



TIDINGS

Spring 2024

St. Paul's Church in Nantucket
20 Fair Street
Nantucket, MA 02554
StPaulChurchNantucket.org

Two barometers that I use to measure how we are doing are what people say to me on the steps of the church on their way out, and also what non-parishioners say to me when greeting me in the wider community. Maybe not everyone is as equally pleased as they depart from our worship service or other events, but I consistently hear, "Oh, Father, what a beautiful church you have here!"; and "Thank you for that welcoming, uplifting, loving experience!"

On the sidewalks of town and at social events over the past few years, people approach me to thank us of St. Paul's Church in Nantucket for all that we now do to meet both the spiritual and physical needs of our island community. Their appreciation and encouragement are gratifying. Most recently, through our parish's own music ministry and by our extensive generous hospitality, we are being publicly noted for also being an important cultural center.

Besides our own substantive in-house efforts, we will again host this summer the Nantucket Musical Arts Society and Nick Davies' Rossini Club concert series. I have also invited these gifted musicians to play at church on Sunday mornings when possible, adding another dimension to our worship experience and to God's glory. Thank you for your support that makes it possible to spread God's love more widely!

The peace and joy of Christ,
Max

How Are We Doing?

Rector's Message



Photo: Stacey Stuart

We hope that you will enjoy the new look and feel in this issue of Tidings. With a more contemporary, engaging design, we will continue to keep you informed, and hopefully entertained, about all the many comings and goings at St. Paul's.

—Communications Committee





St. Paul's Church in Nantucket

Our Staff

The Rev. Max Wolf, Rector
Joe Hammer, Music Director
Christine Borneman, Parish
Administrator
Curtis Barnes, Verger
The Rev. Susan Phillips, Deacon

Our Vestry

Lucy Leske, Warden
Bob Felch, Warden
Martin McKerrow, Treasurer
Peter Greenhalgh, Clerk

Dorothy Baker
Kirk Baker
Peter Barnes
Liz Bristow
Susan Coffin
Colby Crenshaw
Cece Fowler
Jan Jacobi
Steve Paradis
Jay Riggs
Libby Tracey
Patsy Wright



A Word from the Wardens

by Lucy Leske and Bob Felch

As we enter our busy summer season, we are excited with all the wonderful activities going on inside our doors and through our expanding engagement in the community. We continue to be encouraged by St. Paul's leadership in supporting those in need on the island.

Significant enhancements to our physical plant as a spiritual and social gathering place is now clearly in evidence. We trust the capital improvements to the main church are pleasing to you, our parishioners, and to the community at large.

Soon you'll hear and read more about plans to upgrade our gathering place in Gardner Hall, to address building safety issues for the main church building and initial steps to freshen up the main floor of the Parish House. We'll keep you posted.

Your Vestry is investigating ways to expand creative uses of and access to our Parish House. This facility has great potential to be a center of mission-related activities.

As always, the Vestry is eager to hear from you about your St. Paul's experiences, Complaints welcome. We're here for you.

† PARISH COMMITTEES †

Altar Guild
Dottie Gennaro and Ann Oliver,
co-chairs

Campus Oversight Committee
Steve Paradis, chair

Capital Planning Committee
Ken Beaugrand and Bob Felch,
co-chairs

Communications Committee
Patsy Wright, chair

Finance Committee
Kirk Baker, chair

Hospitality Committee
Olly Wolf, chair

Outreach Committee
Dorothy Baker and Liz Bristow,
co-chairs

Stewardship Committee
Peter Barnes and Patsy Wright,
co-chairs

Music Committee
Joe Hammer, chair

Time - Talent - Treasure

My Journey with God and The Episcopal Church



by The Rev. Susan Phillips

My mostly English ancestors arrived in Philadelphia in the early 1800s, bringing with them their Anglican faith. My parents were raised in the same part of Philadelphia and eventually met and married in my family's Episcopal Church.

My parents' early life was not easy. My mother was an orphan at age 5. Once my mother's older married sister turned eighteen, she raised my mother with the help of the local Philadelphia Episcopal Churches. My father, also raised Episcopalian, began work at a Philadelphia steel sawmill at age 15 to help his family during the Depression.

The Philadelphia Episcopal Church was always at the center of my family's life. My early memories are of going to church with my mother and aunt, who were part of the altar and flower guilds. My father would be ushering or in the bell tower playing the Carillon. At the age of 8, I was old enough to join the choir and the Girls Friendly Society (GFS). The Girls Friendly Society had Holiday House in Cape May, New Jersey. In the 1950s I stayed there as a "junior" with my mother, the nurse.

Other fond childhood memories were the GFS singing competitions the diocese held. From all over the city, buses transported GFSers to the Church of the Advocate, a predominately black church in North Philadelphia. This also was where the Ordination of



Photo: Patsy Wright

“The summer before my ordination, Father Gene McDowell asked me if I would like to be St. Paul’s deacon when on island. The rest is history!!!”

the Eleven (first women priests) occurred in 1974.

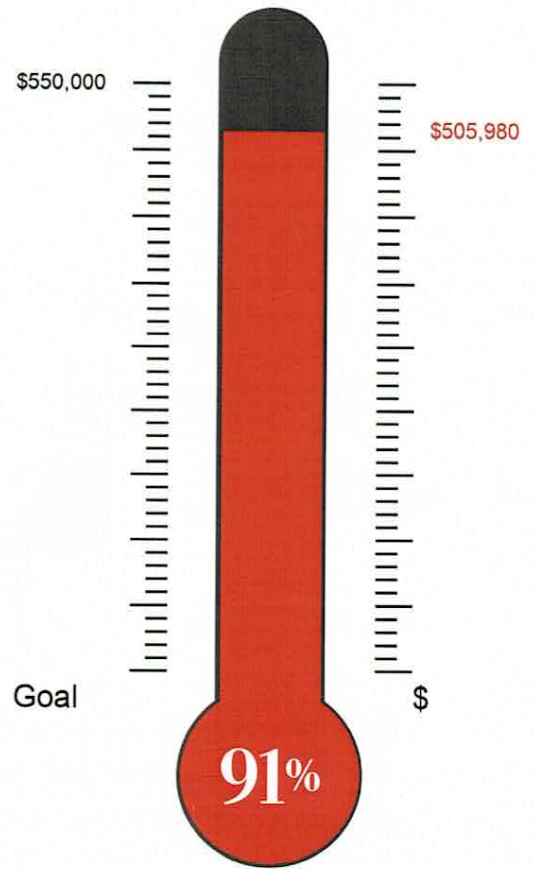
When I was growing up, ordination was not a possibility for a woman. Nursing was my calling, and I flourished. My late husband and I moved to Nantucket in 1976, so we could be a doctor and nurse at the hospital. Even when we no longer lived on Nantucket year-round, we returned each year.

Many years later, in 2005, when I had settled in Delaware, the local diocese started their first diaconate program. I felt a nudge from God and approached a certain Father Max Wolf to ask him his thoughts. Father Max, Olly and my Delaware church family stayed by me, and I was ordained in 2009. The summer before my ordination, Father Gene McDowell asked me if I would like to be St. Paul’s deacon when on island. The rest is history!!!

Stewardship

by Peter Barnes and Patsy Wright

Because of your generosity, at the printing of this newsletter we have received more than 154 pledges totaling about \$505,000. We need your help to close the gap to get us to our goal of \$550,000. If you have pledged, thank you! If you have not yet pledged and want to help support and maintain our many ministries, we try to make generosity EASY. You may mail your pledge card, drop it off at the church office, put it in the collection plate on Sunday, or securely pledge or donate online at www.stpaulschurchnantucket.org or email us at stewardship@stpaulschurchnantucket.org. If you don't have a pledge card, simply call us, and we will be delighted to take your pledge over the phone.



There is still time to “Be a Part of It” with a pledge!

ANNUAL RUG RAFFLE

by Shelia Daume

This year's theme for our needlepoint rug boasts shells and whimsical sea creatures in striking colors. Designed by Denise Strasser, this rug will become an “instant heirloom” for the lucky winner. It was lovingly stitched by Nancy Bills, Jeanne Boone, Sheila Daume, Lucile Hays, Daphne Mitchell, and Yvette St Jean. Raffle tickets will be sold at church on Sundays and in front of Murray's Toggery on Main St. throughout the summer. This traditional fundraiser supports St. Paul's expanding ministries in our island community.



Tickets will be sold at church on Sundays and in front of Murray's Toggery on Main St. throughout the summer.



Photo: Father Max

The Painting of the Church

by Bob Felch

We're delighted to have a complete repainting and replastering of our interior church walls ready for your enjoyment. With our belltower feeling new and shipshape, the repainting of the interior of the church was a logical next step as we work on a campus-wide upgrade of our facilities.

Adam, of Nantucket Heritage Painting, led his team of dedicated painters first through the chapel room to brighten up a very special space. We enjoyed five weeks of services in our beautiful chapel during the winter restoration of the main church space.

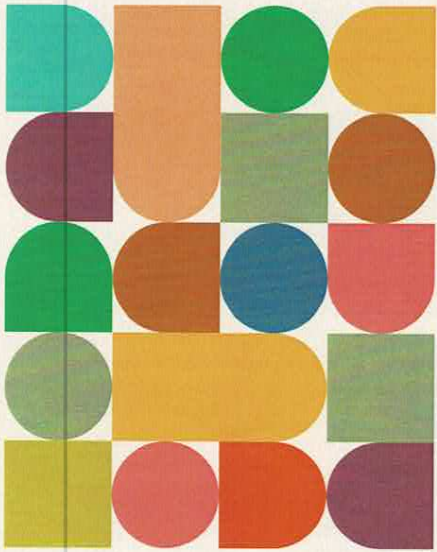
We agreed it was important to use a bright

St. Paul's get's a long overdue paint job

and cheery off-white tone for the walls throughout the ground floor. Adam suggested we should consider giving our stained-glass window frames in the chancel and sanctuary a trompe l'oeil wood accent. We engaged Penn Austin, a renowned specialist, to complete this work for us. The result adds a pleasing accent to our stained-glass windows.

By now, our regular year-round parishioners have been enjoying our rejuvenated space. For our returning seasonal parishioners, please enjoy!





MUSIC NOTES

by Joe Hammer



St. Paul's Church in Nantucket has a long and storied music program tradition, beginning with the music for the dedication service for the church, led by renowned organist, composer, and teacher Henry M. Dunham (1853-1929). (Dunham taught at the Boston Conservatory of Music and was the organ instructor of African American composer Florence Price [(1887-1953)]). The parish has valued the crucial role music takes in the worship of the Lord, and throughout its history, the musical talents of parishioners and Nantucket musicians have been called upon and graciously given. Thankfully this tradition at St. Paul's continues throughout the summer of 2024 – both in worship and as the inspiring venue for uplifting music experiences. Here are some of the upcoming highlights:

The Rev. Jacqueline McGrady sings with the Choir.
Photo Patsy Wright



Joe Hammer practices at the Steinway
Photo: Father Max



Choral Workshop

Plans are currently underway by the Nantucket Community Music Center (NCMC) to hold a Choral Workshop in July, with the preparatory session and closing performance held at St. Paul's. The workshop will be under the guidance of Elissa Edwards, major gifts and music outreach officer for the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. Elissa's music training includes studies at the Royal College of Music, London, and performance degrees from Boston University (BM) and University of York, UK (MA).

Guest Musicians

Parishioner musicians, both year-round and seasonal, will contribute to St. Paul's music programs. These include Joey Gioe, flute, and Robert Havery, organ. Other guest musicians will include pianists, organists, and vocalists.

Summer Choir Members

The addition of summer choir members is always appreciated, needed, and anticipated, whether for the entire season or for one or two "drop-in" Sundays.

August Guest Music Director and Organist In-Residence

For the month of August, St. Paul's will host Miles Quick, music director and organist, Taunton Minster, Taunton, UK. Miles has extensive experience as a choral director, organist, and a leader of congregational instrumental music, including service as the Assistant Organist at Westminster Abbey, Director of Music at Queen's College, Taunton, and service on the staff of the Royal School of Church Music. Additional details regarding what this opportunity means for St. Paul's will be coming soon!

Nantucket Musical Arts Society (NMAS)

Beginning Tuesday, July 9, and continuing each Tuesday through August 20, NMAS will present artists at St. Paul's representing a broad range of instruments and music genres. Additional details regarding the performers, music programs and purchasing tickets will be forthcoming.

The Rossini Club (Nantucket Chamber Music Festival)

The Rossini Club's 2024 Season, Through the Looking-Glass: Music of Transfiguration and Transformation, will include several Nantucket and national artists. Details for the concerts held at St. Paul's, the complete performance dates, and performers, and how to purchase tickets will be forthcoming.



My Faith Journey

(continued)

by Jan Jacobi

For Lent this year, I decided to tackle a subject that has bedeviled me all my life. I should mention, as I did in my last piece, that my early beliefs were deeply affected by five years of muscular Christianity at an Episcopal boarding school. I took away an overwhelming sense that I was a miserable sinner, and that “there was no health in me”, (a line from one of our prayers). I used to be tormented by visions of hell, so much so that my wife has to hold my hand during the “Dies irae” of the Verdi Requiem.

So for Lent I said to myself, “OK, you’re a miserable sinner, so what can you do about it?” After fifty years in education, I asked the question another way: is it possible to be a sinner and have a positive self image?

For my Lenten reading, I chose *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis. I hadn’t made much progress, until March when Ginger and I visited our son, daughter-in-law, and our only grandchild in New York. On the flight, I was in an aisle seat. I happily began *Screwtape*, but from the start it only made my problem worse. The young devil, whom *Screwtape* was instructing to tempt humans, was poking all my sore spots. *Screwtape* advises Wormwood, “Catch him at the moment when he is really poor in spirit and smuggle into his mind the gratifying reflection, ‘By Jove! I’m being humble,’ and almost immediately pride—pride at his own humility—will appear.” (Oh no! Been there, done that.)

I trudged along until I was halfway through, plopped the book on my tray, and took a brief snooze before we landed. As we got up to leave the plane, the young couple across from me said, “We see you are reading *Screwtape*. It’s wonderful! Be sure to finish it.” They were very friendly, but they didn’t look intellectual (Yikes, another sin!), so I smiled and nodded and then moved on.

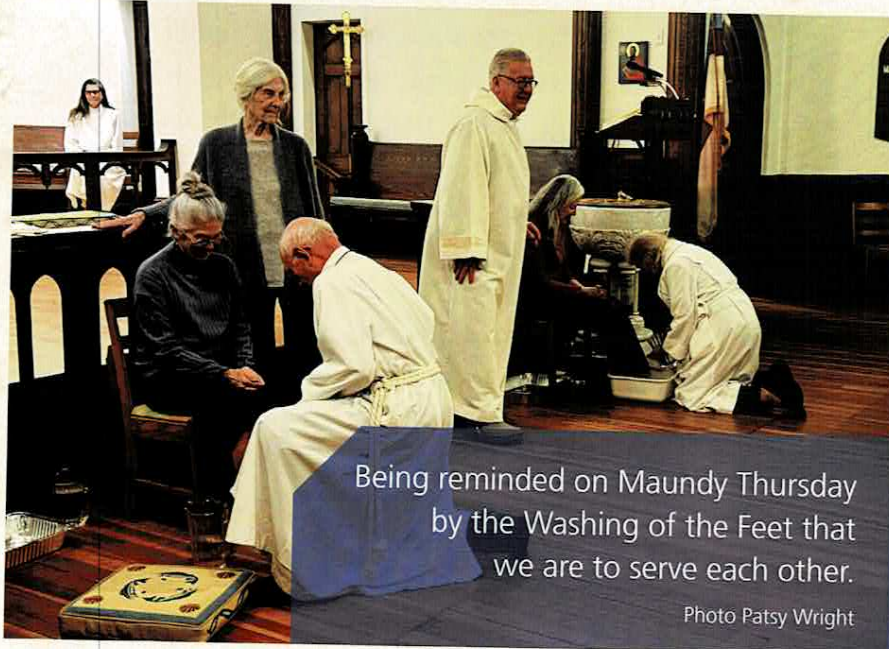
Back home, those devils were beating me so mercilessly, that a few pages from the end, I gave up. “Why do I have to finish it? What’s wonderful about this? It will just end with more of the same.” For days the book sat in the rocking chair next to my desk, but finally curiosity got the best of me, and I picked it back up.

Screwtape is set in London during the blitz. The poor chap, who has been wrestling with sin and temptation, takes shelter. *Screwtape* tells Wormwood, “There is a sort of attack on the emotions which can still be tried. It turns on making him feel, when first he sees human remains plastered on the wall, that this is what the world is really like and that all his religion has been a fantasy.”

Then in the midst of this despair, something worse happens. He is killed in another bombing.

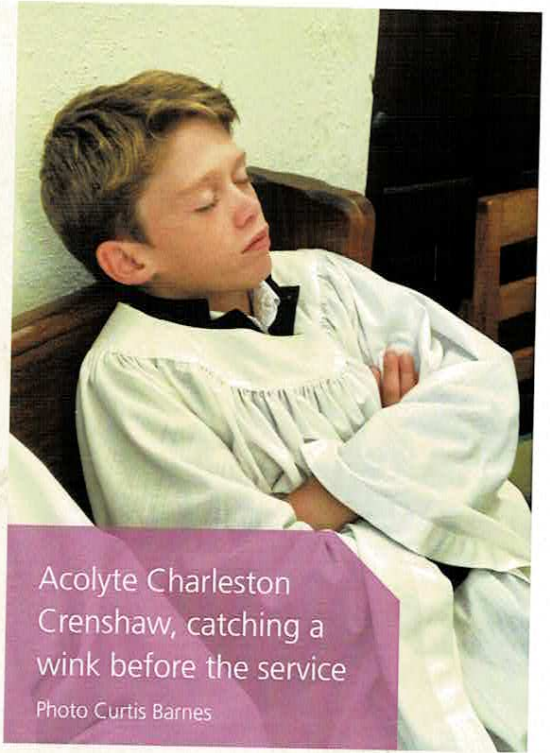
I read on.

“One moment it seemed to be all our world; the scream of bombs, the fall of houses, the stink and taste of high explosive on the lips and in the lungs, the feet burning with weariness, the heart cold



Being reminded on Maundy Thursday by the Washing of the Feet that we are to serve each other.

Photo Patsy Wright



Acolyte Charleston Crenshaw, catching a wink before the service

Photo Curtis Barnes

“There it was. The Grace of God. It’s the answer to all our intellectual struggles. It’s what I always feel I’m at St. Paul’s.”

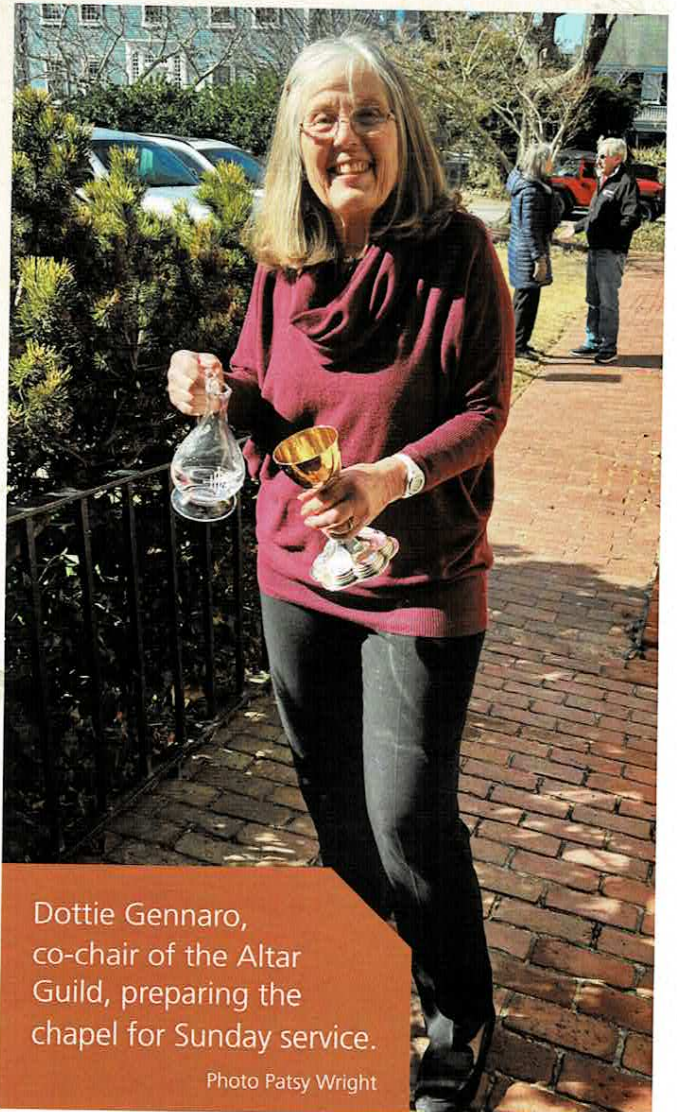


with horrors, the brain reeling, the legs aching; next moment all this was gone, gone like a bad dream, never again to be of any account.”

Then Screwtape says to Wormwood, “Did you mark how naturally—as if he’d been born for it—the Earth born vermin entered the new life? How all his doubts became, in the twinkling of an eye, ridiculous?”

There it was. The Grace of God. It’s the answer to all our intellectual struggles. It’s what I always feel I’m at St. Paul’s. Yes, sinners can have a positive self-image—if they can open themselves to God’s Grace.

If only I could have that moment back with that lovely young couple.



Dottie Gennaro, co-chair of the Altar Guild, preparing the chapel for Sunday service.

Photo Patsy Wright

DID YOU KNOW?



by Peter Greenhalgh



This past winter, during the interior painting of the church, we returned to the time-honored tradition of worshipping in our beautiful side chapel. Stacey and I have recently returned from a memory filled trip to Paris where one of our highlights was a visit to Sainte-Chapelle on the Ile de la Cite, whose ceiling is quite reminiscent of our chapel.

Our chapel, once used as the sacristy and choir robing room, was converted to its present design

in 1964. In the summer of 2001, Senior Warden Reggie Levine began a restoration plan for the chapel. This included enhancing the domed portion of the ceiling above the altar with cobalt blue paint and 23 carat gold stars. Vestry member, and noted artist, Mary Emery Lacoursiere, agreed to undertake the project.

“They had decided on a dark cobalt, but because of the lighting in that section of the Chapel, I had to lighten it a bit so it didn’t appear to be a black background. During the time of the painting (in the heat of mid-summer) there were a great number of folks coming through to see the work being done, and without saying a word, it became apparent that many appeared to dislike the “changes,” said Lacoursiere. “So, I began to ask the hushed witnesses to tell me if they didn’t care for it, most of whom remained silent; however once finished, it was well received!”

In 2006 Mary received word that the chapel ceiling had collapsed, and she he was asked to replicate her previous work. Amazingly, Mary still had the same glaze colors and gold leaf left over from the original job, because as any artist knows, it would have been impossible to match, and this time she added the sliver of a new moon. “It was a miracle that I had the same paint because the repair was not even noticeable.” I have to agree.

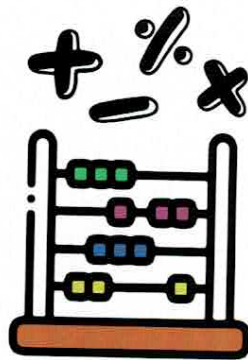
A popular fundraiser,
Father Max and Olly's
annual wine tasting and
dinner

Photo: Father Max



Treasurer's Report

by Martin McKerrow



Over the past year the Treasury has proved to be a beehive of activity. As reported at January's Annual Meeting, we finished 2023 in a good financial condition with adequate liquidity to meet near term needs. For the full year we recorded a surplus of revenues over expenses and immediately put this to work.

In 2023 revenues from our operations exceeded \$850,000, this compares to just over \$500,000 some four years ago. Much of this growth has been associated with the extension of our activities into the Nantucket Community and our increased investment in our four-building campus – much of it due to long deferred maintenance. When capital activity is included, total revenues and expenditures exceeded \$2 million! Much, but not all, of the difference between operating revenues and total expenditures is associated with renovation of the Narthex and it's bell tower. As you may have seen, for the first time in many many years, the tower no longer leaks, and we can comfortably forecast that it should end its second century in excellent shape.

We were able to fund this level of spending through a very generous grant from Nantucket's Community Preservation Committee which was supported by a meaningful investment of St. Paul's funds. The work continues in the current year. We anticipate a reduced but meaningful capital commitment but will only do this using cash on hand and hope to avoid any additional borrowing.

Your support has been critical, we are deeply grateful for your support. It has led to a good financial condition and allows us to continue to invest in our facilities and staff with confidence. We thank you, our Parish and our friends, for this satisfactory outcome.



- 1 Father Max, Olly and Meatball take a Daffy Day lunch break. Photo Father Max
- 2 Miller Truymen cleans up at the Easter egg hunt. Photo Patsy Wright
- 3 The Rev. Whitney Burr helps Martin & Toni McKerrow with the final touches of their parish dinner. Photo Patsy Wright



St. Paul's Church in Nantucket

20 Fair Street

Nantucket, MA 02554

Visit Us

20 Fair Street, Nantucket MA 02554

stpaulschurchnantucket.org

Contact us

508.228.0916

office@stpaulschurchnantucket.org

Pastoral and other concerns

Please contact Father Max

fathermax@stpaulschurchnantucket.org

302.542.5587

Office hours

Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m.-Noon



DO WE HAVE YOUR CORRECT
CONTACT INFORMATION?

Email your updates to:
office@stpaulschurchnantucket.org

Follow us



You
Tube



on Facebook Live or Zoom

To join us on Zoom, please see our weekly Parish Update for the meeting number and password. Please contact the Church Office if you need assistance.

Our online offerings are recorded and available at St. Paul's-Nantucket



Watch Sunday Eucharist live or taped, and videos of recent sermons and events on stpaulschurchnantucket.org

9:30 am*

Sunday Eucharist *8:00 am in the Memorial Garden May 26 - Sept. 1, Weather permitting

Noon

Tuesday Lunchbox Series

Noon

Joe Hammer's Music Wednesday Half-hour concert

11:30 am

Thursday Morning Bible Study One hour, ends at 12:30 pm

GO IN PEACE TO LOVE AND SERVE THE LORD!