God’s Doors Are Open To All

St. Paul’s new rainbow doors are being well received in the neighborhood.
Minutes of January 2019 Annual Meeting

Present: The Rev. Philip Major (rector), Doug Mouncey (Senior Warden), Laurie Sanderson (Junior Warden), Betsy Barker and David Webb (Clerk).

The meeting was called to order at 11:41 am.

The Rev. Philip Major opened with a prayer.

Corrections to the minutes of 2018: The year in the minutes was incorrect and is changed to the previous year (2017).

The minutes were approved as corrected.

Nominating Committee chair Laurie Sanderson presented the following candidates for Vestry:

Betsy Elkins for Junior Warden.

Mary Hastings, Rebecca Livengood and David Webb for three-year terms.

Tom Cantwell for a two-year term to fill an unexpired term vacated by Denise Dolge.

No nominations were made from the floor.

MOTION: Harry Lewis moved and Elizabeth Handler seconded a motion for a single voice vote to elect Betsy Elkins to the position of Junior Warden.

The motion was carried.

Betsy Elkins was elected Junior Warden by voice vote.

MOTION: Richard Pilgrim moved and Betsy Elkins seconded a motion for a single voice vote to elect Mary Hastings, Rebecca Livengood and David Webb to three-year terms.

The motion was carried.

Mary Hastings, Rebecca Livengood and David Webb were elected to three-year terms by voice vote.

MOTION: Betsy Barker moved and Doug Mouncey seconded a motion for a single voice vote to elect Tom Cantwell to a two-year term.

The motion was carried.

Tom Cantwell was elected to a two-year term by voice vote.

The Rev. Philip Major closed the meeting with a prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:57.

Respectfully submitted,

David Webb
Minutes from the January 2019 Annual Meeting
Agenda
Vestry and Junior Warden Nominees
Rector’s Report
Senior Warden & Junior Warden Reports
Treasurer’s Report
Worship Ministry & South Sudanese, Children’s Ministry
Foundations Seminar, Wednesday Service, Vestry
Choir, Friends of Music, Formation Ministry, Pastoral Care
Flower Fuild, Altar Guild, Communion Bread, Vergers
Buildings and Grounds, Mission and Service, YMCA Ministry
First Friday, Samaritan Center
Soup, Community Fellowship, Outside Events, Bible Study
Women of St. Paul’s, Communications, Common Threads, Office Volunteers
Women’s Retreat, Feminist Theology, Movie Night, The Caring Place
Photo Gallery
Staff, Baptisms, In Memory of Those We Lost

Some great pictures from our Annual Meeting held in January 2019.
Retreats & Spending Time Together
Agenda of Annual Meeting
January 26, 2020
11:00 a.m.

1. Announcement of officers for the Annual Meeting
2. Approval of minutes of January 27, 2019 Annual Meeting
3. Nominations for warden and vestry from the Nominations Committee
4. Balloting
5. Rector’s Address
6. Discussion
7. Treasurer’s Address
8. Discussion
9. Closing Prayer

Our 2019 Junior and Senior Wardens; Laurie Sanderson and Betsy Elkins

Edith Russell and Sue Wright

2019 Leadership Retreat
Nominations for 2019

Nomination for Vestry: Dick Pilgrim

I have held a number of leadership positions at St. Paul’s over the last ten years, including two separate terms as warden, at least two terms as a member of the vestry, two terms as convener of the Formation Ministry Team, chair of the most recent rector Search Committee, and a number of other positions on a variety of special task forces, ministry teams, ad hoc committees, and etc. In the meantime I enjoy being a part of the choir, and more generally a part of the SPC community. I am an emeritus professor of Syracuse University (Religious Studies, College of Arts and Sciences), and enjoy both teaching occasionally at Oasis (a senior citizen continuing education program through the SUNY Heath Center), and pursuing my musical interests by singing in a variety of local chamber choirs. I am married to Neva Pilgrim – who also keeps me busy --, and we have two adult sons, Jonathan (living in Munich with our daughter-in-law and two grandchildren) and Jason (living locally).

Nomination for Vestry: Michael Yuot Mach

Michael Yuot Mach is my name after baptism in which I was named after Michael, the Archangel. Prior I was fully known Yuot Mach Thon Chol Ajuong. I believe in Jesus Christ as my savior. Through Him, God, and the Holy Spirit all things are possible. I believed strongly that my presence today above ground was God's planning. My very presence today in this great country of the United States was God's planning. The simple fact that am about to serve in the vestry at the St. Paul's Cathedral Episcopal Church was God's planning. These things in the present and more in the past I overcame are testimony to that very essence of my faith that God has preplanned purposes for each and every soul, be yet to or already breathing.

I survived two devastating starvations, civil and local wars of survivals, two massacres, diseases in the wilderness in which I sought survival for most of my early childhood, wild animals on land and in the Nile waters (where I learned swimming and fishing), refugee life internally and externally in the Kakuma refugee camp in northern Kenya, and now my modern life since 2001 in the United States, one of the most technologically advanced country on this God’s created earth. Now without God's preplanned purposes for each and every soul would I be here after all that I've been through? Each and every mentioned step of my life journey to this very second, writing this short bio regarding the Vestry am about to serve in it holds more reasons to why my faith in God had been the family and friend I entrusted all along with me to this very day.

Nomination for Vestry: William ‘Bill’ Pitcher

I received a Bachelor of Architecture degree in 1973 from Syracuse University. I worked 11 years in Syracuse University’s Design and Construction Department, then worked 3 years for an engineering firm, and finally started my own firm, which is still operating. My practice has focused on light commercial and residential designs. I have been in Syracuse since 1967, started attending St. Paul’s in 1975, and have been singing in the choir since, except for a couple of years. I was confirmed in 1984 at St. Paul’s. I joined the Buildings and Grounds committee for 20 years beginning in 1986, was the project manager for St. Paul’s roof replacement in 1991, and served one term on the vestry, beginning in 2007.

I am amazed at all of individual ministries that our church family members have created and sustained with their time and resources. I hope to bring to the Vestry my professional knowledge and experience, as we grapple to find financially feasible uses for our buildings. I also want to focus on how we can increase our reach-out to the down town residents, and become even more of a neighborhood church.
Nomination for Warden: Tom Cantwell

While St. Paul's is not my childhood parish, I have certainly come to see it as my home now. Eleven years have passed since our first-class choir led me to approach Jim Potts and ask if he might consider me for membership. After 28 years in Texas, I was interested in establishing ties with a Syracuse church, and especially one with a strong music program. Things happily went well, and the Choir was only the first undertaking, my looking for ways to support St. Paul's, often answering a call from another to help.

Nothing marks me or my time here more than Buildings and Grounds, a tenure of over eight years, working always with a great committee and Building Manager to maintain the physical assets of the parish. And because the Finance Committee is key to planning and eliciting support for specific projects, I have also kept membership in that group as well. Considering what everything costs today, it is a real Balancing Act every year for the Vestry to decide how much can reasonably be dedicated in the Budget to Capital Projects. There never seems to be enough.

Finally, there is the Open Doors Building Project of the Parish House, overdue, developed with great care for over three years, addressing mission, accessibility, empty space and greater financial stability. From the beginning I have worked with the Task Force, full of optimism, and cannot easily describe my reaction to events of recent months. Yet I remain confident we have, collectively, the wits and wherewithal to "figure things out". And I treasure our sense of Christian community, among ourselves and toward others. As I have confidence in our members, I hope that they have confidence in me, too, in particular supporting me for a leadership position in 2020. St. Paul's is our current members, the running story of how we follow Jesus and how we secure our future!

The Ordination of John Rohde into the Priesthood

St. Paul's was honored to be a part of the Ordination of John Rohde held on December 14, 2019. A truly joyous occasion.
Rector’s Report
—by The Reverend Philip Major

And the word became flesh and lived among us. John 1:14

The incarnation of divine love in the person of Christ Jesus affirms God’s presence with us. Jesus’ ministry with the poor and the rich, the strong and the weak, little children and widows, men and women and people of diverse nations, affirmed the sacred possibility of all parts of life: the sublime and the mundane, times of joy and times of despair. We look back on the activities and work of 2019 upholding all parts of our life as a community, giving thanks for God’s presence with us in every moment.

Faithfulness & Change

St. Paul’s is a place of great faithfulness. Our members serve with constancy and serious commitment. For 38 years our members have been serving those in greatest need in our community at the Samaritan Center, which was housed within St. Paul’s Parish House for 34 years. Thanks to the leadership of our members we maintain good relationships with our neighbors, especially the residents of the YMCA Senior Apartments. A group of our members serve breakfast to dozens of vendors during Arts & Crafts Weekend. We continue to reach out to serve our neighbors through our annual Rummage Sale.

Faithfulness also entails the necessity of looking at our situation with open minds and open hearts. At the beginning of 2019 a small group of leaders began looking at the need for a place of hospitality and kindness for those in need of healthy, stable relationships in our downtown neighborhood. Working with a number of community partners we refined our initial idea, originally brought to our congregation at Annual Meeting in January of 2019. Twelve members and friends of St. Paul’s attended training sessions during the summer and tested the idea in pilot program sessions. In October our twelve volunteers, led by Jim Doyle, began opening the doors of The Caring Place each Thursday. Each week alternating teams of six volunteers seek and serve Christ as they welcome 15-20 neighbors into a place of conversation, recreation and safety.

For decades St. Paul’s has been a community of learning, a congregation where we take Christian Formation seriously. Formation as followers of Jesus starts with children. Attendance in our children’s Sunday School classes has been more regular during 2019, with a small group of children attending during 10 a.m. worship and a slightly larger group attending during Sudanese worship. In a way that is more powerful than I have experienced in any other church, St. Paul’s Adult Formation team continues to create and promote a large variety of formation programs for adults, including Sunday Forums in the Hansen Dining Room and our Wednesday evening Foundations Seminar.

If we hope to be faithful, we have to take care of the practical parts of our church community. Our Office Volunteers continue to serve our congregation in many ways, from helping with bulk mailings to answering the phone and greeting people who come to the office door. Our Building and Grounds committee oversees maintenance, repairs and improvements in our buildings. During 2019 the Women of St. Paul’s worked with our Building and Grounds committee to support the installation of new radiators in the Brewster Room with funds from the Nan Dorr endowment. Thanks to their efforts we are warmer while saving money on our heating bill.

In some situations, we are required to make changes in order to maintain stability. If you have ever worked to balance your budget at home, you will understand that maintaining financial stability at St. Paul’s sometimes requires us to make changes. Members who have served a term on our Vestry or Finance Committee know that income from our investments produces more than half of the income for our church budget. Our Finance Committee worked closely with our Vestry in the development of our church budget in 2019. The efforts of these leaders are partly responsible for the fact that our investment accounts grew steadily during 2017, 2018 and 2019.

Continued on the following page
Our Executive Ministry Team meets just four times each year, yet it considers and guides many of our most important events and activities, ranging from the practical to the visionary. Our Vestry has served as a beacon of stability and vision for St. Paul’s during 2019. Our vestry has also been in the center of several important changes to our worship space in the past year, including the refinishing of the floor in the front of the nave and the creation of a toddler and infant friendly family seating area at the back of the nave.

Faithfulness means spending time together and enjoying fellowship together. For years many of us have enjoyed a time of fellowship and delicious food during First Friday dinners, led by our head chef, Carol Decker. On a much smaller scale, we have one Foyers group which continues to meet, more than twenty years after their first dinner together.

Faithfulness means paying attention to our relationships with our community partners. We are blessed to have long-term relationships with a great variety of organizations, including: three 12-step programs, the Illini 4000 bicycle group, the Diocesan Youth Program, Symphoria, the Syracuse Community Choir, the Poister Organ Competition and a number of other music organizations. Each of these partner organizations serves people and upholds the value of humanity in their own way.

Faithfulness means paying extra attention to those in need. Our Pastoral Care team meets each month, paying special attention to members who have difficulty making it to church, those who are sick and others who need some extra support. We made one significant change to our pastoral care ministry in the past year, training three additional Eucharistic Visitors to bring communion to people in their homes or in hospital or nursing facilities. Members of our Community Fellowship committee took the lead in providing hospitality and welcoming visitors to St. Paul’s for receptions following funerals and other special services.

The most constant element of our parish life is our worship. Worship is at the center of everything we do. A large group of our members contribute their gifts and energy to making Sunday morning worship a time of contemplation, welcome and beauty, including our Altar Guild, Lectors, Vergers, Ushers, Acolytes, Flower Guild, Communion Bread Bakers and those who write or lead the Prayers of the People each Sunday. A small group meets for Wednesday Noontime Eucharist with Healing Prayers from September through May.

Somewhat paradoxically, in order for our worship to continue to be vital, we need to look for opportunities to try something new. In 2018 our small team of prayer leaders began offering Prayers for Healing and Wholeness during communion. In 2019 this practice is now an established part of our Sunday worship services.

Each year hundreds of new residents move into apartments within walking distance of St. Paul’s. In 2019 we have been considering changes we might make in our programs to respond to these changes in our downtown neighborhood.

Continued on the following page
In the fall we began a long-term effort to open our doors to residents of our neighborhood through an increasing number of Sunday afternoon worship services. As a start we have added several Taize inspired worship services, with music led by a dozen or more musicians who have taken on the collective name: St. Paul’s Consort.

One of the most visible new ideas regarding worship in recent years is the creation of a monthly worship service called The Feast. The Feast is guided by two of our members, Adrienne Atterbury and Sue Wright. The primary motivation is to create an informal worship and fellowship activity that is welcoming and accessible for people who are not currently members, and especially for younger adults. These attempts at trying something new seem to be working!

Unity & Diversity

St. Paul’s is a community that embraces our diversity and our unity as the body of Christ. Following the ideals of St. Paul, we see ourselves as being stronger for being a community that includes people coming together from diverse nations, neighborhoods, towns, economic circumstances, social backgrounds and political perspectives. We include among our members a significant number of members of Sudanese heritage. Our Sudanese Congregation meets on Sunday afternoons and continues to use Dinka as their primary language. Our members bring diverse skills and interests to St. Paul’s, manifested in a wide range of activities including Common Threads, Science & Spirituality and Feminist Theology groups.

Our Communications Team has the responsibility of trying to strengthen communications among our diverse group of members, as well as communications with our larger community. The Communications Team continues to develop new ways for St. Paul’s to reach out with new and better communications, including systematic efforts (like the Ride Board) and ad hoc initiatives (like the Rainbow Doors).

Each September we invite our team leaders and vestry members to come together for St. Paul’s Leadership Retreat. Our 2019 retreat included a powerful articulation of the stories of our members; during the retreat each leader shared one or more anecdotes of inspiring events taken from interviews with more than 60 members. This work was inspired and guided by processes and materials brought from the College for Congregational Development.

Many of our members feel a strong connection to St. Paul’s beautiful, historic buildings. Many of us also feel a strong connection to our neighborhood, in the heart of Syracuse, a crossroads and a meeting place for citizens of all backgrounds and occupations. St. Paul’s has been part of this neighborhood for nearly 200 years, and has been part of the neighborhood longer than the city and most of the institutions of the city. (The post office was here first!)

St. Paul’s Open Doors Project is a long term effort to repair and preserve our buildings, increase the accessibility and use of our buildings, support the development of downtown Syracuse, strengthen St. Paul’s as a center for ministry and mission in the city, and strengthen the financial position of St. Paul’s Church. The plans for the project are the result of several years of work by a task force (previously called Shaping St. Paul’s Space) led by Rebecca Livengood. Plans for the project have proceeded through a number of iterations. The current plans can be seen as the strongest and perhaps the most conservative of all of the versions. State and national organizations have responded enthusiastically to the proposal of the task force, with over $800,000 in grants awarded in support of the project as of the end of 2019. It is especially remarkable that, though our members hold diverse views about what is most important within the proposal, our congregation is united about the
main elements of the plan and in our appreciation for the work of the Open Doors task force. As people striving to be the body of Christ in this time and place, we are strengthened by our diversity and our unity.

Joy & Grief

In 2019 we found ourselves in situations of deep grief and great joy. The grief was in the deaths of too many of our loved ones: Annette, Bruce, Jeanne, Jeanne, Joe, Kathy and Letty. The joy was streaked throughout the year in gatherings of our members, large and small.

The joy was in our hearts as we sat and sang and worshipped with friends during Lessons & Carols, Evensong, Maundy Thursday and other special liturgies. The joy was in Movie Nights hosted by Mark. The joy was in the fellowship of the Women’s Retreat. The joy was in the sound of St. Paul’s Choir: antiphonal psalms, processional hymns, gorgeous solos and sublime anthems. The joy was in the meeting of old friends and the making of new friends at a Wednesday Soup Lunch. The joy was in the happy hum of Monday Bible Study at Cafe Kubal. The joy was on the faces of 20 children at St. Paul’s Summer Day Camp. The joy was in the singing around the piano on a sunny afternoon during our Advent Retreat. The joy was an enormous wedding on June 1st with 200 guests worshipping and celebrating and joining in fellowship in the Hansen Dining Room. The joy shot through most every Coffee Hour of the year, with members trying to fit a fifth chair around the card table to include another person in the conversation, while an almost-one-year-old crawled speedily across the floor of the Brewster Room.

In some way we do not fully see or understand, God has been beside us through all of it: through the joy and the grief, through the faithfulness and the changes, in our diversity and in our unity.

I give thanks. I give thanks to be here, with you. I give thanks for the love and grace of God that has brought us to this place. I give thanks for the grace and love of God revealed in the faithfulness of the people of St. Paul’s.

One of the most joyful of occasions this year was the wedding of The Rev. Philip Major to the Rev. Kathy Corley! We couldn’t be happier for them.
Senior Warden’s Report
—by Laurie Sanderson

My first thought when I was reminded of the need for an article for the Annual Report was, "I all ready did this for the January Courier, read my article!" But I will thank you again for the honor of serving as a warden of this wonderful community of St. Paul's, the Downtown Church! We have faced/are facing some challenges, have said goodbye to some we have loved, and shared in some special joys. What makes serving at St Paul's a special honor is the way the community works together with our priest to celebrate, teach, and serve God. We are open to the Holy Spirit guiding us as we let go of some activities and open our doors and hearts to other ones, (I am thinking of The Caring Place as I write this.)

I want to thank Father Philip for his commitment and leadership, Betsy Elkins, my 'other half', the Vestry, others who serve, and our wonderful staff, Judy, John, Jim, Debbie, Amy, and Derek, for all they do to help us at St. Paul's, carry on our work.

Junior Warden’s Report
—by Betsy Elkins

I have written something for each Courier issue this year (except for the November issue when I took a mini sabbatical) have written about many things including our building project, giving up plastic for Lent, feeling rejuvenated after Easter, the powerfulness of the women’s retreat, the excitement of all the things we are doing at St. Paul’s as part of the downtown rejuvenation, stewardship and evangelism! It has been interesting to have this regular platform to express what I am feeling and thinking at the time. What can I write now that hasn’t already been written?

While I might have been looking forward to retiring from the Vestry a year ago (next year I really will!) this has been an exciting year for me and for St. Paul’s and I anticipate more excitement in the year ahead. In all my musings and writings this year I do see some common themes: change, challenge, transition and growth. I have heard it said that change (which often brings challenges) is the only constant we have. And change leads to a transition and hopefully growth. I expect those themes will continue into the next year.

During this last year Philip, Laurie and I (Rector and wardens) have met weekly. We start each meeting with observations and feelings, rather like taking our individual pulse and that of the whole congregation. What is working well for us, for what are we grateful, and what needs our attention? It reminds me of the discussion my grandkids have each night about the thorns and roses of their day! It has been a real honor to work with both Philip and Laurie in this way as we each bring something different to the conversation and we have supported each other as we work together to support St. Paul’s. I thank them both for being such wonderful colleagues and friends.

When I told my grandson that I no longer work, he said, “Yes, you do! You work at the Church.” While that is true, I am not working alone, any more than I did in my career. There are many of us working together at the Church, and that is what makes this “job” so fulfilling. The sense of community and family here at St. Paul’s is remarkable and is what will sustain us into the future as we move forward with our Open Doors building project. Yet as with any church, family or community there is always room for more help. I encourage everyone to find a place or places where they can help St. Paul’s. What is your passion, what do you wish for our faith community and how can you be part of that?

I look forward to serving as the Sr. Warden, a continuing partner with the new Junior Warden and our Rector, and continuing to “work at the Church.”
Special Times at St. Paul’s
## St. Paul's Syracuse
### Budget vs. Actuals: FY 2019 Budget - FY19 P&L
#### January - December 2019

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<td><strong>$326,375.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>-$5,591.00</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Other Expenses</strong></td>
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<td>0.00</td>
<td><strong>5,677.43</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Other Expenses</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Net Other Income</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Net Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>$31,332.08</strong></td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td><strong>$31,332.08</strong></td>
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</table>
Our year 2019 was generally successful financially. As we were close to or over budget in most of income accounts, especially pledges and rentals. Our expenses were also in line with our budget and our utilities expenses were better/lower than expected. We did not have our fall fund raiser event which affected the amount of income we received. We also did not do some needed repairs to our building as we expect that they may be paid for by grants which we received near the end of 2019. Our most significant financial issue is that we have been withdrawing more than our standard 5.5% from our endowment/investments. This is something that we need to correct for the long term financial viability of the church. We had a clean opinion on our CPA audit for 2018, which likely helped us in receiving some grants that we applied for.

Our operating account shows a surplus for 2019 of $31,332, but this is really because of the amounts that we are transferring from our endowment/investments. We are really only able to cover about half of our expenses from our operating revenue; the rest is coming from special donations and transfers from our investments.

Our investments/endowment continue to do well because of the stock market being at record high levels and the professional management provided by Key Private Bank. Their value as of 12/31/2019 is $5,846,128.00.

I once again thank all of the members of the Finance Committee who work monthly to monitor our finances and try to improve them. Their wisdom and experience are of much value to SPC and to me. The 2019 members have been: Walley Francis, Doug Mouncey, Tom Cantwell, David Ridings, Rebecca Livengood, Ron Ferguson and Jeff Averill. Father Philip and Judy McAdoo-Pelton also attends our meetings. If any parishioner would like to join the committee, please contact the Wardens or myself. We welcome new members, especially from newer and younger members of St. Paul’s.

On a personal note, I will not be at the Annual Meeting as I will be at my second home in Florida where I will be spending more time in the future.
Worship Ministry Team
—By Betsy Barker

During 2019 St. Paul’s Worship Ministry Team included representatives from our Acolytes, Altar Guild, Choir, Community Fellowship, Flower Guild, Lectors and Ushers. Betsy Barker served as convener and Jim Potts served as clerk. Members of the team include; Julia Fine, Art Friedel, Mary Hastings, DJ Iglesrud, David Morgan, Betsy Barker, Laurie Sanderson, Cathy Wolff, Carolyn Grieb, Jim Potts, organist and choir director and the Rev. Philip Major, rector. Our Worship Ministry Team meets almost every month of the year to plan for the coming season and share communications among the different worship ministry teams.

As is often the case, 2019 brought some significant changes in the area of worship. We have three vergers who continue to serve at our 10 a.m. worship services. This is not a sufficient number to be able to schedule a verger for each Sunday of the year. For 2019 we decided to enlist a verger to lead the procession on a group of seven or eight high Holy Days, including Easter, Pentecost, All Saints and Christmas Eve.

At the same time we have a group of leaders who offered prayers for healing during worship services beginning in June of 2018. Members are invited to come to the Peace Altar to receive prayers for healing for themselves or for others during the distribution of communion. The response from our congregation has been strong so we will continue this new element of our worship service in 2020. We have also added a Taize service, which we will continue this year.

In celebration of our acolytes.

South Sudanese Congregation
—By Dut ‘Abraham’ Deng

The year 2019, was a wonderful year. We have enjoyed support from St. Paul church leadership. Father Philip Major has been with us via our ups and downs.

We have been worshipping here at St. Paul’s from 12:30pm to 2pm, and also we have celebrated four major holidays at St. Paul’s; thanksgiving and we have spent $250, Christmas Eve and we have spent $500 for our pockets, Christmas day and New Year for combined together, we have spent $ 1300, in which $500 was a gift from St. Paul for new year celebration party as usual.
St. Paul’s Annual Report

St. Paul’s Children’s Ministry

—by Debbie Santucci, Children’s Ministry Leader

St. Paul’s Church responds to the call to support families in caring for their children’s spirituality and unique gifts. In 2019 the combined efforts of parishioners at St. Paul’s encouraged children and young people to take their places in the life and worship of the church.

Children who acolyte and minister as lectors received encouragement and support from many including Betsy Barker, D.J. Igelsrud, and Mary Hastings.

When a middle-schooler had the idea to collect clothing for the needy, Father Philip and Jim Doyle accepted the offer and coats for “The Caring Place” began to fill a need.

10 a.m. and 12:30 Sunday school classes continued to welcome all who visited. Substitute teaching efforts were led by Laurie Sanderson, Nancy Lambright, Debbie Bogan, and Denise and Grant Dolge. Bodo Rasoanirina shared responsibility with me for the 12:30 S. Sudanese class. Father Philip provided much needed support in planning through the liturgical year as well as substituting at 12:30.

Father Philip also provides some of the best traditions of St. Paul’s Church Camp. Returning campers look forward to baking bread with our priest, this year for The Samaritan Center. Singing camp songs accompanied by Father Philip on his guitar is a perennial favorite, this year he added harp accompaniment to our telling of the Exodus story in 2019. The planning team and camp volunteers were incredible. Kira Dirghalli, Jeanne Avery, Sophie Harris, Grant and Denise Dolge, Staci McHugh, and Bodo Rasoanirina suggested and implemented art projects, yoga, service projects, games and more. Their skill and dedication can’t be beat. Judy McAdoo-Pelton photographed us, staying after hours so next morning the children could enjoy the posters she composed. John Pizzi made plans come together. Our lunches were all provided by Tom Cantwell, Mark McGrath, Jean Stanton, and Liz Belden-Handler, who also took care of planning. Thank you! And we are so grateful to Steve Pekich and to Mariah for assisting him in tennis instruction in 2019.

St. Paul’s attraction for children at the annual Street Art Festival in July was possible because of Grant Dolge, Jim Doyle, Mark McGrath, and David Webb setting up and breaking down the canopy and contents. Young festival goers and our Sunday school children painted side by side in front of St. Paul’s on E. Fayette St.

Thank you to Betsy Barker and her grandchildren Maisie and Charlie for fundraising with bottles and cans for St. Paul’s Children’s Formation!

My great appreciation to St. Paul’s Formation Committee members Dick Pilgrim, Jim Doyle, Tom Cantwell, Nancy and Harry Lambright, and Sue Wright for their kind, constant support of Children’s Formation programming. Great thanks to St. Paul’s 2019 Vestry and our supportive congregation.
**Foundation Seminar**  
—By Rev. Philip Major

Our Wednesday Evening Seminar continued to meet through 2019. In previous years our seminar group used materials from the Education for Ministry (EfM) program. In the Spring of 2019 our group made the decision to end our relationship with the EfM program, primarily due to the high cost of the EfM program. In September we resumed our studies together under a new name, *The Foundations Seminar.*

In our previous three years our members have studied the Hebrew Scriptures of the Old Testament, the New Testament and the history of the Church.

This year we are studying eight primary themes in theology:
- The Spiritual Journey
- Approaches to Holy Scripture
- Incarnation
- Our Relationship with God
- Suffering
- Kenosis
- Ethics & Community
- Creation

Each week we read articles or excerpts from one of the great spiritual writers of the past 2000 years. We meet in the Brewster Room most Wednesdays at 4 p.m. and explore the meaning of the materials we have read and consider their relevance for our lives.

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**Wednesday Healing Service**  
—By Rev. Philip Major

Every Wednesday, from September through May, we hold a simple noontime service, with Communion, Prayer for Healing and a celebration of one of the Saints recognized by the Episcopal Church, taken from the publication *Holy Women, Holy Men.*

We consider our Wednesday 12:10 worship service to be a time of worship and a time of service to our downtown neighborhood:

- We open the church doors and welcome people in during the noon hour when hundreds of working people are walking in our downtown neighborhood. Some of them are looking for, or ready to discover, a quiet, safe place to pray and be wrapped in God’s presence.
- This small, simple service is welcoming to those who are familiar with Episcopal traditions and to those who are not.
- Regular attenders find strength in the readings, prayers and communion service.

*Photo by Post Standard Photographer Dennis Nett*
St. Paul’s 2019 Vestry was comprised of nine members: Jenifer Breyer, Dut Deng, Elizabeth Belden-Handler, Tom Cantwell, DJ Iglesrud, Staci McHugh, Mary Hastings, Rebecca Livengood and David Webb. Our Vestry was led by Laurie Sanderson, Senior Warden, and Betsy Elkins, Junior Warden. Terri Clark served as Clerk of the Vestry, Walley Frances served as Treasurer, and Doug Mouncey served as Assistant Treasurer.

Our vestry is the most important decision-making committee of the church. Vestry members represent the congregation and are the only committee members elected by vote of the entire congregation. The Vestry considers and makes formal decisions regarding many individual topics of concern which can be grouped in three broad areas:

1. **Fiduciary**: The Vestry is responsible for ensuring the finances and property of the church are maintained and used in a way that promote the security and long-term health of the church.
2. **Administration**: The Vestry has responsibility for overseeing the diverse activities of the church, from staff to emergency planning to use of the building by outside groups.
3. **Vision**: St. Paul’s Vestry has taken on the responsibility of looking back and looking forward with a concern for the growth and continuation of our ministry as the church of God in downtown Syracuse.

St. Paul’s Vestry has taken on this third responsibility through its support and guidance of the Open Doors project and through other visioning activities. Our Vestry, together with the leaders of all of the committees and ministry teams of the church, met for one such visioning activity in September: our fourth annual Leadership Retreat. At our 2019 Leadership Retreat we examined data gathered through interviews and straw polls to consider our strengths and weaknesses in four areas:

1. **Member Actions**
2. **Life in Community**
3. **Study & Learning**
4. **Worship & Prayer**

Our Executive Ministry Team is fairly unique to St. Paul’s, and could be considered as a smaller partner to the Vestry. The Executive Ministry Team is comprised of the Rector, the Wardens, and the conveners of the Mission & Service, Formation, Community Fellowship and Worship Ministry teams. The Executive Ministry Team provides additional guidance and support in the areas of **Administration** and **Vision**, listed above. The Executive Ministry Team meets quarterly but could be called upon to meet in a time of crisis if that were necessary. With its smaller membership, the Executive Ministry Team is able to support the vestry and the congregation with agile leadership.
I would like to thank the Choir for their dedication and hard work throughout the past year. This fine group of dedicated musicians contributes so much to our liturgies, as evidenced by their quality work and the large number of volunteer hours throughout the year!

Aside from our regular Sundays, we found ourselves involved in other various musical venues throughout the year. A few highlights include an Evensong for Epiphany with a recital of baroque works presented by Jessica King (bassoon), Arthur Lewis (viol da gamba) and James Potts (harpsichord), and Choral Evensong for Saint Michael & All Angels with an Organ Recital featuring Elliot Ringwald, a graduate of the University of Oklahoma. The Choir offered the popular service of Advent Service of Lesson and Carols the first Sunday of Advent.

Through the generosity of the Nan Dorr Endowment Fund and Friends of Music, an Apple iPad was purchased for the music program.

Our section leaders/soloists included Hannah Lambertz, soprano; Cassidy Chappini, alto; Arthur Lewis, tenor; and the bass position remains unfilled. With hearty congratulations, Daniel Fields left to pursue a graduate degree at USC after six years with us. We appreciate their contributions as well as all members of the Choir for our successful program.

The kind and generous contributions to this fund have again allowed us to enrich our liturgies and musical events offered for the church and the community at large. Some of this year’s highlights include the recitals following our Evensong services, and a brass quintet for Easter Day.

The proceeds from our annual Christmas wreath sale also benefitted the Friends of Music – our thanks to Margaret Sherwin for leading this endeavor.

Contributions to this fund supporting our musical offerings are always greatly appreciated. In conjunction with the Nan Dorr Endowment Fund and Friends of Music, an Apple iPad pro was purchased for the music program.
Pastoral Care
—By Laurie Sanderson

Pastoral Care, also known as Parishioner Care, meets regularly to assist our priest. In the care of our community are those who are shut ins or hospitalized, those that we see on Sunday mornings, and those in our neighborhood. We have visited the home bound, brought communion to them, and helped out with special needs in the church as needed. We also oversee the delivery of flowers to shut ins after Christmas and Easter. We are keeping the prayer shawl ministry going, now giving some to Upstate Hospital for their pastoral care. We also have gathered food to share with All Faith Food Pantry on the north side and the YMCA. It is an honor to serve God in this ministry. If you feel God calls you to this ministry, join us.

Formation Ministry Team
—By Dick Pilgrim, Convener

The Formation Ministry Team oversees or has under its purview all educational or formation programs – generally to include the children and youth programs on the one hand, and all adult programming on the other. While our Sunday School handles the former, a perhaps little known fact is that there are a number of different programs that constitute adult formation, including -- for example --Bible study groups, Feminist Theology, The Feast, Science and Spirituality, EfM (now replaced by the Foundations Seminar), and individual adult formation programs and presentations most often on Sunday mornings.

Since most of these programs are self-sufficient (they run on their own), you will know about them by their own advertising, announcements, and notices; the Team has little need to get involved. Rather, much of the Team’s work is devoted to planning adult programming on Sunday mornings, and keeping tabs on such off-campus programs as The Feast (which, by the way, exists in part to reach out to younger generations coming along).

In recent years, and for adult programming purposes on Sundays, the Team has identified a general theme for the program year, and then tried to plan individual programs around that theme. For example, this year’s theme (2019-2020) is “Life and Community in America: Christian Engagement, Christian Response”. Briefly this means that -- given concerns about societal and justice issues such as gun violence, racism, climate change, incarceration rates, and etc. -- as Christians we are faced with the question of how to engage and respond. What are we called to do in this or that situation? How can we help “repair” the wounds? These issues fall directly under the rubric of Christian morality and ethics, and our programming this year has/is reflecting that. (The recent special presentations on racism and incarceration issues in December and January are good examples.)

We invite all parishioners not only to spread the good word about our children’s program, but to get involved in one or another of our particular programs for adults. And more to the point about the latter, to attend our Sunday programming and make suggestions for future programs. Perhaps some will be interested enough, then, to join us on the team!
The Flower Guild continues to mourn the loss of our beloved Co-Captain Jeanne Greenhalgh, whose extraordinary flower arranging was only surpassed by her loving kindness. Sandy Wiley decided to step down as Co-Captain, and Denise Dolge has agreed to step in as the new Captain of the Flower Guild. She has been gratefully relying on help from all the members listed below, some who are returning to the Guild and some who are new to flower arranging.

Flowers are arranged to honor loved ones, with special arrangements for weddings, funerals, confirmations, and special liturgies such as Easter and Christmas. The Guild members are particularly grateful for the extra help many church members provide for these special events and church festivals.

For funds we depend on donations given in memory or in thanksgiving of loved ones, or to commemorate special events.

The Flower Guild currently has four teams consisting of 2-3 members each, who alternate with arranging the altar flowers each week. We are always looking for new members. Generally, you will only be committing to a few hours one day a month to arrange flowers. You don’t need any experience – you will be part of a team that will gladly train you.

Current members:
Harriet Averill  Betsy Barker  Liz Belden-Handler  
Betsy Elkins    Sophie Harris  Marion Greenhalgh  
Sandy Wiley     Denise Dolge  Jim Potts       
Art Friedel     Helen Reed-Ferguson

In memory of Jeanne Greenhalgh who created such loving displays for all to enjoy.
Altar Guild
—By Julia Fine, Chair

The Altar Guild prepares the Sanctuary for Eucharist Services. Where there is a Eucharist service, there are members of the Altar Guild (generally a team of two) working behind the scenes in preparation for the Lord's Supper. The details are many, but the outcome is a rewarding experience.

The Altar Guild Ministry is made up of unsung heroes who dedicate about an hour or two, once a month preparing for the weekly Eucharists. Last year (2019) we added 4 new members bringing us to a current total of 8. They are: Nancy Lambright, David Morgan, DJ Igelsrud, Ruth Brown, Mary Powell, Bodo Rasoa, Patricia Glavin and our latest addition - Mark McGrath. We are grateful for all of them for their contributions.

Communion Bread Bakers
—By Julia Fine

The Communion Bread Baking Ministry has become an extension of the Altar Guild. Bread is baked for communion beginning in Advent and continues through Pentecost Sunday.

We thank the following persons who were the Communion Bread Bakers for 2019: Betsy Elkins, Rev. Philip Major, David Webb, Mary Hastings, Carolyn Grieb, Derina Samuel and Laurie Sanderson.

If you would like to join the Altar Guild, please contact Julia Fine. If you like precision and attention to details, you will find this to be a rewarding experience.

Vergers
—By Wendy Hoblyn Jones

Since the beginning of 2019, a limited Verger schedule has been in place. A Verger has led our worship on the most prominent feasts of the church year: Annual Meeting (January); Palm Sunday; Easter Vigil; Easter; Pentecost; All Saint’s Day; and December 24 (9p.m.) Christmas Eve. If anyone is interested in being a Verger, please contact Wendy Jones (jpjones@syr.edu) and we will be pleased to welcome you to our ministry.

Wendy Hoblyn Jones, Roy Thomas and Becky Livengood.
The Buildings and Grounds Standing Committee worked through the past year with one eye on the Open Doors Task Force, both groups concerned with the current and future state of the Church, Parish House and Parking Lot. As chairman, I want to start this report by expressing my thanks, in no particular order, to the loyal, faithful members of the Committee: Art Friedel, Walley Francis, Marion Greenhalgh, Father Philip, George Anderson, Laurie Sanderson and Doug Mouncey. Jim Doyle left retirement and returned to his job, but he remains interested. At the end of the year Greg Tuttle inquired about joining the group, and in January he attended his first meeting. And always at the center of much of the discussion, Building Manager John Pizzi, whose knowledge of the buildings and his good humor never fail. Ours is a cooperative and sociable group.

The biggest project of the year was the completion of masonry repair work on the exterior of the church, the financing of which was helped greatly through the award of two grants: $6,800 from our Diocese and $6,000 from the New York Landmarks Conservancy.

St. Paul’s now has an Emergency Procedures Plan, an effort spearheaded by Marion Greenhalgh and assisted by Doug Mouncey. Linked to that was the installation of Emergency Lights and Exit signs in the church and Parish House. Many were replacements, some new.

A significant improvement was the extension of the heating run in the Brewster Room, in part financed by the Nan Dorr Fund, and approved by the Women of St. Paul’s. The room is surely the most used space in the building, with meetings throughout the week, receptions of all kinds, and regular Hospitality on Sunday.

St. Paul’s made efforts to be more visible outside the church by hanging banners, between two trees and on the corner of the building. Another eye-catcher was the row of doors, painted in the “Rainbow” colors, that stood in front of the North Wall near the Peace Altar door as long as weather permitted. They will come back.

Inside the church, the carpet at the front of the nave was removed, the floor repaired, sanded and sealed, thus marking a big change in the look and in the acoustics of the interior. At the back of the center aisle, John Pizzi created a new safe space for young children and their parents, an area sporting a rug, a rocking chair and toys.

There were many other repairs that could be mentioned, but two seemed important: replacing the bulkhead (wooden cover) to the Fayette St. entrance to the cellar and strengthening the attachment of the decorative wooden friezes high in the Hadley Chapel. The bulkhead had been damaged and was a hazard, and our finding that a large wooden frieze had fallen, where someone could have been sitting, was frightening.
Through this Annual Report, you will find a number of articles and photos of the various Mission & Service activities of 2019... more commonly referred to as Outreach. With that in mind, my report will be short.

First, I want to thank all of our members who did serve as volunteers at these activities. Also, at the risk of missing someone, I do want to extend my thanks to the following individuals who coordinated particular efforts... Deb Bogan for our work with the YMCA Senior Residents program; Carol Decker for her umpteenth year as lead chef of our First Friday Dinners (profits raised support international activities in Central America and South Sudan); Betsy Elkins for all she is doing on behalf of the Samaritan Center; and, Jim Doyle who not only coordinates The Caring Place activities but has been in the streets in all sorts of weather to advise potential guests of our activities. As a member of the Cristosal Board, I could speak at length about the impact that is being made to address issues of human rights violations with *durable solutions* throughout Central America. As a Thursday morning volunteer, I could speak further about the work of the Samaritan Center as each guest is welcomed with *respect* and *dignity*. And, as I come to know the guests of The Caring Place, I can say that our goal of creating a *safe place* and *relationships* with the guests is exceeding our dreams.

**YMCA Resident’s Activities**

—By Debbie Bogan

The following are the highlights of our participation with the residents of the YMCA in 2019:

The YMCA seniors received birthday and Christmas cards from St. Paul’s. They also received Valentine cards from St. Paul's Sunday school. The Y residents attended many St. Paul's events, including soup lunches, the summer picnic, First Friday dinners, The Caring Place, Movie Night, and the summer garage sale.

St. Paul's helped the seniors plant container gardens outside their downtown YMCA apartment building. St. Paul's attended the YMCA fall cookout for their residents.
We appreciate the musicians and everyone who make our services so very special.
First Friday Dinners
—By Carol Decker

It’s always interesting to look at the past year as a whole. We held nine First Friday dinners, with none in January due to weather. In June I handed out a First Friday Survey. There was a 30% return on them. This is a summary of changes made based on the survey:

- Beginning in September, we offered a vegetarian entrée at every dinner.
- People felt the price of dinners could go up to $12, so it did in November.
- No more Lock Up Volunteers. We asked four people to be our permanent clean up crew; Bodo Rasoa, Jean Stanton, Hal Brown III and Mark McGrath. They receive a free dinner and a gratuity of $10 each. They have been a wonderful addition to the people who make our dinners successful.

The following people are the backbone of First Friday dinners; Beverly Bolton, Judy McAdoo-Pelton, John Pizzi, Mary Powell, Carolyn Grieb, Mark McGrath, Nancy Lambright, Ron Ferguson, Betsy Barker, Staci McHugh, Ruth Brown and Gretchen Stappenbeck.

In 2019 our average attendance per dinner was 42, with a high of 65 and a low or 31. The average cost per dinner was $4.26. The average income per dinner was $9.91.

Debbie Bogan continues our ministry with the Y, and several people who live there come to dinners often. Doug Mouncey writes grants twice a year that increase the amount of First Friday profits for donations to Cristosal, the South Sudan, and Episcopal Relief and Development.

I’m always looking for people to help cook, especially on Thursdays. Menu suggestions are welcome. Please get your reservation to Beverly Bolton by Wednesday, noon before each dinner and honor it. Thank you to all who contribute and come to First Friday dinners. It’s a pleasure to be of service.

Serving at the Samaritan Center
—By Betsy Elkins, Chair

On three Sundays in 2019 we served the mid-day dinner at the Samaritan Center. Since we are now required to prepare the food either at the Samaritan Center or in our kitchen we generally raise money for the Samaritan Center to purchase and prepare the meal. Last February we did prepare meatloaf and mashed potatoes for over 200 people in our kitchen and transported it to the Samaritan Center. This was wonderfully received by the guests there.

In 2020 we will serve the Sunday meal on these dates: May 17, June 21, and October 11. Your contribution of cookies, money or help preparing, serving and cleaning up on those days is most welcome. It is so gratifying to see the support that so many at St. Paul’s give to the Samaritan Center in this way. Thank you for this support.
The Community Fellowship committee had a busy year. We helped with receptions for Symphoria, celebrations, Father Philip and Kathy’s wedding reception, coffee hours, funerals, and fed about 80 people during our annual neighborhood picnic. The Illini cyclists raved about our hospitality, as did all the vendors from the downtown Arts and Crafts Festival.

Our wonderful kitchen at St. Paul’s makes it possible for us to offer hospitality (a large part of the work of the Community Fellowship Ministry team) in many ways. The hospitality following services each Sunday is an important part of our time together. We are indeed fortunate to have such a great kitchen and it is gratifying to see it used so often and by so many. Some simple kitchen guidelines are available, as well as dishwashing tutorials. Lots of good community happens in a kitchen and we always have fun. I think we did a pretty good job of showing that food can be love this year, but we would love to have more people on our committee. Many hands make light work. Come join us!
Outside Events
—By Judy McAdoo-Pelton
Business Manager for St. Paul’s

Being part of the downtown community, St. Paul’s has been sharing our beautiful spaces with many different outside groups. By sharing our space, we introduce new people to our church—people who might not otherwise come through our doors. At the same time, we need to work hard to protect St. Paul’s against damage and ensure that we are covering all the extra costs such as security personnel and additional heating in the long Syracuse winters. We are grateful to Derek Lane, Bodo Rasoa, Arthur Lewis and Julia Fine for doing such a great job.

In 2019, we hosted numerous concerts and groups; Symphoria, Syracuse Community Choir and others. We have 2 recovery programs that have weekly meetings at St. Paul’s. Weddings also come under this category, although St. Paul’s is not used as just a rental facility for weddings. Couples must go through premarital counseling with our Rector prior to their wedding. We continue to review our contracts, costs and policies to make sure we are careful with these historic buildings and parish which is entrusted to all of us.

Monday Bible Study
—By Rev. Philip Major

For the past eighteen months we have been holding our Monday Noon Bible Study at Café Kubal on South Salina Street. We decided to move our Bible Study out into the community for three reasons:
1. It makes it easier for non-members to learn about our Bible Study and join us.
2. In a subtle way, it increases our visibility in the community and strengthens our connections with our neighbors.
3. Most important, it changes us. As we are surrounded by the people of the city, people in the café and people on the street, we become more aware and appreciative of the people God has given us as neighbors.

Participants enjoy a cup of tea or lunch while we read and discuss the lectionary readings for the coming week. We follow a format that becomes increasingly helpful as participants integrate it into their weekly routines:
1. We read a lesson, taking turns around the table.
2. We ask questions in order to learn more about the meaning of the passage. We consider the context, historical events related to the passage and other related passages.
3. We read the lesson again, with new people taking turns.
4. We reflect on the importance and meaning of the passage for ourselves.

We encourage you to join us. You don’t need to do any preparation. You don’t even have to bring a Bible; all materials are provided. The fellowship and scripture readings make for a joyful time together!
The Women of St. Paul's mission is to provide fellowship, education and service to our members, to our congregation, and to the larger community.

We are holding 4 meetings this year, starting in October and going through May. One fundraiser will be held at St. Paul's, a high tea in April. We have a luncheon meeting held offsite in May, a welcome back event in October, and the others are informal brown bag lunches, usually held on a Saturday. No meeting in January. Funds from our Marsellus account helped provide funding for our fundraiser events, for which we are forever grateful to Mr. & Mrs. John Marsellus. Money raised at our fundraisers go to local nonprofit organizations such as the Samaritan Center, Interfaith Works, Food Bank of CNY, Rescue Mission, Eastern Farm Workers Association, Matthew 25 Farm, the Rector’s Discretionary fund, and to the Sudanese Community.

We also manage the Nan Dorr Endowment Fund, from which each year we are able to provide funds for projects proposed by parishioners. This year we provided funds for three home communion kits, improved heating in the Brewster room, altar guild supplies, protecting and storing the Whitechapel bells, and an electronic page turner for the organ.

Beginning in 2019 we transitioned our financial account from our own private account to being included under the St. Paul’s financial umbrella. This way it can be audited and managed in the same way as all other St. Paul’s accounts.

Listed below are the officers for 2019-2020:
- President: Liz Belden Handler
- Vice President: Staci McHugh
- Recording Secretary: Nancy Lambright
- Treasurer: vacant
- Telephone Chair: Sue Hoffman
- Devotions: Bodo Rasoa
- Corresponding Secretary: Beverly Bolton

We’d love to have you join us. Annual dues are $20, with minimum expenses for the fundraisers/teas ($3-$5). You do not have to be a member of St. Paul’s to join, and we do have family and friends as members. If you are interested, please talk to one of our officers.

Common Threads
—By Laurie Sanderson

Common Threads continues to meet the first Tuesday of each month at The Nottingham in the “fish room” of Assisted Living, as the guests of Nancy and David Ridings. People work on their individual projects and catch up on each other’s news. We also delight in other residents of The Nottingham joining us. You are welcome to join us!
Communications Committee
—By Marion Greenhalgh, Chair

In 2018 the Communication Committee was formed to help spread the word of St. Paul’s Church externally and to improve communication internally.

In the coming year the Committee hopes to offer Facebook and Twitter training, especially for St. Paul Committee Chairs/Facilitators, in order to spread the good works of each committee to the congregation and to others outside the congregation. Besides Facebook, St. Paul’s has a Twitter and a YouTube account. Please check them out and share! We will never get rid of the printed word, so please continue to read the weekly programs and monthly Courier. But now we are also on social media.

Judy has developed many helpful forms in order to notify all people/committees involved in upcoming events, especially special events/services.

Judy developed a ‘Welcome’ package to be handed out by our Ushers to potential new parishioners. New banners have been made and hung outside to attract people walking or driving by. Art Friedel and Roy Thomas are recording our weekly sermons and downloading them to our social media accounts.

Barbara Bell is our external correspondent. She has done a great job getting press releases out to the papers, radio stations, Diocese, social media and television stations. If you have a church event you want advertised or need a press release for, please contact Barbara. Our new project to provide transportation to parishioners who need a ride to and from church, is now up and running.

Paperwork and information are located in the Sargent Foyer.

Members of the Communication Committee are: Father Philip, Judy McAdoo-Pelton, Marion Greenhalgh, Barbara Bell, Betsy Elkins, Roy Thomas and Art Friedel. We would love to have someone from the 8 am service and Sudanese service join our committee!

Any suggestions/recommendations/ideas to improve our communication are welcome. Please see any committee member. We meet quarterly on the second Monday of the month, starting in January, and would gladly welcome new members.

Office Volunteers for 2019
—By Beverly Bolton

Our volunteers are at the front desk during our open hours Monday through Thursday from 9am to 4pm. Most often, they are the first people visitors meet when they come to St. Paul’s. We open the door so visitors can come in and we direct them to where they want to go and we see them again on their departure.

Our volunteers answer the phone, take messages, mail bulletins to those who cannot attend church on Sundays and help in any way possible. David Webb and Bodo Rasoa were helping with the bulletin each week. Thank you to Art Friedel, Wendy Hoblyn Jones, Ruth Brown, Valley Francis, David Webb, Liz Belden-Handler, Bodo Rasoa, Staci McHugh, Destany Widger, and Sue Hoffman for all their wonderful assistance in the office this past year.
Women’s Retreat  
—By Laurie Sanderson

St. Paul's has a history of women's retreats that began when Marty Metzler was our canon. For years we held the retreats at the summer home of Cindy Coursen at Saranac Lake, then we switched to St. Margaret's Retreat House in New Hartford for a few years. We took a break but last year longings began to stir and we scheduled a retreat for the middle of last May. The Very Reverend Lynn Sharp was our leader AND we welcomed The Reverend Marty Metzler back to join us! We held the retreat from Thursday night to Saturday afternoon so Marty and Paul, her husband could be at St. Paul’s for Sunday.

It was a wonderful experience and we will have another retreat, May 14th thru May 16th at St. Margaret's House. The Reverend Kathy Corley Major will be our retreat leader. Stay tuned for more information in the next weeks.

Feminist Theology  
—By Laurie Sanderson

Feminist Theology is approaching its 20th anniversary in the fall of 2020! Some members have been present since the beginning and others have come and gone through the years. We have read many varied articles and books thru the year, and all are welcome to join us!

Movie Night  
—By Mark McGrath

Movie Night started in October of 2019. It's been a big hit so far. In October there were 7 people who came. In November there were 12 in attendance. And in December, 10 people attended the movie “The Christmas Shoes”.

It’s a time for everyone to relax and enjoy themselves and get to know each other better. If you have a favorite movie that you would like included in a Movie Night, see Mark McGrath. So, come on by, kick your feet up, have some popcorn and enjoy the show with some great people.
The Caring Place @ St. Paul's (TCP) is new to our church. TCP is a ministry, that is, a service to God and our neighbors. This ministry began because members of St. Paul's felt a call to provide a place of safety downtown for homeless people. For this ministry, members and friends of St. Paul's gather each Thursday between 10 am and 2 pm in the Brewster Room and provide people who have housing insecurity with a safe place where caring relationships happen. We welcome guests from the immediate neighborhood of St. Paul's (including the YMCA), the Main Library, the Samaritan Center (also a ministry begun at St. Paul's), the Near North Side, and the Rescue Mission. Our first regular TCP began on October 17.

Between October 17 and December 19, TCP welcomed an average of 17 guests per week. During this time members and friends of St. Paul's shared more than 120 hours of their time with this ministry. At TCP, our guests have experienced a safe place and caring people. Our guests have shared their time and their stories with us. As we have gotten to know our guests, we are humbled to hear the stories of peoples' lives and their struggles and then to reflect on the many blessings in our own lives.

We staff TCP with two Teams of Members and Friends – Team Grace and Team Peace. Our two Teams are comprised mainly of folks from St. Paul's but some of our Team Members are also volunteers at Samaritan Center who also serve at TCP. I am so thankful for our Teams. Team members selflessly share their time, talents and their selves with our downtown neighbors.

The Holy Spirit is evidently at work in our midst. In order for this ministry (i.e., service to God and neighbor) to thrive and grow, we need more Team members. I ask that you prayerfully consider participating in this ministry as a Team member. Based upon our experience to date, you will receive blessings through this ministry. If you would like to be a TCP Team Member, please contact Jim Doyle at 699-5129 or via email: doyj02@gmail.com. We place this ministry in God's hands. All it takes is a caring heart.
Summer Camp at St. Paul’s
The Holidays At St. Paul’s
The primary work of all employees of St. Paul’s Church is to support the ministry and work of our members as they execute the mission of St. Paul’s: To Teach, Celebrate, and Serve Christ.

During 2019 we received tremendous support from our staff. Thank you Amy, Debbie, Derek, Jim, John, and Judy!

Baptisms in 2019

Baptisms are such a joyful time at St. Paul’s. This year’s included: Connor Patrick Palfreyman

In Loving Memory of
Those We Lost This Year

Jeanne Friedel  Jeanne Greenhalgh  Bruce Tapper
Annette Wine  Kathy McLaughlin  Letty Murray  Joe Schatzle