contemplative sages and mystics, from a variety of faith traditions.

In the first half of our one-hour sessions, participants share their responses to an excerpt from a previously chosen text. Over the past year, these texts included: Meister Eckhart's sermons and essays, Marguerite Porete's *The Mirror of Simple Souls*, Shunryu Suzuki's *Zen Mind, Beginner's Mind*, and Bernadette Robert's *No Self*. Currently, we are discussing Thomas Keating's *That We May Be One*.

The second half of each session is dedicated to contemplation, which usually consists of Centering Prayer, but may include other contemplative practices. In Centering Prayer, we spend twenty minutes in silence, letting go of all thoughts, feelings and images as outlined by Thomas Keating and Contemplative Outreach, the organization Keating founded.

By exploring and comparing a variety of contemplative traditions, we hope to rediscover the ancient mystical teachings of our Christian faith. Following the Reformation and the Western turn to reason, these teachings fell out of favor. In the last half century, monastics, like Thomas Keating and Thomas Merton, turned to Western and Eastern teachings and practices to recover, what was for centuries, an integral component of the Christian faith experience, at least within the monastic tradition. Centering Prayer was developed as one way to share this experientially based wisdom with the general population.

We invite you to join us Wednesdays at 4:30 PM on Zoom. To receive the Zoom link and the current readings, please contact Sue Wright at [swright14620@yahoo.com](mailto:swright14620@yahoo.com).

# Bible Study

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## By Rev Philip Major

**S**t. Paul's Bible Study meets most Mondays at noon in the Brewster Room from January-May and September-December. Each week we read and reflect on the scripture readings assigned for the following Sunday worship service. In 2025, regular participants included Jeanne Avery, Chris Dietz, Kira Dirghalli, Betsy Elkins, Mark Farrington, Laurie Sanderson, Tim and Georgette Schmidt, Susan Stinson, Anita and Robert Wagner, and Sandra Yingling. New participants are always welcome and no preparation is required!

In 2025 many of our members attended a Summer Bible Study series, held on Sundays in June and July. Each Sunday featured an overview of one of the four Gospels.



# Feminist Theology

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## By Laurie Sanderson

**F**eminist Theology continues! For over twenty years, we have lost track of our beginnings! During Covid, we switched to Zoom and chose to stay that way, as we have had long time members who have moved away continue to connect. All contribute to suggesting books or articles to read. Our usual meeting time is the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm. ALL are invited to attend.

# Community Fellowship Ministry Team

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## By Liz Belden-Handler

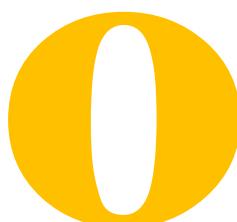
**T**he Community Fellowship Committee shall, in consultation with Father Philip and other relevant staff, help to plan, implement and oversee all planning relating to parishioner and community activities. We are all so grateful that we have our kitchen and dining room back! We have already hosted a Symphony reception-with more to come next year-and have had two wonderful potlucks. Our regular meetings haven't started back up, but will start soon. We are looking forward to many more gatherings this year. We love providing food and fellowship to everyone.

Our Members are: Elizabeth Belden Handler, Chair, Tiffany Miner, Margaret Sherwin, Sophie Harris, Jeanne Chu, Julia Fine, Barbara Bell, Marcia Anderson, Betsy Elkins, Tom Cantwell, Joseph Von Souder, Tina Emanuelli, and Laurie Sanderson. We are always looking to include more people. We'd love to have you join us!

# Pastoral Care Team

by Rev. Philip Major

Community  
Fellowship



ur Pastoral Care Team met about four times during 2025.

At our meetings we:

- \* consider which members of the parish might appreciate some extra support in the coming months, and make a rough plan for providing some extra support.
- \* distribute some important tasks among us, such as sending Birthday Cards to members.
- make plans for seasonal pastoral care efforts, such as the distribution of plants to members who are unable to attend services in person.



In our work together, one of our primary concerns is to respect the privacy of our members. In our conversations during Pastoral Care meetings, we share minimal information about the personal circumstances of our members.

Regardless of whether you attend Pastoral Care meetings, you play an important role in Pastoral Care at St. Paul's. Pastoral Care is part of the culture of our congregation. Members watch out for one another. People take the initiative to reach out to others. At St. Paul's the pastoral care goes in every direction you can imagine. Most of this happens without any organization on our part, just inspired by God working gently and quietly among us.

With gratitude for the many ways you care for one another,



## St. Paul's Children's Formation



# Nan Dorr Endowment Fund

By Sandi Yingling for the Nan Dorr Fund Committee



**N**an Dorr was a beloved member of St. Paul's Church for many years. When she passed, her family decided to honor St. Paul's by sending us the earnings off a special fund. A committee was appointed to receive requests and oversee the distribution of the funds. This past year the committee (Joan Sammons, Chair; Marion Greenhalgh, Correspondent; and Sandi Yingling) received 4 requests which were approved and passed to Vestry for their approval.



Submitted by Fr. Philip and Jim Potts: \$3,926 for the purchase of twelve 60-inch round tables, 35 stacking banquet chairs, and six chair carts.

Submitted by Sandi Yingling: \$330 for the purchase of twelve white and six burgundy tablecloths (stain and wrinkle-resistant) for said tables. We are grateful to the volunteers who took the tablecloths home to wash and dry in time for our Gala dinner.

Submitted by Jeanne Avery: \$152 for the purchase of eight children's Bibles and eight first-reader Bibles.

Submitted by the St. Paul's Church Bicentennial Events Task Force (Jim Potts, Jessica King, Barbara Bell, and Joe Moorman): \$2,050 in support of the performance fee of a Bicentennial concert at St. Paul's Church by the Hohenfels Trombone Quartet.

We wish to express our appreciation to the family of Nan Dorr who honored us with the earnings and we hope that they are pleased with our decisions.

Your Nan Dorr Fund Committee

## Women of St. Paul's

By Ruth Brown

**T**he Women of St. Paul's & Friends attended a luncheon at the Century Club on February 22. It was well attended and the guests enjoyed the music of clarinetist Brian Earle and Syracuse's own Hanna Richardson, guitarist, who was "born to sing!" A set of upbeat tunes from The Great American Songbook from the 30's and 40's, were played and sung.



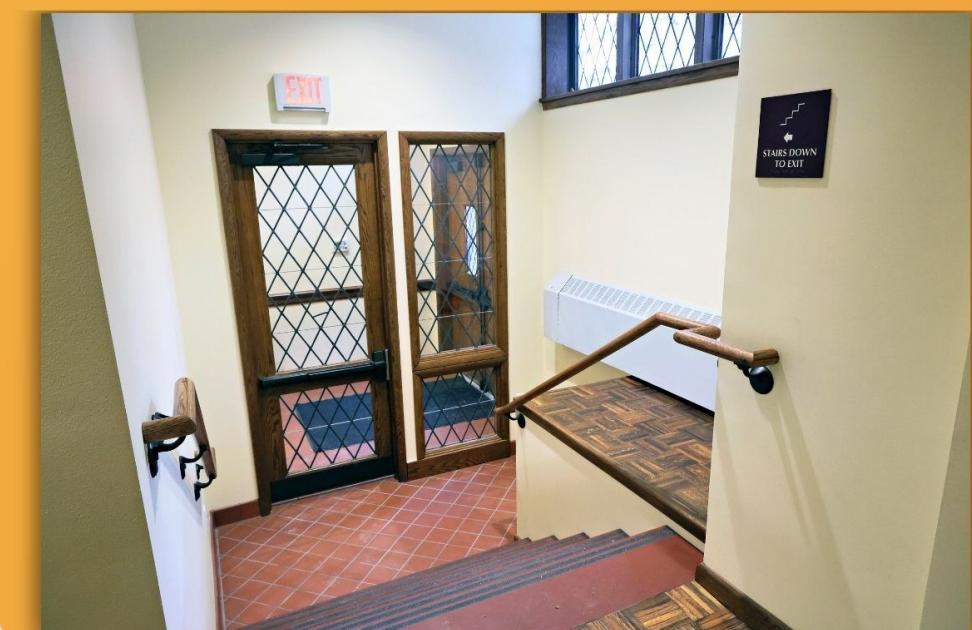
Another luncheon was held at The Mansion on James on June 14th with music provided by tenor Jonathan Howell and pianist Lucas Myers. Jon was a former member of St. Paul's and has performed in the Syracuse Opera in over 15 productions. Lucas featured a variety of musical styles with his piano that incorporated poetry and prose.

Both concerts were very enjoyable.

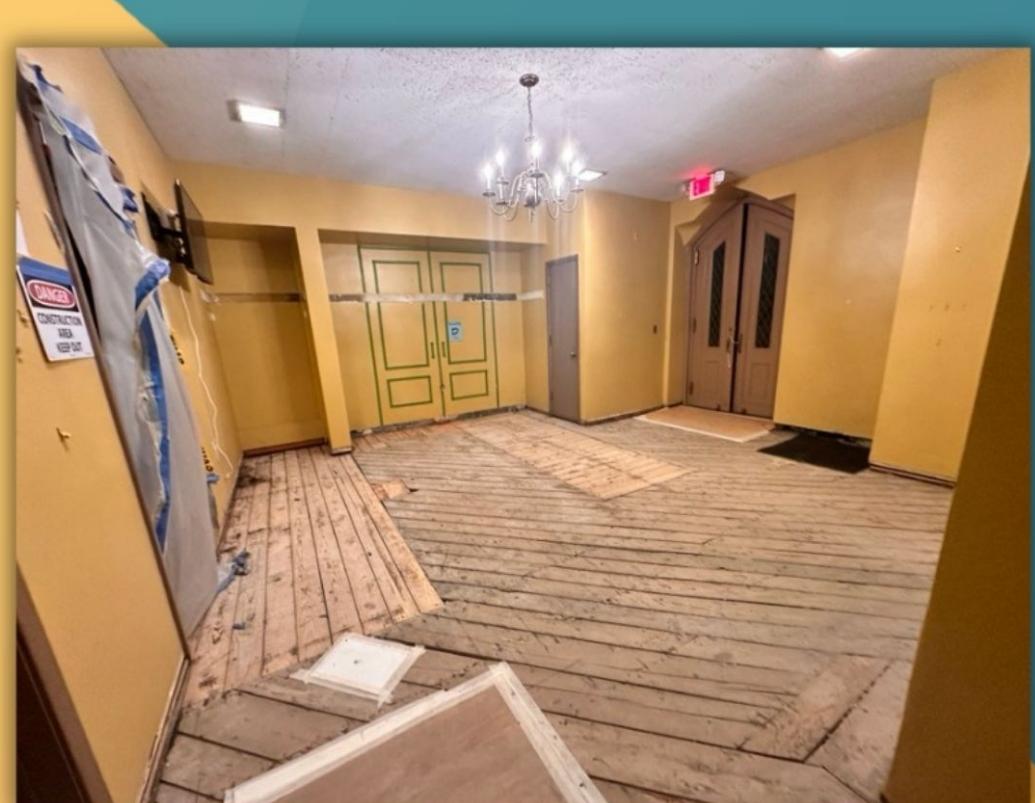




## Elevator Lobby Montgomery St. Entrance



## Open Doors Before & After

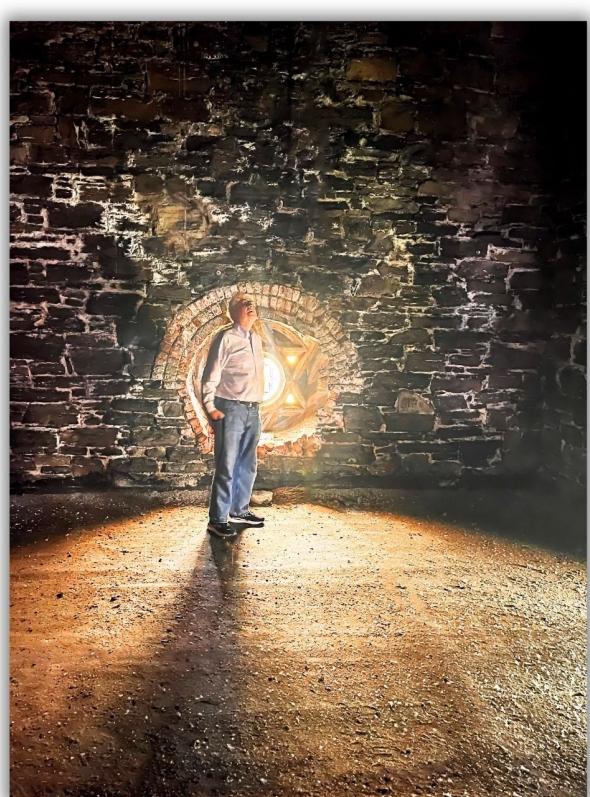
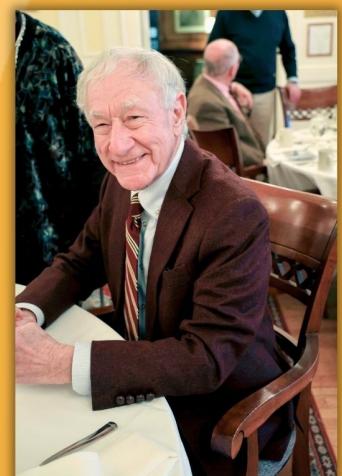


**Open Doors  
Before & After**

**The Sargent  
Foyer**



# Open Doors Ribbon Cutting



## Church Life

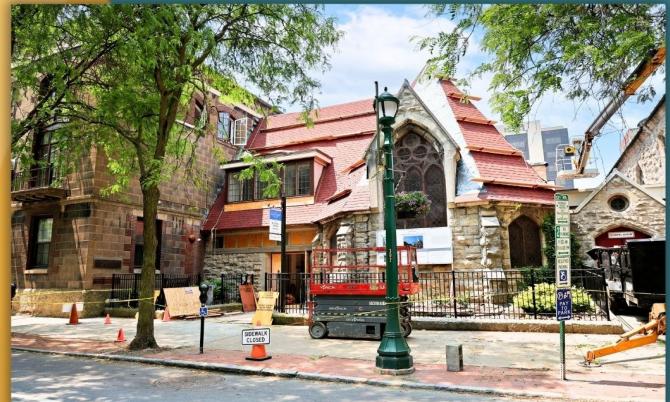


Before and After Hansen Dining Room

## More Open Doors Project Photos



The kitchen moved into the dining room



Roof repairs



The new floor, fridge & kitchen window

Asbestos abatement at the beginning of the project



The new restrooms in the Sargent Foyer

The new drinking fountain