



# TIDINGS

Spring 2026

*St. Paul's Church in Nantucket*

20 Fair Street

Nantucket, MA 02554

[StPaulsChurchNantucket.org](http://StPaulsChurchNantucket.org)

## *Rector's Message*

# A Community Who Cares for One Another

**TRULY A JOY** and a blessing of being the rector of St. Paul's Church in Nantucket is the opportunity it offers to be connected to our island community in various and extraordinary ways. Because of our parish's commitment to the spiritual, physical, intellectual and cultural wellbeing of both our beloved congregation and our neighbors, our widespread collaborations open many doors.

On our behalf I have been called upon to serve over these past eight years as volunteer chaplain for palliative care and for Nantucket Cottage Hospital. As has been tradition since 1920, as rector I serve as Fleet Chaplain for Nantucket Yacht Club. I am also blessed by the relationships nurtured as Chaplain of Union Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons, trustee of Community Foundation for Nantucket, and again this year as president-elect of the Nantucket Interfaith Council.

Beyond all of these chaplaincies which are important to me, St. Paul's parishioners' daily compassionate community ministries wonderfully inform our shared

understanding and our resolve to make God's love more widely known. Just last week I served on a scholarship committee thoughtfully chaired by Dorothy Baker. When asked about their experience growing up on Nantucket, all of the teen candidates we interviewed described the island as a tight knit community, a community who cares for one another, a community of neighbors to whom you are able to turn when in need.

Thank you for being that community!  
*Love, Max*



Photo: Olliv Wolf



## 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  
Sr. Susanna Mary Fronzuto  
John Howish, Sexton  
Dorothy Baker, Librarian, Nantucket Toy  
Library @ St. Paul's

### Our Vestry

Lucy Leske, Warden  
Liz Bristow, Warden  
Kirk Baker, Treasurer  
Sister Suzanna Fronzuto, Clerk  
Dorothy Baker  
Karen Bloomfield  
Toby Broadus  
Scott Ferguson  
Cece Fowler  
Lou Gennaro  
Peter Greenhalgh  
Ruthie Klinck  
Josie Martin  
Steve Paradis  
Sheri Perelman  
Patsy Wright

### Tidings

Patsy Wright and Peter Greenhalgh,  
editors



# Wardens Report

by Lucy Leske and Liz Bristow

The **Episcopal News Service** recently reported a study underway to identify common traits of thriving churches. Led by the Rev. Chris Corbin, a priest in the Diocese of Wisconsin, the project is backed by Forward Movement and examines the relationship between survey responses and membership and attendance numbers. Corbin reports that, despite a national trend of declining church membership, the data indicates a few "bright spots" – Episcopal churches that are growing and thriving.

We believe that St. Paul's Church of Nantucket is a bright spot. Over the past year, we have been deeply moved and encouraged by the generosity, commitment, and faith of our members who not only have made our capital campaign successful, but who also enable us to serve both the parish and the larger community with energy, enthusiasm, compassion, and love. We know that people who join us in worship on Sundays, who attend our on-line services and in-person programs, and who volunteer in our ministries value the fellowship and spiritual enrichment that being together in Christ makes possible.

Underlying and supporting our mission To Make the Love of God More Widely Known is our annual stewardship drive. Every single pledge is a blessing and demonstrates a collective investment in our mission and ministry. Your wardens and vestry know that, while reaching our budgetary goal is important, pledging and participation is more about us all being a part of this family — every gift matters no matter how big or small.

We thank everyone who makes St. Paul's Church of Nantucket a place to worship, serve, pray, grow, and join in Christ. We truly are a bright spot.

## ✠ PARISH COMMITTEES ✠

### Altar Guild

Ann Smith and Karen Bloomfield  
co-chairs

### Outreach Committee

Dorothy Baker and Liz Bristow,  
co-chairs

### Campus Oversight Committee

Steve Paradis, chair

### Stewardship Committee

Patsy Wright and Sandy Keys, co-chairs

### Communications Committee

Patsy Wright and Peter Greenhalgh  
co-chairs

### Music Committee

Joe Hammer, chair

### Finance Committee

Kirk Baker, chair

### Campus Interiors Committee

Cece Fowler and Patsy Wright, co-chairs

### Hospitality Committee

Olly Wolf, chair



## TIME – TALENT - TREASURE

# Nantucket Toy Library @ St. Paul's



## Meet Dorothy Baker & Company

**PW:** *How did the idea for the Nantucket Toy Library @ St. Paul's come about?*

**DB:** The idea for St. Paul's to host a toy library came from one of our community partners, Pauline Cronin, the early childhood education coordinator at the Nantucket Community School. Through our work together with Ready, Set, Read, Pauline knew of our commitment to children and families.

When newly renovated rooms in the Parish House that were earmarked for a pre-school did not materialize, Pauline suggested a toy library...While we had never heard of a toy library, Father Max was familiar with one on the Cape. It felt right, like one of those moments when one plan quietly gives way to another. A "God moment."

**PW:** *For those who haven't visited, how does the Nantucket Toy Library @ St. Paul' work — what makes it feel special when you walk into the room?*

**DB:** The toy library has three parts: an indoor play space where children and caregivers gather, a lending library where families can check out toys for two weeks, and an enclosed outdoor playground...The shelves are filled with traditional and educational toys meant to encourage imaginative open-ended play...Walking in, you notice a sense of warmth and energy, where children build trains, read books, cook pretend meals, try on dress-ups, and move from one discovery to another, and now with spring in the air, the sounds of children outside on the playground wafts through the windows.



**PW:** *You've spoken about how meaningful the sense of connection has been — what have you seen among the children and parents as they spend time together?*

**DB:** Discovery! Families arrive unsure of what they will

find, and when they walk in, it's amazing. Children begin to play and discovery quickly takes over. Children share toys, invent games, and invite one another to play. As children play, parents and caregivers begin building community. Joy fills the room, and a quieter sense of ease and belonging prevails. Children grow confident and return often to favorite toys and familiar faces. A place where friendships begin for all generations.



Photos: Patsy Wright

**PW:** *This is clearly something that's grown with the help of many — can you say a word about the volunteers and support behind the Nantucket Toy Library @ St. Paul's?*

**DB:** The toy library is a community effort. Parishioners and neighbors donate toys, puzzles, and books. One generous parishioner even powerwashed the playground. All manner of volunteers has stepped up in ways both large and small. Unpacking boxes, assembling toys, welcoming families, serving as library ambassadors, contributing creative talent, even graphic design...We are also deeply grateful to the Community Foundation for Nantucket and Remain Nantucket, whose early grants helped cover the Nantucket Toy Library @ St. Paul's start-up costs and allowed us to open our doors...Underlying all of it has been the steady support of St. Paul's and the wider community: a shared belief that children matter, that play matters, and that spaces of welcome and connection matter too. The toy library remains free and open to all families.

**Nantucket Toy Library @ St. Paul's** will remain open through the summer with adjusted summer hours to welcome new families, volunteers, and friends...interested in learning more? Reach out to us at [toylibrary@stpaulschurchnantucket.org](mailto:toylibrary@stpaulschurchnantucket.org).

# Needlepoint **RUG**

This year's needlepoint rug design is inspired by the iconic needlepoint chair seats in our beloved chapel. Designed by Erica Wilson in the 1980s, this year's rug has been reimagined by her talented daughter, Vanessa Kagan. The six squares were devotedly stitched by Nancy Bills, Ann Broadus, Sheila Daume, Lucile Hays, Daphne Mitchell, and Susan Whitlock. The detail of the dove square, shown here, is stitched by Ann Broadus.



Photos: Patsy Wright)



Tickets will be sold in front of Murray's Toggery on Main Street, and after Church on Sundays throughout the summer.



Jenny, Stephanie, Abby and Jyllet.



Lucy and Martin.



Deacon Susan, Olly and Ruthie.



Stacey and Pam.



The tale of two Shelias.

PHOTOS BY PATSY WRIGHT



by Jan Jacobi

Patsy Wright, the editor of *Tidings*, asked me if I might share a few thoughts on volunteering and what service to the church community has meant to me. Since I am a seasonal resident on Nantucket, I haven't participated in the St. Paul's volunteer activities for which the church is so well-known. I do, however, have the highest respect and admiration for the commitment that St. Paul's has made to serving the Nantucket community

Over the years, Ginger and I have been volunteers at the Church of St. Michael and St. George in St. Louis. We have both participated in a program called St. Michael's Houses. The church raises seed money (\$20,000 per house) for one of the agencies with which we work. They combine our gift with public and private grant money to purchase a house in a St. Louis inner city location. The house is renovated, and through the agency, a family is chosen to live there.

In our church bulletin, we learn that a family has moved into the house, and that they have requested help with specific needs. Several years ago, a family requested tutoring for the five children. It was perfect for us.

For over a year, we dedicated our Saturday mornings to driving to the north side of St. Louis to be with Beverly and her children. Ginger read stories to the young ones, and I met individually with the two middle school girls and the high school boy. Ginger utilized her early childhood training and teaching experience in designing lessons for her two students. I improvised from my years of involvement with middle schoolers to tutor the older ones. Twelve year old Candy kept everybody in line when Ginger and I were working 1x1 with a brother or sister. Beverly was free for a breather, to go to the market, or to work on a house project.

Woven into our mornings of academic work were breaks when we talked to the children about their school experiences, or their developing interests, or their ups and downs with friends and relatives. Sports were big for the boys, and the girls were hoping to take dance classes at the Mathews-Dickey Boys and Girls Club just a few blocks down the street. I told the two young

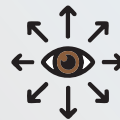
children that they might be able to qualify for City Academy, the elementary school the Danforth family founded next to Mathews-Dickey.

We celebrated each child's birthday with a low-key family party and simple presents. For Christmas, we splurged a bit and brought something special for everyone including Beverly. As we began the second year, when Ginger and I drove to Beverly's house on Saturday morning, we agreed it was the best three hours of the week. The children were benefitting from the tutoring, and their teachers reported they were eager to come to school.

I cannot convey the shock and disappointment I felt, when on a weekday morning in my office, I received a call from Beverly asking that Ginger and I not return for any more visits. I was stunned and heart broken. When I asked why, Beverly said she didn't want to talk about it. Was there any chance she would change her mind?

"No," she said softly.

So, our visits came to an end, and Ginger and I could not begin to understand why. None of our friends had any ideas. Eventually I consigned it to my "unknown" file. The sadness turned to regret, and we moved on.



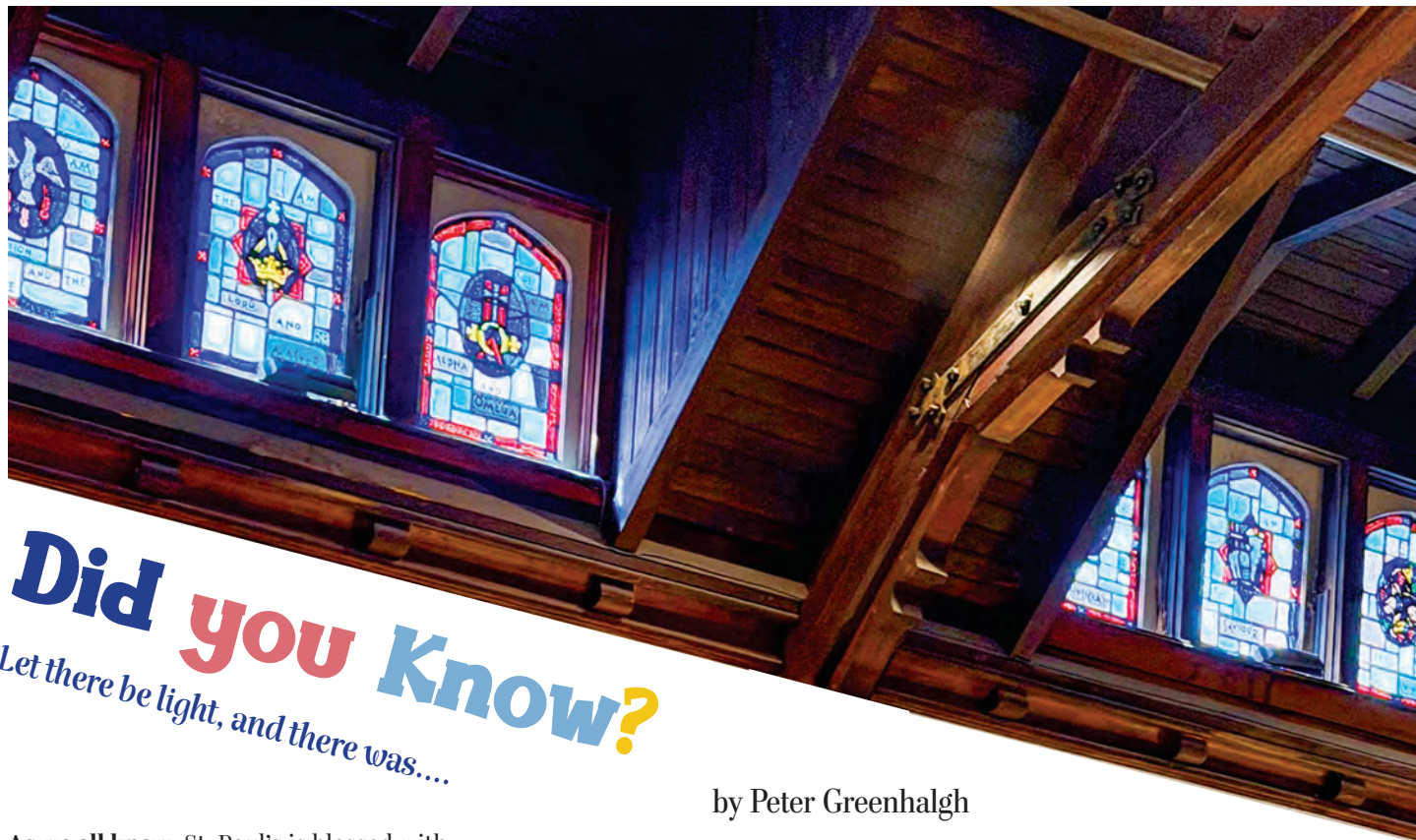
*Sometime later, I learned what I probably should have known in the first place.*

I was having a conversation with a friend at Mathews-Dickey where Ginger and I had resumed tutoring.

"Jan," she said with a slight smile, "Don't you see what happened? Every Saturday morning, before you went down there, she had to clean that house spit spot. And on top of that, you were taking her children away from her."

It was sad, it was profound, and it was right. I'm sure many of you have had experiences like that. Perhaps you were more perceptive than I was. But I will never forget how wonderful it was to be with Beverly and her children on those Saturday mornings.





# Did you Know?

Let there be light, and there was....

by Peter Greenhalgh

As we all know, St. Paul's is blessed with amazing Tiffany windows over the Altar and the large "Water of Life" landscape window facing Fair Street; however, our church is also privileged to have twelve leaded-glass Clerestory windows, three in two dormers on each side of our vaulted church ceiling.

In 1968 then minister Rev. Bradford Johnson (who served St. Paul's for twenty-three years) was approached by a summer parishioner about offering a memorial for her aunt. Giving it

further thought, Johnson approached the Willet Glass Studio in Philadelphia to commission window plans for the dormers at the top of the Nave. Henry Lee Willet proposed what have long been known as the "I Am" windows, which have become a treasured legacy in our sacred church.

If one truly studies all the windows, one will notice that each Clerestory refers to something noted in the four Gospels: I Am the Resurrection and the

Life; I Am the Lord and Master; I Am Alpha and Omega; I Am the Great Physician; I Am the Saviour; I Am the True Vine; I Am the Messiah; I Am the Living Water; I Am the Bread of Life; I Am the Light of the World; I Am the Door; I Am the Good Shepherd.

What a wonderful memorial, adding more light to our beautiful church, while reminding us of such meaningful verses of inner light and resilience.

**"People are like stained-glass windows. They sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when darkness sets in, their true beauty is revealed only if there is light from within."**

— Elisabeth Kubler-Ross

## Stewardship Campaign Update

by Sandy Keys and Patsy Wright

**"God loves a cheerful giver"**

—2 Corinthians 9:7

As this issue of *Tidings* goes to press, total pledges for the 2026 stewardship campaign stand at \$518,159.00, bringing us to 90% of our \$575,000 goal. We are deeply grateful for the generosity already shown by so many members of our parish community.

We often spend our time asking God for what we need, but stewardship

also asks us to consider what may be asked of us — especially for those who have been blessed with opportunity. As our stewardship campaign concludes, we hope you will consider helping St. Paul's church, our church, sustain the ministries and outreach that support our parish and wider community every day.



St. Paul's parishioners at the Island Home, Reggie Levine (above) and Pat Newton (right).

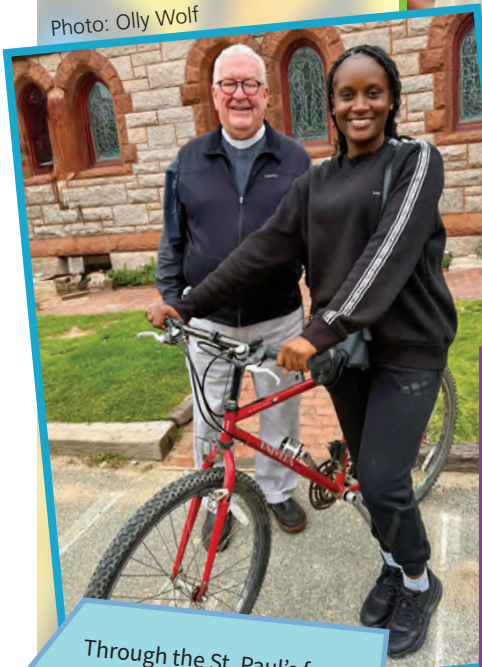


Jack, Laura and baby Maria, celebrate their first Easter.

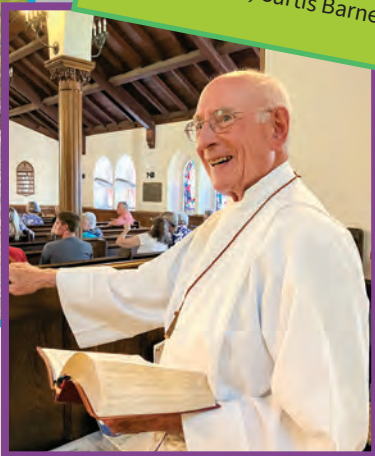
Photos by Patsy Wright



Our Verger, Curtis Barnes.



Through the St. Paul's free bike library, J-1 students can get to work and explore the island.



Photos: Patsy Wright

# Ready—Set—READ! Wrap Party

Pizza, cupcakes, strawberries, brownies, and pretzels: what a joyful way to celebrate a year of reading together with the kindergarten students in the Community School's Extended Day program.

Since the beginning of the school year, we have spent Tuesday afternoons reading stories, drawing pictures, laughing together, and listening to these bright, curious, and very energetic five- and six-year-olds. They delight us with their questions ("Why are you so old?" was a memorable one), keep us on our toes with their endless energy, and remind us, week after week, of the joy found in sharing stories together. Every afternoon brought a new laugh.



We are so proud of these children as they "graduate" into first grade, and so grateful to have shared this year with them. A special thank you to Melissa and the wonderful staff of the Community School's Extended Day program, and to our faithful readers: Juliet, Vicky, Olly, Karen, Father Max, Serena, Ian, Ruthie, Priscilla, and Bill. Thank you as well to Cheryl and Peter Barnes for once again donating a copy of Nat, Nat, the Nantucket Cat for each student.

*A thousand thanks to all!*



# Celebrating the CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

by Martin McKerrow



**St. Paul's 2023 Capital Campaign, "Call to Community"** has come to a successful conclusion. Not only have we reached our goal of \$4.7 million but have succeeded it by a meaningful margin. And it finished with a flourish when we were presented with a significant Challenge Grant that would cover remaining construction costs and preserve our financial condition. In short order, a handful of Parish members increased their pledges to meet the Challenge. As a result, we have funds necessary to cover all costs and meet all campaign targets, including an over \$500,000 increase in our "Endowment". The construction phase of the project will continue into an early summer stop and completion will occur this fall.

We want to thank everyone who pledged for their very generous support. And it is not too late to pledge or, like our generous Parish members, increase your existing pledge. We will celebrate the Campaign's conclusion with a celebration on July 27. It will be held in a newly renovated and climate-controlled Gardner Hall. We should all thank Father Max, and campaign chairs Bob Felch and Peter Barnes for their leadership. Our Church and its facilities have been transformed and renewed, ready to greet the next one hundred and twenty-five years Spreading the Word of God!



Photos: Patsy Wright



Stewarding our spaces for the future.  
Renovations of Gardner Hall  
to long-term protection  
and safety of our church itself.



# Treasurer's

# Report



by Kirk Baker

**Thanks to the continued** financial support of our Congregation, friends and Nantucket community, St. Paul's financial position remains solvent halfway through 2026. We have achieved several milestones over the past few months. In 2025, our total income was more than it has ever been. Our Long-Term Investments are currently sitting in a position greater than ever before. We continue to make God's love more widely known in our community through our Laundry Love program, we feed close to one hundred people every Wednesday through our St. Paul's Suppers program, we continue to serve the summer workforce with our St. Paul's Bike Lending Library, and our parish house is alive with children visiting the Nantucket Toy Library @ St. Paul's. All these programs exist because of your generosity! Soon, we will begin selling tickets for our needlepoint rug raffle fundraiser. There approximately 145 days until our 2026 Christmas Market and Silent Auction!

We are almost across the finish line with our construction project where we have renovated Gardner Hall to create a warm and more welcoming space and most importantly, we have installed a sprinkler system in our Church which will protect our Church Building and its beautiful windows for years to come.

St. Paul's maintains financial stability in 2026 thanks to committed volunteers and the generous support of our congregation and community. *I am grateful for all of this, all of you, and appreciate your support!*

Peter Greenhalgh delivers the palms.



Photos: Patsy Wright

Best Buddies



A moving moment on Maundy Thursday as visiting Intern, Parker Fritts observes Father Max washing Olly's feet during the traditional liturgy of foot washing.



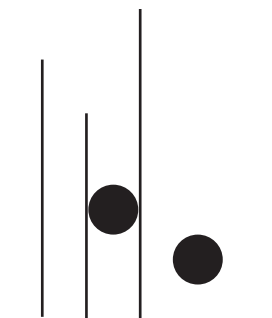
The A-team; Max, Olly, Paul and Jackie.



Selfie: Father Max



# Music Notes



**BY JOE HAMMER  
MUSIC DIRECTOR**

Photo: Patsy Wright



Steinway Piano

**FASTEN YOUR SEATBELT**, for taking the 2026 Summer Sounds Ride at St. Paul's Church is going to be fantastic...one not to be missed!

For the 9:30 am Sunday Eucharist, St. Paul's choir welcomes its summer members and guests, with special vocal and instrumental soloists and ensembles participating throughout this "high season." One Sunday in August will be the occasion to celebrate the eucharist in a jazz setting — details to follow soon!

In June, July and August, St. Paul's will be the site for more than 30 concerts and special performances. The Nantucket Musical Arts Society (NMAS) summer concert series begins on Tuesday, July 14th. The performance schedule, musicians, repertoire and ticket information may be found on the NMAS website at: [nantucketmusicalartssociety.org](http://nantucketmusicalartssociety.org).



Pam Goddard accompanies Joe Hammer on the flute.

The Rossini Club will once again perform a portion of their exciting 2026 concert series at St. Paul's, beginning Wednesday, August 26. We also anticipate some of The Rossini Club performers taking part in a few Sunday 9:30am services. The performance schedule, musicians, repertoire and ticket information may

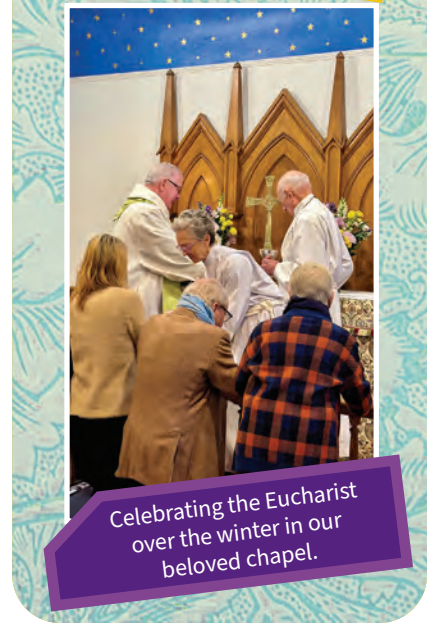
be found on The Rossini Club website at: [therossiniclub.org](http://therossiniclub.org). Additional information regarding performance dates, times, soloists, repertoire, etc. will be provided throughout the summer. So, stay tuned... and jump on board this music ride of meaningful and exciting experiences.



Stephanie Grace, egg hunt elegance.



Olly joyfully leads the Procession of the Palms as thurifer.



Celebrating the Eucharist over the winter in our beloved chapel.





*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, 9AM-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](http://stpaulschurchnantucket.org).

9:30 AM\*

Sunday Eucharist

\*Sunday 8 AM in Memorial Garden,  
May 31st through Labor Day.  
Side chapel during inclement weather.

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!**