

Christmas at St. Paul's



The story behind our permanent nativity mosaic is on Page 6

Christmas Eve: Special Christmas music by the choir will begin at 8:45 p.m., with a Festive Eucharist at 9 p.m.

Christmas Day: 10 a.m. with Christmas music at 9:45 a.m.

New Year's Day: 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist
12:30 p.m. Holy Name of Jesus service, commemorating liberation of Haiti, followed by feast in Trinity Hall.

Relaunching St. Paul's

(See Page 2)



These displays are in the narthex, showing the various opportunities to engage more

fully in the life of St. Paul's. Perhaps you have an idea or two to add. (closeups Pg. 3)

Relaunch 2023

Remember when we were all wearing masks, social distancing and holding meetings on Zoom? When we couldn't meet for coffee hour, couldn't share communion or visit each other in our homes?

The COVID pandemic truly limited our ability to minister to one another. Most of us really missed the once simple act of coming together in person that we may have once taken for granted.

Thankfully, the worst of the pandemic is behind us and it's time for our church to gather and look forward together. To take



By
**Steve
Carnell**

stock in what we have and what we could become.

Beginning in January, we are going to be highlighting existing, emerging and new ministries and activities in our church every

week. We will all have a chance to meet some of the many folks who faithfully make Saint Paul's what it is—those who help our parish grow and reach out to each other and our community more impactfully.

This effort will cumulate on Sunday, Jan. 29, with an event we're calling "Relaunch 2023." We come together that day after the worship service to eat together, celebrate and find out more about the wonderful opportunities we have to serve each other and our neighbors. And we'll be looking and listening for your ideas as well.



What's a sexton?

What exactly is a sexton? Going right to the source, during coffee hour after church, Gary Dickerson had this to say: "Well, originally in the old days, it was the gravedigger for the church." He grinned at this writer's look of amazement.

Back then, most burials were associated with a church and took place in the churchyard. Gravedigger and church bell ringer were often the key points in the job description. In modern times like these, however, the sexton is in charge of the maintenance of both the church buildings and the grounds surrounding it.

One of Gary's biggest jobs as sexton is mowing the 7 1/2 acres surrounding Saint Paul's. He spends much of his time every week doing just that. It is a paid position, 20 hours a week. But when asked what

By
Jan
Shea



is your job really, he admitted it was more like 30-35 hours to do it all.

He does have volunteer help, especially the God's Gardeners team who volunteer every week and specialize in keeping up the flower beds and ornamental gardens. Complicated issues such as electrical and air conditioning repair involve getting professional help.

"I can do pretty much anything else. I was a carpenter for 30 years and a builder so I am used to dealing with maintenance issues. I can fix toilets, repair sprinklers that get run over, fix issues with our riding mowers and keep the mower blades sharp. I wash windows at church, Trinity Hall and Serson Hall and clean gutters and fix downspouts. We live just three blocks away so I am readily available."

When asked if that closeness to the church is what brought him and his wife, Paulette, to St. Paul's, he responded, "Nope, it was my mother, Evie. About three years ago, we came to the Farmers' Market and she was so excited about the hot dogs! 'The hot dog church' she called it. So then the next week she said 'Let's go to church at the 'hot dog church' and everyone was so friendly, we stayed. Then I got the job."

"I was raised in the Catholic Church," he went on. "Catholic



Gary also ushers at the 8 a.m. mass

grammar school, high school, all that. Then I was away from the church for fifty years. Saint Paul's became a perfect place for us."

Just then, one of the parishioners interrupted our conversation, saying, "I brought boxes of books for the book sale. Can you help me unload my car?"

"Yup, sure thing, I will be right there."

And so our sexton, without skipping a beat, hopped up and went to do a job that was never in his job description.



Pathways is published periodically by and for members and friends of St. Paul's. Aside from the few copies printed by the office and mailed to those without access to computers, no church funds are used in its production.

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Church needed more

In our last issue, more space was needed with not only a growing congregation, but requests from community groups to use our space.

In June 1973, the vestry appointed a Planning Committee to consider the many needs for more space and to make a recommendation on what form of expansion would best accommodate them. In March 1974, the committee responded:

“The basic philosophy expressed was that while welcoming new families and members, we hope not to be too big—to be a family-style congregation, a friendly place to worship.” (Still true to this day!)

The immediate need was for a new religious education building and space for get-togethers. The present Sanctuary (in 1974) would be able to

**By
Lee
Barron**



St. Paul's History

house the increase of membership for some time. The new structure would provide six or seven additional classrooms, a kitchen and adequate space for the rector and an office. This area would provide space for parish meetings, dinners, large classes, etc.

With the enthusiastic endorsement of the vestry, the Planning Committee was urged to move on to the next step—getting plans. The architectural firm of Baunchspies and Reeves (“B&R”), who had designed the church, was retained again and plans were reviewed by the vestry five months later.

After months of cost and fit, in March 1975, B&R submitted an estimated cost of \$87,000 (about \$481,915 now)—\$25 per square foot for the 3,480 square feet in the new building. The total bid was \$90,000, including \$3,000 to install pews in place of chairs in the church.

From where would the funds come? When could construction be considered at such a high price?

Advent as pickleball

By Dan Fischer

As a child and even into adulthood I was not an active child. I did not participate in sports.

It wasn't until my 50s that I began to embrace routine exercise, in particular tennis (and then pickleball).

When I am on the court in a game and I manage an amazing ‘get’ or shot, I am reminded of my father-in-law, Howard. His advice when I started tennis was to simply put out your racket (or paddle); that is at least 50% of the game. Really, how do you even have a chance at any shot at all if your paddle is not out there? Great advice, as usual. Thank you, Pop.

Is Advent like Pickleball? Somewhat. Fr. Tom recently said that a good portion of being faithful is just showing up. Advent is about anticipation, waiting, preparing and showing up! We are not trying to force any errors but putting your “skin in the game” is essential just like putting

your paddle out.

As kids our skin in the game were hopes, perhaps anticipation of a new toy or bike. Even as adults ‘skin in the Advent game’ might come down to sending cards, decorations, a frenzy of getting through a gift list or preparing for holiday gatherings.

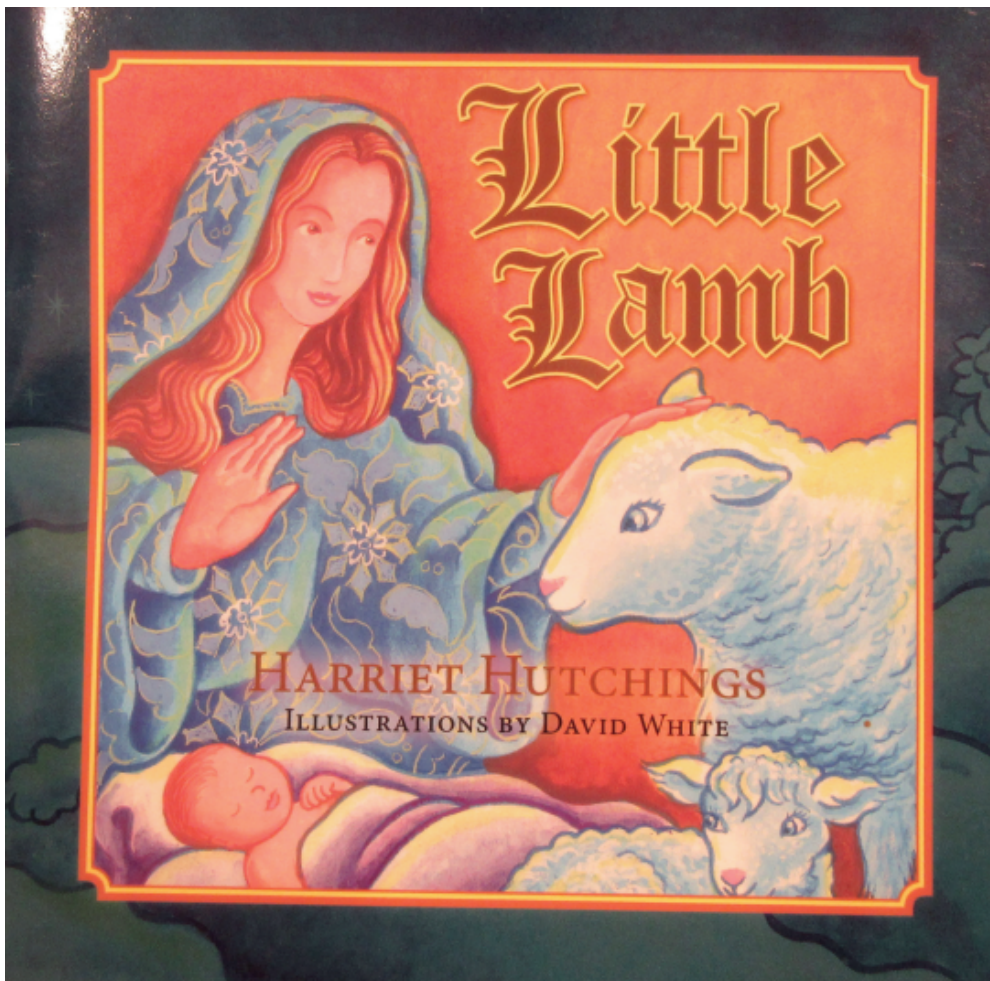
All of those are a bit askew though. You may elicit some anticipation, you may have some semblance of waiting but often it ends with a ‘thank God it's over’ on Dec. 26. That is when things go sideways.

As faithful people we have to wait focused on the truth of the season, ‘the reason for the season.’ We are waiting for the gift we all have hoped for and it is surprisingly as worldly as our own flesh and blood. We are waiting for the incarnation. We are also waiting for the The Way to be elucidated and lived by our Lord. God so loves each one of us as we are, faults and foibles included, that Jesus is going to don the mantle of

humanity and in the messiest, most meaningful of ways. Poverty (born in a stable), homeless (a refugee), wanted (by Herod) and by embracing every human emotion and feeling that we experience.

As people of faith however, does the message, the act of giving of gifts, of giving of ourselves and living the Word become flesh, does that all end on Dec. 26? Isn't it a truism of that classic Scrooge that Ebenezer realizes that the spirit of Advent and then Christmas should be alive in our hearts all the year through?

The question becomes, can we maintain our skin in the game? Can we anticipate needs, plan ahead with our continued giving of our talent and treasure? How do we engender a sense of thankfulness and a desire to give with the same sense of love God showed us by embracing our humanity in full?



Book cover art Inspired mosaic

When Harriet Hutchings died ten years ago, her widower, Donald, wanted the people of St. Paul's to have a memorial of her life, as it was centered largely on this parish.

She was a joyful soul with a quick humor and gracious smile. To say she was active at St. Paul's would be an understatement. She was president of the Episcopal Church Women here, and was the founder of the Unique Boutique, the Farmers' Market shop that sells slightly used upscale clothing for women.

She used her English degree from

Keuka College to publish two children's books.

Don, called "Doc" by nearly everyone who knew him (he went to medical school after serving in the Marines in WWII and became a medical officer in the Navy), was also heavily involved in parish life, faithfully serving in God's Gardeners for many years.

Thus we have the mosaic shown on the cover of this issue of Pathways. Depicted are the Sarasota artist that Doc commissioned, Truman Adams, left, and Fr. Jon Roberts, who was associate rector at the time (2013).

Laundry Love in full swing

Saint Paul's chapter of Laundry Love is in full swing. LL is a once a month ministry where parishioners go with a bagful of quarters to a local laundromat and offer to help people who are there doing their laundry. (By the way, it costs \$8 to do one large load of laundry).

We are always met with an abundance of gratitude for our help plus great conversations with folks about our church and about their lives. Just this week we met two young Haitian women who were in college preparing for nursing careers. Lynn Kennedy, one of our parishioners at the laundromat that night who is a nurse, talked with them about their goals and gave them advice and encouragement.

Here is a wonderful vignette that happened at the laundromat. Four of us from Saint Paul's were chatting during a lull. Somehow the incident came up that happened a few months ago, where a parishioner had a heart attack in the middle of the service. Lynne offered that she was one of the medically trained parishioners who rushed up to help. We later learned that the quick attention of those that came to Tony's side saved his life with their quick action. And Tony, another of our LL helpers that night, said yes and I am the one whose life was saved! What a wonderful moment that was. I had not been in church that week and Lynne did not exactly remember who the stricken one was so neither of us put two and two together. A sacred and blessed moment right there in the laundromat!

If you are interested in volunteering, please see me after church or send me an email (richshea2@gmail.com) So far, all volunteers have described it as a very meaningful experience, a practical way of doing Christ's work.

Say hello to Gordon Brown

Gordon Brown, whose gift fills our spirits Sunday mornings, has been practicing his art since age eight, when he first began piano lessons. The child of musical parents, Gordon was introduced to the organ 40 years ago and loves his job.

He's also a good conversationalist, and welcomes introductions.

Alas, he's only here as our organist/pianist on a temporary basis. He has no desire to be a more formal "music director," which involves other responsibilities besides playing an instrument.

The church is still looking for a music director to replace Eleanor Phelps, who retired to her native New Zealand on Sept. 25. after 13 years at St. Paul's.

Gordon, asked about his favorite hymns, responded that it's not so much "favored" but rather those that speak to him. Indeed, he sees his



Gordon Brown, our new musical artist

playing is a channeling of the Spirit. Got a hymnal handy? Gordon is moved by those with these numbers, to name just a few: 65, 207, 362 and 400. (Look these up on the online

1982 Hymnal or Sunday in church).

One of the great additions Gordon has created is the historical footnotes to his preludes and postludes published in the weekly bulletin.



Nora Broszeit is overjoyed that she and Heidi are reunited just in time for Christmas (and Nora's birthday). The cat was lost in August when Nora and Rich stopped at a motel enroute to vacation in North Carolina. Nora and Judy Allen made the 16-hour round-trip this week after getting word that Heidi was in the hands of a friend who had been on the lookout. Ask Nora to tell you this story.

Let's participate!

To volunteer, generally speaking, is to do something without being paid or expecting any reward in return. In many instances it might be distasteful or risky. If you google the term you could spend an afternoon researching its connotations.

Volunteering is not participating in activities that address the functional standards of any group you may choose/volunteer to join. Should I choose/volunteer to enlist in the Navy I will not be asked to volunteer to swab decks, perform assigned duties or paint anything that doesn't move battleship gray. However I may well indeed be asked to volunteer for hazardous duty.

As a Christian I may choose to

join a particular church and in doing so commit myself to the standard practices and activities to which it ascribes/subscribes (both?). As a parishioner of St. Paul's I do not volunteer to attend mass, join in fellowship activities, participate with God's Gardeners, or support any other of the church's ministries. I partake in them because they define me as a Christian that is a member of St. Paul's parish.

With that in mind, I pray, not ask, that many more of those I see for a little less than an hour on Sundays give some thoughtful prayer to how they might more fully participate— not volunteer— in our ministries.

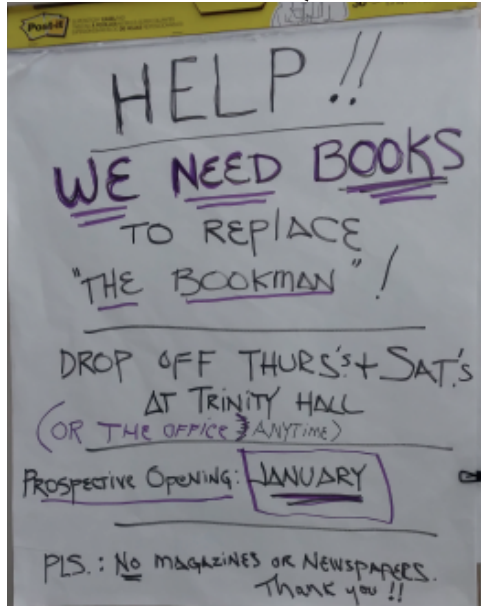
—Ken Eastlack

Books are (now) us!

By Lee Barron

With our Farmers' Market starting this season, one popular vendor is sadly nowhere to be seen: 'The Book Man.' He told us last year he wanted to sell the business and retire. While Peter Lund, our Vestry Senior Warden and the head of the Farmers' Market, contemplated how St. Paul's might be able to buy the business, one big obstacle (other than the cost to buy the business) was, what St. Paul's volunteers would be able to lift dozens of boxes of books in and out to the parking lot, and where would we store the books? While Peter and I looked at different rooms in Serson Hall to see if we could somehow take one of the rooms to convert into a 'book store,' none of the rooms was big enough. The idea was crushed and 'The Book Man' sold the business to someone who did not want to sell books at our Saturday Market.

One day last month, I was in Trinity Hall and it occurred to me, "There is



a lot open, unused wall space being occupied only by the stacked chairs in front of them... shelving...moveable shelving...BOOKS!!" The two braincells in my head had come together for once and sparked a great idea: let St. Paul's collect donated books from our congregation, Farmers' Market attendees, and the public, and sell the books ourselves!

Presented to Fr. Tom and the vestry, the idea is now a reality! We are presently collecting all donations of hardbound books, paperbacks, and craft brochures/pamphlets. Even children's' books, picture books (i.e., cocktail table books), or books in foreign languages are fine! (No newspapers or magazines, please!). Books may be brought on Saturdays 8-12 and dropped off at both entrances, Sundays after both services in Trinity Hall behind the left partition (in the donation boxes), or Monday through Friday 9-4 at the office.

We are making a pact with St. Matthews to receive books from them, and the Public Library has many books for sale in which one may fill a big cardboard box of books

(about 15-20) for only \$5! Do the math: for \$20, we can get about 100 books! WHAT A BARGAIN!! Are you interested in purchasing one of the twelve needed shelving units? We will happily accept it! Further, if your community has a public bulletin board or its own library, we would appreciate if you would pin a small flyer there requesting books – you'll find the colorful flyers on the table in the Narthex on Sundays or at the Office. Are you on FaceBook? Advertising our need on the app will be helpful there, too! I also posted an "ad" on the 'Next Door' app.

We plan on opening our Book Market in January. The books will be kept on the wire shelving units stored against the walls of Trinity Hall and rolled away from the walls to form aisles on Saturdays so that buyers may see books from both sides of the shelves (and to save money on the purchase of more shelving). Because it will be housed in Trinity Hall, the "Market" will be held inside Trinity Hall, rain or shine!

We need your help to try to collect books – it takes a lot of books to offer the public and many folks only come to the Saturday Market for books. Should you have any questions or want to donate or help, contact me (Lee Barron) at 516/509-9988 or leave a message at the office.

What is extremely important to remember is, 'The Book Man' did it for his own profit – all our profits from our book sales will go directly towards Outreach, an important mission, to be sure!

Many thanks for your support and... READ A BOOK!!!

Lagniappe

The Wednesday bible study group has changed its starting time from 6:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. at least until DST returns. The next meeting of this group is Jan. 3.

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There's a chance we'll watch the next season of *Chosen* on Wednesday mornings (9:30) at Steve Carnell's Reflect and Connect sessions. Watch for news of this. Meantime, the group will continue to reflect on the readings and sermons of the previous Sunday