



TIDINGS

Summer 2025

St. Paul's Church in Nantucket

20 Fair Street

Nantucket, MA 02554

StPaulChurchNantucket.org

Rector's Message

Pilgrims During a Jubilee Year

Since returning from our sabbatical on May 4th, Olly and I have been asked dozens of times, "Are you happy to be back?" Without hesitation our answer is, "Yes!" We are so grateful to you our parish family for supporting us in our time away together and our amazing adventures abroad, thank you. And it is also wonderful to be back home with you and our island community on this uniquely beautiful slice of God's creation thirty miles at sea.

Much of our sabbatical travelogue involves food: from fluffy pancakes in an old diner in Biddeford, Maine, to veal schnitzel in Boppard, Germany, from the famous Florentine steak to pasta carbonara in Rome, Olly and I ate our way around the world. In doing so, we happily conversed with scores of locals, waiters, chefs and fellow travelers. We acted as culinary ambassadors. I of course handed out dozens of business cards, so you may be meeting some of our dining companions if they take us up on my invitation.

When not eating, Olly and I were visiting churches. We sat in the choir in Christ Church in Pomfret, Connecticut, on Ash Wednesday; gathered by the canal in Venice for Palm Sunday at St. George's Church; surprised that there was no washing of

feet on Maundy Thursday at St. Mark's English Church in Florence; spent all of Holy Saturday at the Vatican; and worshipped on Easter morning at St. Paul's Within the Walls in Rome. Pilgrims in Europe during a Jubilee year, we lit candles, knelt and prayed inside humble churches and majestic cathedrals and basilicas, and finally on Easter Monday in the Tempio Maggiore di Roma—The Great Synagogue of Rome.

In the midst of it all, I woke up in the hotel one morning with a marvelous song playing in my head.

Coincidentally, later that

same day a small street band was singing that very song to a crowd gathered on a main thoroughfare in Florence. The song was made popular by the late great Louis Armstrong, and it is called What a Wonderful World. And so it is!

The peace and joy of Christ,

Max



Selfie by Father Max



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
Liz Bristow Warden
Kirk Baker, Treasurer
Peter Greenhalgh, Clerk

Dorothy Baker
Peter Barnes
Toby Broadus
Colby Crenshaw
Cece Fowler
Lou Gennaro
Jan Jacobi
Ruthie Klinck
Steve Paradis
Sheri Perelman
Jay Riggs
Patsy Wright

Tidings

Patsy Wright and Peter Barnes, editors



Wardens Report

by Lucy Leske

In January 2025, your Vestry adopted a set of covenants to serve as a guide for us as we strive to do God's work in support of St. Paul's mission. At the start of each Vestry meeting going forward, the Vestry pledged to review and center our conversation on one of the covenants as a means of building community among us. In May our covenant was to work with "A Spirit of Openness."

Even a small openness allows God to work among us. Like dandelion seeds, our faith and actions can spread far and wide. We commit to being receptive to the Spirit's guidance and to embracing new ideas with courage and humility.

We are honored and blessed to have such a hard-working, dedicated Vestry that has been indeed working together with a spirit of openness all winter. We are constantly reminded of the collective talent and commitment of the members of our parish and how, by being open to new ideas and voices, our parish and shared ministries continue to grow stronger.

Some of the many projects the Vestry has been involved in during the last few months include:

- *Appointing a by-laws committee to review and make recommendations for revision of St. Paul's by-laws for the first time in over 20 years. The final version will be vetted and approved at our annual meeting in 2026.*
- *Supporting the ongoing work of the Campus Committee and the indispensable John Barnes to continue the design and planning for renovations to Gardner Hall and addition of improved egress and fire suppression sprinkler system in the church*
- *Overseeing much welcomed improvements in the Parish House*
- *Growing our resource base through effective leadership and execution of stewardship and capital campaign initiatives*
- *Working in partnership with Fr. Max and the staff to ensure smooth and effective operations through Fr. Max's sabbatical. We are deeply grateful to all the visiting clergy and volunteers who stepped in and made it possible for Max and Olly to truly get away and refresh.*
- *Supporting our outreach, hospitality, and other committees in their work*

The Vestry was honored and privileged to be part of such an active, engaged parish that is constantly seeking ways to make the love of God more widely known.



PARISH COMMITTEES



Altar Guild

Ann Smith and Karen Bloomfield
co-chairs

Hospitality Committee

Olly Wolf, chair

Campus Oversight Committee

Steve Paradis, chair

Outreach Committee

Dorothy Baker and Liz Bristow,
co-chairs

"Call to Community" Campaign Committee

Peter Barnes and Bob Felch, co-chairs

Stewardship Committee

Peter Barnes and Patsy Wright,
co-chairs

Communications Committee

Patsy Wright, chair

Music Committee

Joe Hammer, chair

Finance Committee

Kirk Baker, chair

Campus Interiors Committee

Cece Fowler and Patsy Wright,
co-chairs

PERSPECTIVES

by Jan Jacobi

During my observance of Holy Week in April, I found myself focusing on Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane on the night of Maundy Thursday. Jesus asks, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me," and when he finishes praying, he finds the disciples asleep. In these moments of agony, Jesus is profoundly alone.

As I've been writing about Abraham Lincoln over the past few years, I've come to see him as a man alone—particularly when he is president.

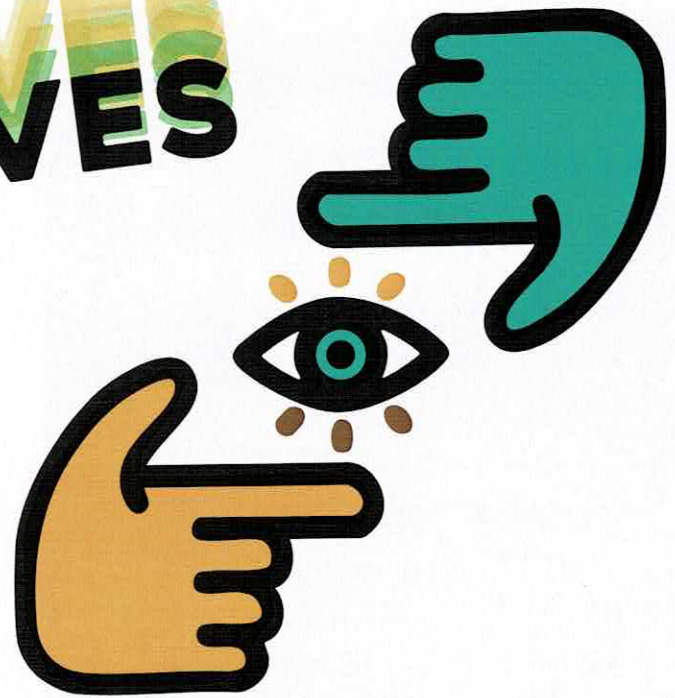
In addition to these examples, we find ourselves in the year 2025 living during a time when many Americans, young and old, identify themselves as isolated and lonely.

As a former middle school teacher and principal, I am deeply concerned about this phenomenon among young people. Is there anything we can do about it? Can we help young people to cope with it?

I believe we can, and I believe, ironically, that the answer lies in learning how to be alone and to welcome it as a time for listening, reflecting, and musing—just like Jesus and Lincoln. It is in learning to be comfortable with our alone time that our feeling of loneliness diminishes. Loneliness can morph into solitude.

A Lincoln friend recommended a book by the social and cultural commentator William Deresiewicz entitled *The End of Solitude*. Deresiewicz was asked to deliver an address to the West Point plebes, and here is what he told them.

"Leadership is what you're here to learn—the qualities of character and mind that will make you fit to command a platoon, and beyond that, perhaps, a company, a battalion, or, if you leave the military, a corporation, a foundation, a department of the government. And solitude is, of all things, what you have the least of here, especially as plebes. You don't even have privacy, the opportunity simply to be physically alone."



never mind solitude, the ability to be alone with your thoughts. And yet I submit to you that solitude is one of the the most important necessities of true leadership."

While making allowance that young people experienced the isolation that came with covid, I can tell you that they are fearful, if not terrified of being alone. Their phones are their coping mechanism.

To cut through this we must teach them the virtues of solitude. The educational psychologist, Howard Gardner, identified eight intelligences. The originality of his theory was not adding kinesthetic, spatial, musical, and natural science intelligences to verbal and mathematical, but including, as well, interpersonal and intrapersonal intelligences. Intrapersonal intelligence is how you get along with yourself. Solitude is the linchpin of intrapersonal intelligence.

I always urged my students to be reflective, but a friend has come up with a better word. She encourages her children to muse. It's perfect. It appeals to middle school kids who are musers by nature. They wonder about the foibles of adults. If we are lucky, they are amused by them and are willing to forgive us our inconsistencies.

But perhaps most important is learning to listen while we muse or reflect. We can hear ourselves saying something that was hurtful, or we can hear a friend giving us very good advice. If we are quiet, ever so quiet, we can sometimes hear the still, small voice of God.

That's what came to Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane on the night of Maundy Thursday.

St. Paul's Church in Nantucket
Community Impact

11,000
free meals

delivered to homebound
parishioners and families in need



100



music
concerts

35
community
events

380

broadcasts
of "Prayers From the Attic"
with Father Max and Oly

1,000
bags of
groceries
delivered to
Nantucket Food Pantry

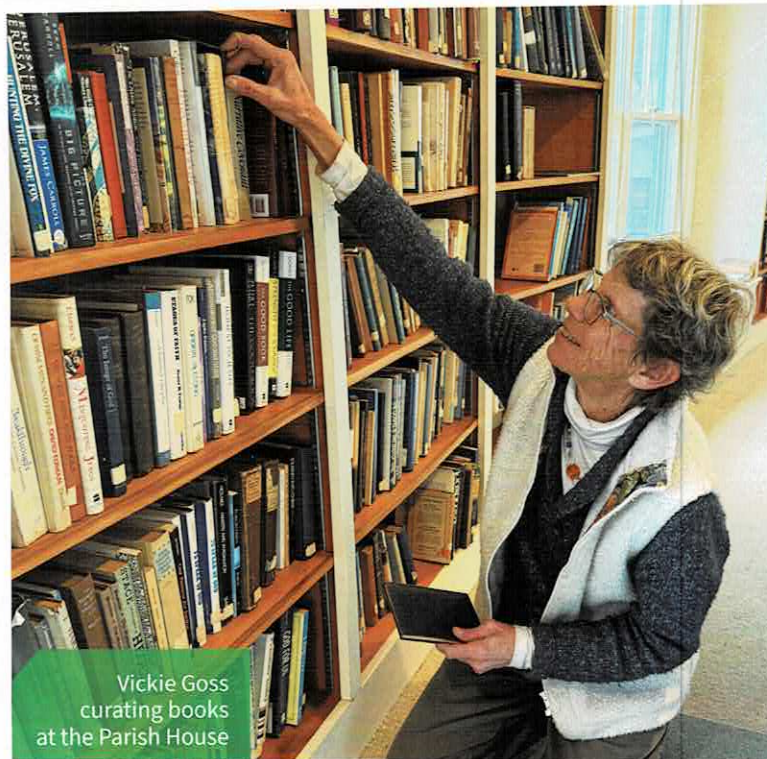
500
broadcast
streams

each week
of services
and events

Stewardship Report

by Peter Barnes and Patsy Wright,
Stewardship Committee co-chairs

We're thrilled to share that we've largely achieved our budgeted goal of \$550,000 for our 2025 Stewardship campaign. However, our journey doesn't stop here. The outreach ministries of our church continue to flourish, and with that growth comes the need for even more support. If you haven't yet made your pledge for 2025, now is the perfect time to consider it. Your commitment makes a profound difference, and together, we can continue to uplift and inspire our community!



Vickie Goss
curating books
at the Parish House

Photo: Patsy Wright

ST. PAUL'S Needlepoint Rug

by Shelia Daume

This year's needlepoint rug, designed for St. Paul's by the Erica Wilson studio, is nothing short of breathtaking. It's a beauty! It was lovingly stitched by Daphne Mitchell, Ann Broadus, Nancy Bills, Lucile Hays, Sheila Daume and Susan Whitlock. **Raffle tickets will be available in front of Murray's Toggery, and always at church on Sundays.**



Photo: Patsy Wright

St. Paul's Needlepoint Rug

TIME – TALENT – TREASURE

SAM BAKER

What inspired you to start the Lunchbox series?

Dorothy and I were fortunate to go through Sewanee's Education for Ministry (EfM) with mentors and parishioners from Grace Cathedral in Charleston, South Carolina. It was an intense four-year program in which we read and discussed the Hebrew Bible, and the New Testament cover to cover, and were introduced to some of the great Protestant theologians.

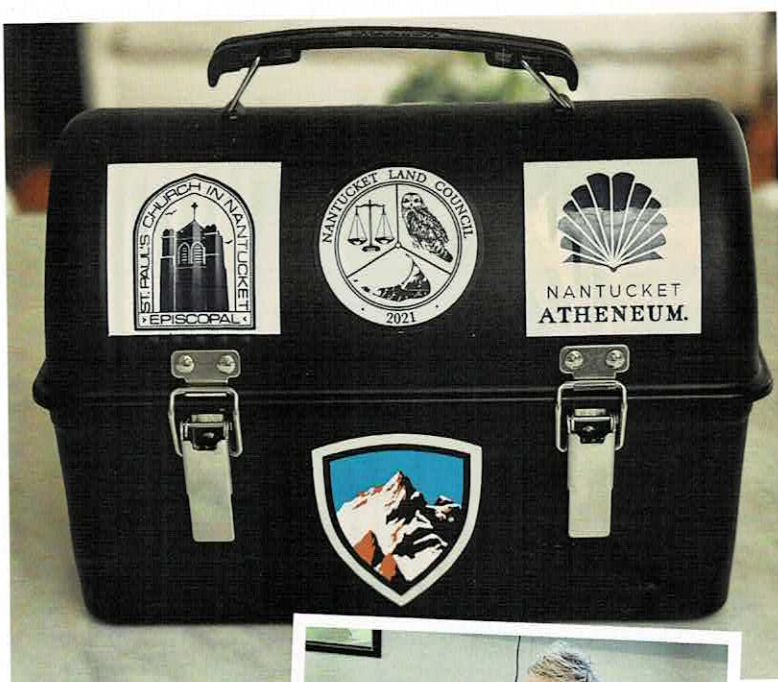
One of my favorite exercises was theological reflection. Each of us would take turns leading a discussion on a particular focus. The focus might be a passage from scripture, a piece of art, or a personal experience. For example, one focus I led involved a video I had taken of the front wheel of my bike as I rode down the middle of Hulbert Avenue on a beautiful spring day. I tried my best to keep the wheel within the lane lines, but there were occasional wobbles when I hit a pothole or a manhole cover. I kept the phone camera on as I turned left onto Easton Street and pedaled toward Brant Point. At the end of the road, I went over the lip of the pavement and careened into the sand. The camera caught me untangling myself from the bike and standing up to see the lighthouse. When I shared the video with the EfM group, it sparked an hour-long discussion on scripture and metaphors. It was this type of theological reflection that inspired the idea for Lunchbox. I pitched the idea to Father Max. I envisioned a weekly hour-long discussion where we would explore Biblical figures through the lenses of art, history, philosophy, scripture, and theology. One of the key things I learned in EfM is that our faith is a mystery. It cannot be proven or disproven by science. So, I came up with a guiding rule: no right or wrong answers, only questions to ponder.

Because the St. Paul's community is always on the move, I also thought each session needed to stand on its own. That way, people could drop in when they were able and rejoin at any time without feeling lost.

About four years ago, Father Max gave the idea his blessing and plenty of freedom to shape it as I saw fit. Since then, we've managed to meet most Tuesdays.

Who is your favorite Biblical figure Lunchbox has explored?

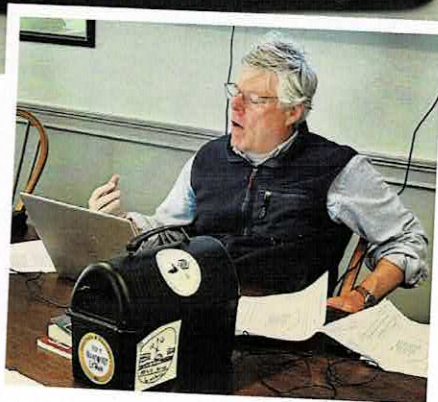
All of them. When we look at each figure from multiple perspectives, we discover a depth of humanity in each one. Mary Magdalene, Andrew, Peter, and Levi wrestled with how to make sense of the Resurrection. St. Paul rebuked members of the



early Church while offering theological and mystical wisdom that continues to astonish. King David and Pontius Pilate both struggled with their demons and temptations. There is something deeply relatable in each of them, and their stories remain relevant to our own spiritual journeys.

What is your perfect day?

Every moment on Nantucket. I am blessed to live on this island and to be part of the St. Paul's community.



Photos: Dorothy Baker



Photo Patsy Wright

MAKING MUSIC

St. Paul's Music Director

by Martin McKerrow

For most of us, Joe Hammer is a part of the fabric of St. Paul's—playing the organ or the piano, directing the choir during church service, from time to time vocalizing as opposed to playing, playing for the Wednesday noon concerts, leading the wonderful Christmas Stroll and Daffodil Weekend concerts and being a warm friendly face. He has had a lifelong love of music.

His life very briefly!

Growing up in a small Indiana farm town, albeit in a musical family, he started taking lessons, the piano at 5 years of age and the organ when he was 13. He proved to be a talented enough organist after two years that he began taking lessons from a Master's degree graduate of the University of Indiana's Jacobs School of Music—Organ Performance.

Early in his life he dreamt of being a church Music Director. He is now living his dream. In his 8th year with us we thought it was time to share some of Joe with all of you.

Leaving high school, Joe faced a difficult choice, should he pursue music as a career or be more practical. He chose the practical route and attended Ball State University majoring in Radio and Television and earned an MA in public relations. Until he joined St. Paul's his career pivoted back and forth between the practical and the dream. While most of his working career was

associated with fund raising for not-for-profit organizations, there were shorter periods of time when he did function as a Music Director, and throughout those over 40 years there was a constant involvement in church music—as

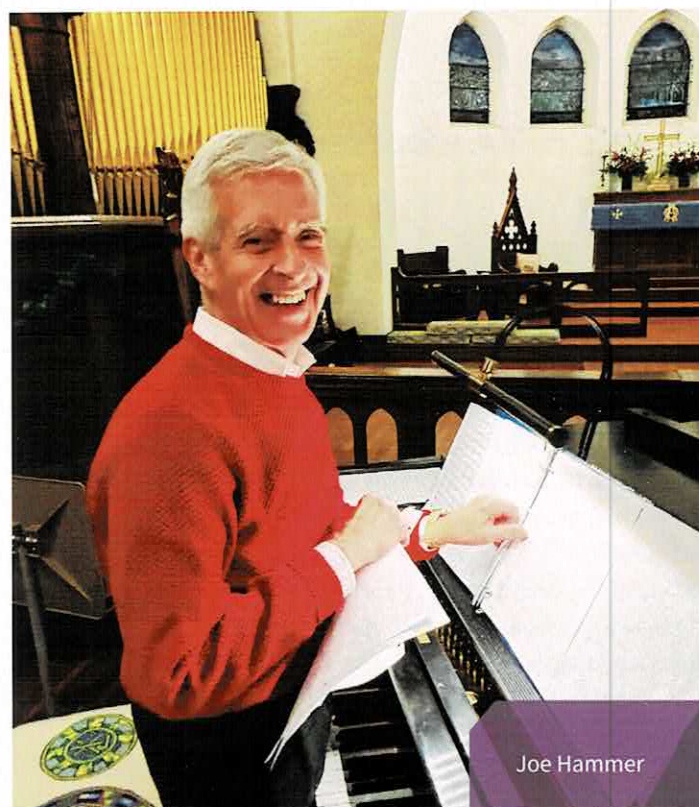


Photo: Beverly Hall

Joe Hammer

an organist, a pianist and a vocalist. During that time, he met his partner John, they lived in New York City, Sag Harbor, New Hampshire, Fisher, Indiana, Indianapolis, and Cincinnati. While in New York they adopted two baby girls. Today, John and Joe happily live in our Cottage with their grandson Killian.

St. Paul's Music Program

His job pivots ended in 2018 when he applied and was accepted as our Music Director. He succeeded Ann Colgrove who had launched St. Paul's into a more structured music program and he has built on her legacy (and Ann is not gone, from time-to-time she still fills in for Joe). On arriving he was pleasantly surprised at the available resources given Nantucket being an island, a meaningful music and organ library, a church with a strong music commitment and willing helpers. He found detailed information about the Choir, had the benefit of a then existing fund dedicated to music and an organ that had recently been lovingly restored. During his eight years he has seen the music program grow, in spite of an almost two years by Covid interruption.

Joe believes that music is an integral part of the church service, adding a dimension that can be an expression of faith, of the desire to pray and communicate with God. Individual congregation members may find other reactions. Since joining St. Paul's, he has built upon the program he inherited. There has been the addition of a musical interlude following the sermon, a choir





accompaniment during the collection and from time to time the choir has been enhanced by paid singers and many guest musicians. Our services face the challenge of dramatic changes in participation due to the seasonal change in island populations, and we've adapted to that. He's learned to play the piano near the open windows providing music for the summer's 8 AM services in the Memorial Garden. When asked about plans for the future, Joe responds "I want to expand on what we have, particularly resources for our choir."

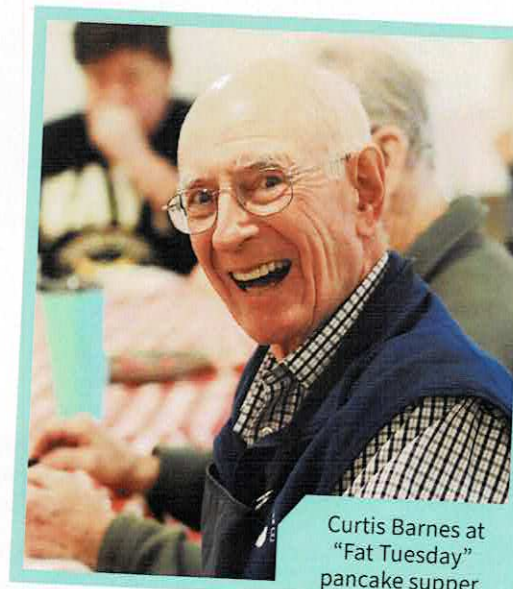
Music continues to be an important, if not critical part of St. Paul's, and there is more to the music program than just the Church services. From time-to-time Joe will receive requests from families and friends to have someone perform in our services, and over the years we have had an ongoing number of generally younger, but highly talented musicians become a part of the service. Joe gives piano and organ lessons to a handful of people including some parish members. We've been blessed by the very long-term loan of Steinway B grand piano (one size down from concert size) from the Nantucket Musical Arts Society. The piano has a magnificent sound, and under our agreement we can use it for church purposes. And often our services are often complimented by performance by a variety of the island's surprisingly deep musical talents.

Why do we sing what we sing?

As you know the Lectionary (found in the back of your Prayer Book) provides a three-year cycle of recommended readings. There is a similar list of recommended hymns appropriate. Thus for each weekend there are suggested hymns. Joe then selects the ones that we sing, with review during that week's staff meeting. If you've been grumbling about gloomy music, or wondered why we aren't singing a particular hymn, don't blame Joe. Joe does have some free reign in choosing music for the non-hymn moments, although often the season will limit the choices. Occasionally Joe adds some "Musical Notes" to the bulletin that give us the flavor of the week's music or the composer.

Between the services, Joe finds his week filled with selecting music for the service, practicing them, rehearsing the Choir and playing for the Wednesday concerts. Additionally he helps out with the opening and closing of the church and Parish House. However, he does get out to enjoy life on the island. He and John love to walk their dogs on the beach or some other island hide away. They also enjoy travel, as much to learn community difference as to visit museums and galleries. And the arts and history are both a focus of their lives. We asked Joe about his favorite instrument – he replied "the organ" no surprise there. And his favorite music? He said, "It is easier to say what I don't like than what I like, since I like almost all music. On his no list is esoteric music and repetitive music". As an example, he loves Steven Sondheim and Andrew Lloyd Weber, not so much. Asked to name a top composer he chose Leonard Bernstein. Asked to choose between Bach, Mozart or Beethoven, he chose Bach.

We look forward to seeing Joe, John and Killian in the coming years.



Curtis Barnes at "Fat Tuesday" pancake supper.

Photo Patsy Wright



Woops, the secret's out! Susan Whitlock and Trish Anderson.

Photo Patsy Wright

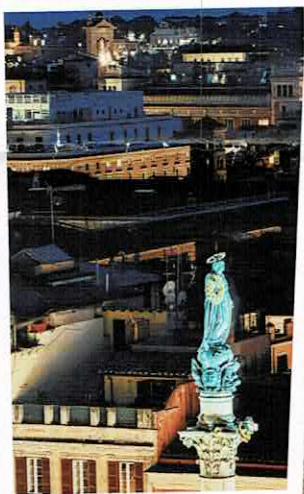


Stephanie Grace loves Sundays

Photo Jenny Benzie



MAX & OLLY GO ON SABBATICAL



Photos: Olly and Father Max

DID YOU KNOW?



by Peter Greenhalgh

Did you know that the name of the hand carved box that graces the wall to the right of the altar is called an aumbry?

An aumbry is a holy fixture in the sanctuary of most Episcopal and Catholic churches, placed near the altar, where the consecrated bread and wine are safely kept. Next to the Aumbry is a special candle in a glass protector which stays lit 24 hours a day; this symbolizes to all whom enter, that the body and blood of our Lord are on reserve (normally Holy Communion is reserved in an Aumbry for weekly visits to the sick, emergencies, and also special occasions).

A vital part of who we are as a worshipping congregation, an Aumbry's presence reminds us, and our visitors, that we believe in the presence of Christ in the Holy Communion. Because St. Paul's had been without one for decades, in 2001 long time member David Wood, with the Vestry's approval, commissioned parishioner Bill Murray a noted Nantucket wood carver and cabinet maker, to build a new Aumbry. The simple yet beautiful Aumbry was designed with a curve to match our Tiffany windows, and was given by Wood in memory of his mother, Virginia Wood. Barbara Melendy helped design the Aumbry, and Reggie Levine and Jeff Blackwell oversaw the project.

Almost twenty-five years later we remain indebted to the kindness of that Vestry and those parishioners, whose vision has allowed us to continue to embrace this sacred object within our sanctuary.

Alleluia. He is Risen.

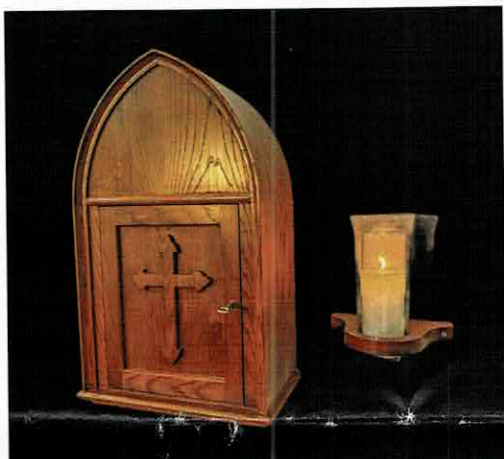


Photo Patsy Wright

TREASURER'S REPORT

$$A + B = C$$



by Kirk Baker

Thanks to a strong stewardship campaign as well as the ongoing support of congregation, friends and community, St. Paul's continues to be in a healthy financial position.

For the first four months of the year, our pledge contributions have surpassed the budget, and although expenses slightly exceeded projections, the surplus has balanced the overall financial outcome. Our long-term assets have outperformed major market indices, and have increased since the beginning of the year.

As our Outreach Ministries at St. Paul's grow in the Nantucket community, and we strive to achieve our Call to Community capital campaign goals, your continued support and generosity are greatly appreciated.



Whitney Burr and Peter Barnes putting in the time with the Capital Campaign mailing

Photo Patsy Wright

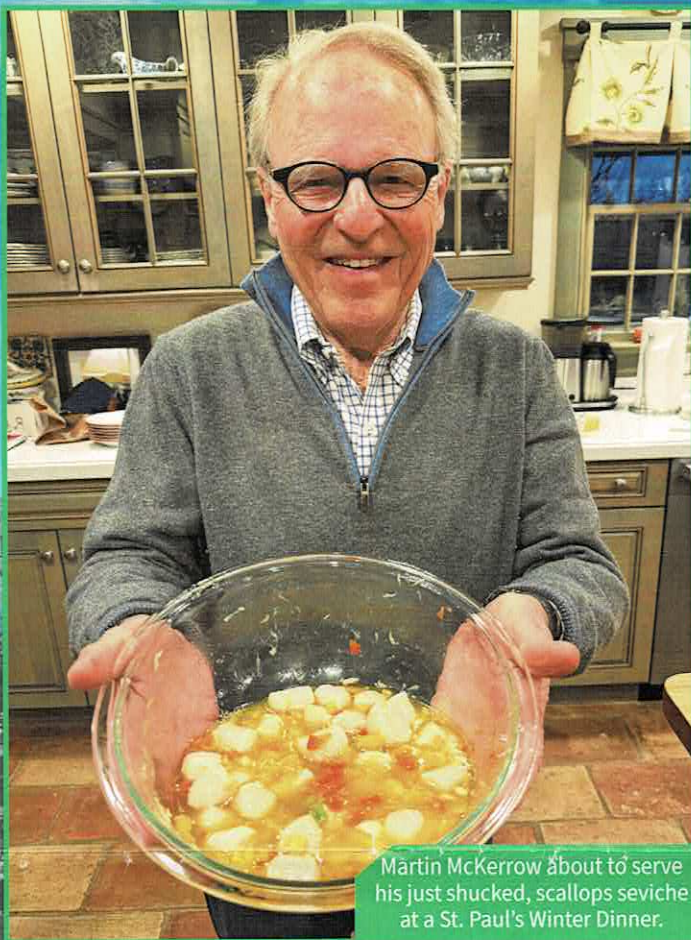


Photo Patsy Wright

Martin McKerrow about to serve his just shucked, scallops seiche at a St. Paul's Winter Dinner.

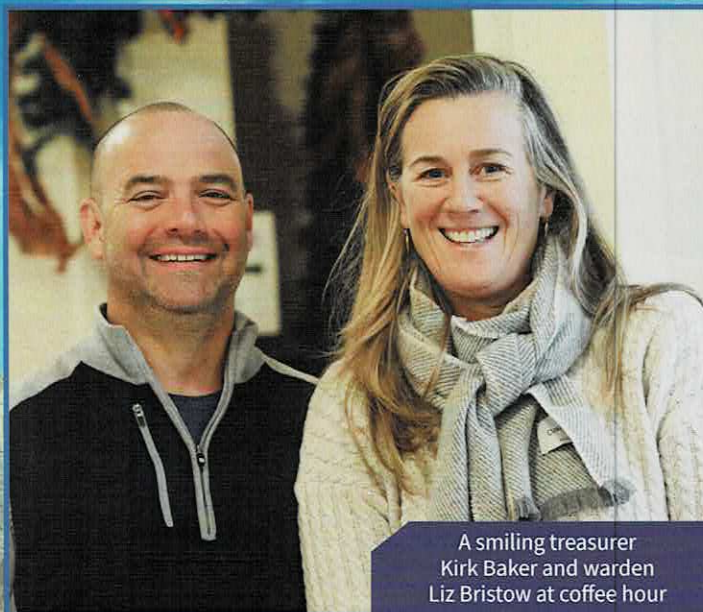


Photo Patsy Wright

A smiling treasurer Kirk Baker and warden Liz Bristow at coffee hour



Photo John Howish

Welcome home Killian

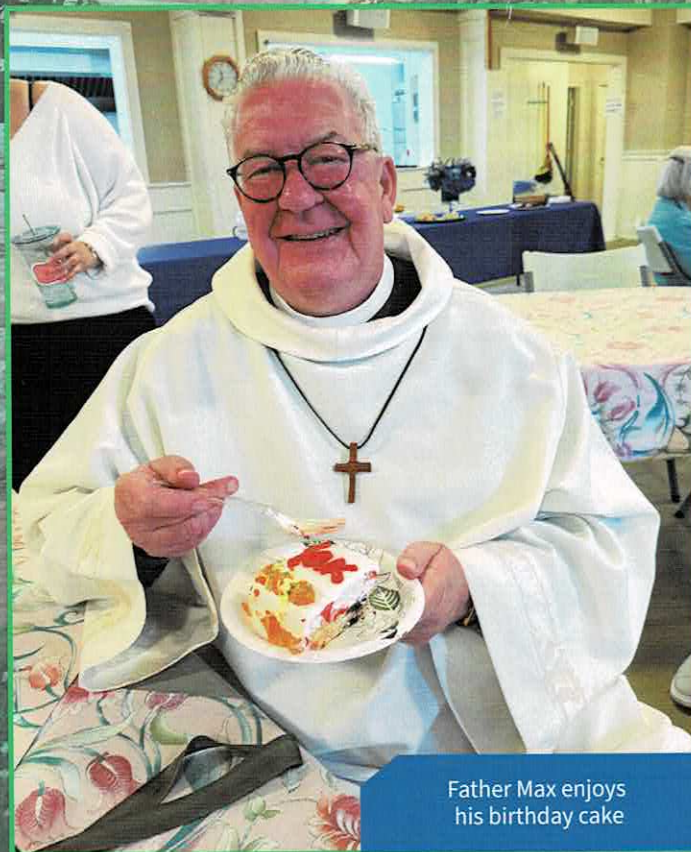


Photo Patsy Wright

Father Max enjoys his birthday cake



Photo Patsy Wright

Binth & Normand Rustad looking great.



Photo: Beverly Hall

The Rev. Canon Kelly O'Connell
and Deacon Susan Phillips

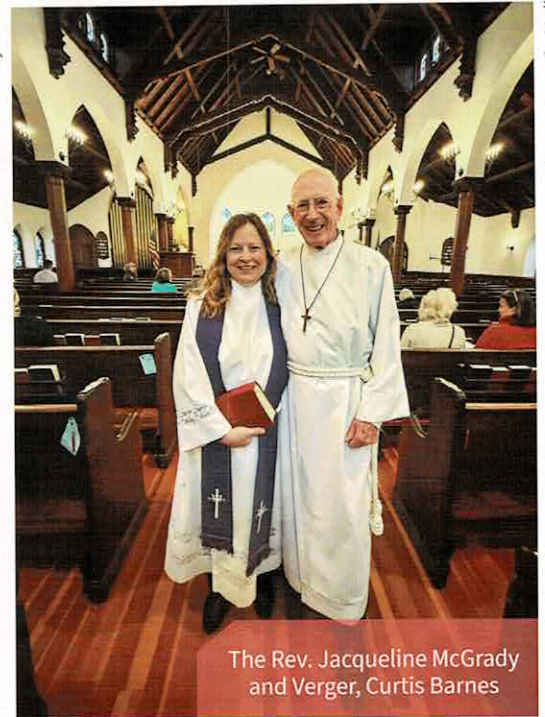


Photo: Beverly Hall

The Rev. Jacqueline McGrady
and Verger, Curtis Barnes

Helping Hands

During Father Max's sabbatical we were spiritually anchored in the capable hands of four wonderful and diverse individuals. The Rev. Dr. Vincent Joseph Kopp, The Rev. Dr. Katharine Black, The Rev. Jacqueline McGrady and a special Easter week guest, the Rev. Canon Kelly O'Connell, Regional Canon for the southern region of the MA diocese. Each person brought their own spiritual gifts to St. Paul's. It was a delight hosting them and learning about each of their unique histories.

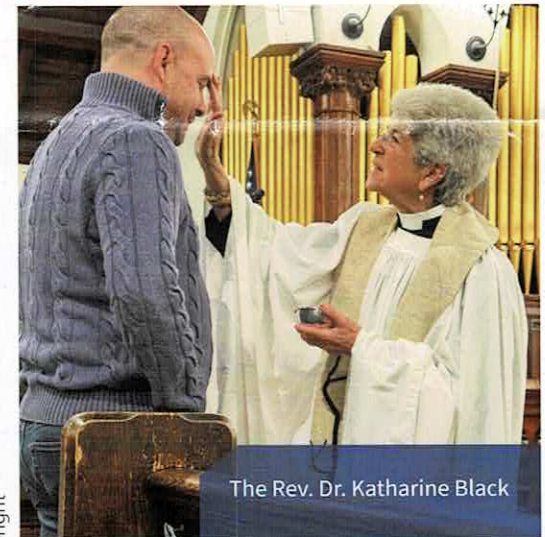


Photo: Beverly Hall

The Rev. Dr. Katharine Black



Photo Patsy Wright

The Rev. Dr. Vincent
Joseph Kopp



Photo Patsy Wright

The Rev. Canon Kelly O'Connell
and Deacon Susan Phillips



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!