



THE EPISCOPAL MESSENGER

OCTOBER 2025

SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A Letter from Mother Allison

For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future (Jeremiah 29:11).

In my first newsletter article I shared that passage from Jeremiah. As I share it with you today, I hope that you are able to see the wonderful ways in which God has allowed St. Paul's to prosper and grow with children and families. This was a distant hope as we began our journey together. We have seen that hope grow and flourish over these past four years.

Russell and I met with Bishop Scanlan Tuesday morning and immediately after that conversation I officially submitted my resignation to the Vestry effective December 31, 2025. Our hope is that this time allows St. Paul's to consider a new outlook for its future, apart from Russell and me.

In my conversations with Katherine and Jim in the past couple days, our

shared focus is for the continued health of St. Paul's. We have so much to be excited for at St. Paul's, including the thoughtful ways our parish welcomes all who enter our beautiful red doors with love and compassion.

I am so incredibly grateful to each of you and what you have meant in our lives. Russell and I have loved the many ways we see God's love shared here, from the precious faces I see when I'm blessing the children, seeing long-time friends catch up with one another, and hearing the beauty of our worship services, especially with Alan and the choir. Russell and I are grateful to all of you.

With love and gratitude,

Mother Allison+



Kids' Sunday School

This fall, we will continue exploring the exciting stories of the Early Church, following the adventures of Paul and Peter as told in the *Book of Acts*.

Then, as we move into the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons we will shift to talking about the problem of being bored and about God's not so boring plan for each of us. Our seasonal activities will include writing letters or drawing pictures for Brandon, our ChildFund sponsored child in Kenya, and making Christmas ornaments for the gentlemen at the Orangeville Manor.

Our class for school-aged children meets on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of every month during the 10:30 a.m. service. We gather in the downstairs open area, always with two adults present.

—Susie Vollmer

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A newsletter for the parish family of

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Bloomsburg

Please send articles and other correspondence to

Doug Hippenstiel * Dch17846@gmail.com

Fall Adult Education:

The Work of the Holy Spirit

Our Fall Adult Education class, *The Work of the Holy Spirit*, begins October 5th and 6th. Christian faith is more than just *knowing*—more than an intellectual examination of theological concepts and doctrines. Christian faith is meant to be *lived* in the power of the Holy Spirit. But how does that happen? These weeks together will take us on a journey to examine our understanding of life in the Spirit and hopefully see where we might grow.

Class details:

- Beginning Sunday, Oct. 5 at 6 p.m. on Zoom; and Monday, Oct. 6 at 10:30 a.m. in person at St. Paul's and on Zoom
- We will meet for 6 classes, taking October 19/20 off; additional 7th optional class on Nov. 23/24.
- Bring along your Bible, paper and a pen or pencil.

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85116265345>

Hope to see you there!

—Susie Vollmer

October Baptismal Birthdays

Teeny Fritz * Rob Dillon * Timothy Atherton * Emily Hopkins



Victoria Wilcox digging up bulbs

Plant Give-away, October 11th

We will have a plant give-away on October 11th from 9-1 on the lawn on Main Street. We are thinning out all the irises around the church, cutting back liriopse and reducing the Solomon Seal on Main Street. We have yellow iris, deep purple iris and white iris bulbs. We have MANY, MANY iris bulbs! A Goodwill Donation basket will be available.

OOM Dessert Mission

October 5: Elaine and Mike

October 19: Biological & Allied Health Science and Pre-Med Sciences Clubs at the university.

November 2: Katherine Staller

November 16: Patty Creasy

In December we will request desserts for the Christmas social. The new schedule will begin in February. To sign up, or if you have questions, contact Elaine Pongratz @mdmep@ptd.net.



Creation Care news: Avoid 'Wishcycling'

We find ourselves asking what and where to recycle—searching high and low for the appropriate recycle bin or rinsing and cleaning various containers only to realize they don't quite match the required recycling specifications.

After all that effort, it's easy to throw the container in the most appropriate bin...wishing that it is similar enough and will be recycled anyway.

"Wishcycling" has its consequences, however. When inappropriate items are placed in bins, even one or two misplaced recyclables can destroy the entire load. This means that large bins full of recycled materials are thrown out and directly added to the landfill.

United Thank Offering boxes and materials for the self-directed study program, *An Invitation to a Holy Autumn*, are available in the back of the church.

The booklet provides the resources for individuals or groups to pray, read Scripture, journal and reflect on the spiritual aspects of *rest*. The program includes suggestions for prayer and Scripture, along with reflection questions, response journal pages, and other activities.

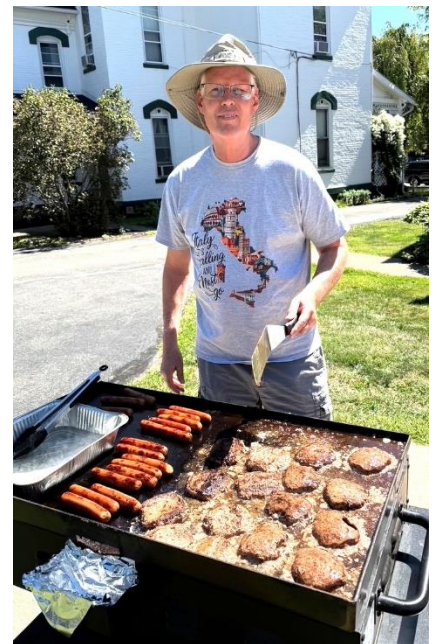
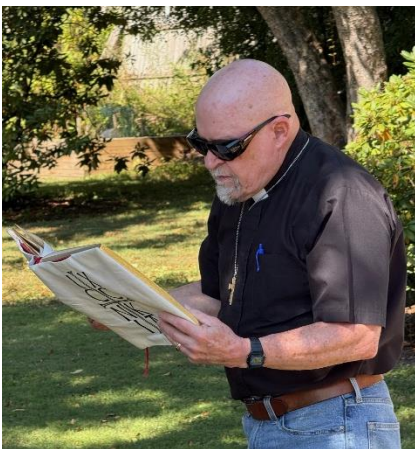
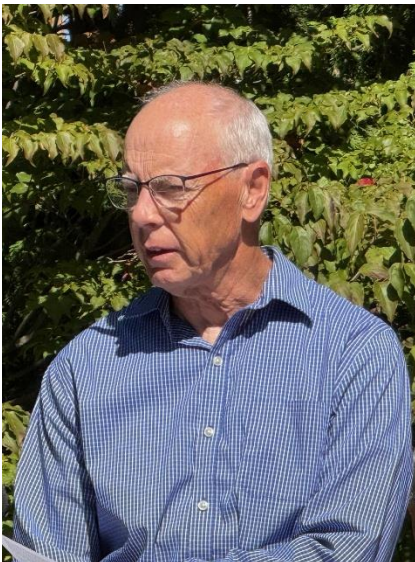
To preview or download your own copy, search UTO Holy Autumn. The first or second option should be *An Invitation to a Holy Autumn*. UTO ingathering will be in early November.

Scenes from Parish Picnic





Blessing for Scott's birthday, and Susan's anniversary





BU Concert Choir Concert
October 23rd at 2:30 p.m.



This beautiful altar cover was given by Dr. Betsy Hancock and Dennis MacMahon in memory of Betsy's mother and father, Charlene and Walton Hancock, and Dennis' mother and father, Claire and Art MacMahon, and Dennis' late brother, Darren. The altar cover was made by Karen Jenkins.



A new processional cross was given in loving memory of Kathy Reimard Hippenstiel, a lifelong member of St. Paul's, by her family.

Another successful mission to fairworkers



Sorting crew: Juliana Oliver, Duane Milnes, Abby Shaheen (Biological and Allied Health Sciences Club), Brynn Neidigh, Bian O'Connor (Catholic Campus Ministry), Joe Dolinsky, Daniel Guzman, Thomas Smith, Aiden Reinhardt (Lambda Chi Alpha), and the Pre-Med Science Club from Commonwealth University at Bloomsburg.

Columbia County Christian Fair Ministry clothing sort was held on Saturday, September 13th. Along with volunteers from CCCFM congregations, we had help from three Commonwealth University organizations. Together we set a clothing sorting record – everything was sorted, bagged and stacked in 30 minutes.

The clothing giveaway was held on Thursday, September 18th. We were able to recruit volunteers from the BU women's basketball team, Lambda Chi Alpha, and the Pre-Med Science Club at the university.

A great big thank you to St. Paul's for all your contributions to a wildly successful CCCFM giveaway!



BU Women's basketball team members

BU Women's basketball team members



BU Women's basketball team members



Lambda Chi Alpha brothers showed up for all four shifts.



Lambda Chi Alpha brothers



CU Pre-Med Science Club volunteers



Lambda Chi Alpha brothers



Tastykake round-up for OOM: We asked the congregation to donate multipacks of Tastykake items, and, boy, did you deliver! Outreach took 107 boxes of Tastykake

treats to OOM on September 23. We are very popular at OOM – thanks so much!

We will have the date and gift lists for Our Orangeville Manor by mid-October.

‘Noisy’ Collections

In October, the Noisy Collection will go to AGAPE’S NETWORKS heating fund. If you do not have the opportunity to place your coins in the collection plate during Sunday services at the church, you may send a check and write “AGAPE” on the memo line.

Supporting Women's Basketball

Once again, the BU Women's basketball team came through to do the heavy lifting! One group of volunteers arrived at noon on September 18th and loaded 20+ tables, clothing, pillows, and blankets for the fair giveaway at the Arena. A second team met us at St. Paul's at 6:15 to unload the tables and remaining new clothing.

In an effort to support the team, copies of the 2025-26 game schedule are available on the Outreach table and posted in the parish hall. Starting in November, we will include the home game schedule for each month in the newsletter.

Operation Christmas Child

St. Paul's will be participating in Operation Christmas Child again this year. Summer and back-to-school sales provide excellent opportunities to find treasures. Boxes are on the Outreach table in the foyer. We will be able to send many of the same types of items we sent last year. **Do Not Include:** toothpaste, used or damaged items, scary or war-related items, seeds, food, liquids or lotions, soap, medications or vitamins, breakable items, glass containers, or aerosol cans.

In Our Prayers

Allison * Amber* Andrew * Betsy * Bryan
* Carol * Christina * Faisal * Frankie *
Harrison * Helena * Jerry * Jessie * Jill *
Jim * Joanne * Joe * John * Jon * Josh *
Julie * Kami * Krista * Lynn * Maisey *
Mariannn * Mary * Michelle * Ruth *
Stephani * Steve * Tom * Vinny * William
* Willie * And all who suffered from
violence recently

October Lectionary

10/5 – 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Lamentations 1:1-6

Lamentations 3:19-26 or

Psalms 137

2 Timothy 1:1-14

Luke 17:5-10

10/12 – 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7

Psalms 66:1-11

2 Timothy 2:8-15

Luke 17:11-19

10/18 – St. Luke, Evangelist

Sirach 38:1-4, 6-10, 12-14

2 Timothy 4:5-13

Luke 4:14-21

Psalms 147

10/19 – 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 31:27-34

Psalms 119:97-104

2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

Luke 18:1-8

10/23 – St. James of Jerusalem

Acts 5:12-22a

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Matthew 13:54-58

Psalms 1

10/26 – 20th Sunday after Pentecost

Joel 2:23-32

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

Luke 18:9-14

10/28 – St. Simon and St. Jude

Deuteronomy 32:1-4

Ephesians 2:13-22

John 15:17-27

Psalms 119:89-96

Parish Leadership

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Altar Flowers

If you would like to provide altar flowers for a special occasion, please send your request to Patty Creasy at the Church Office (Post Office Box 764). Flowers for one Sunday cost \$45, plus \$6 for delivery, but you are welcome to contribute whatever you can.

Please make checks payable to St. Paul's Episcopal Church and mail to P.O. Box 764, Bloomsburg, PA 17815. Please include a note with the following info:

- The Sunday you would like to provide the flowers.
- Notation: The Altar Flowers are given by _____ in loving memory of _____, or in thanksgiving for _____.
- Your name and contact information (phone number, email address, etc.)



Abbi likes to help Grandpa with the service