



# The Good News

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Chittenango, New York

February 2023

“Great works are performed not by strength,  
but by perseverance.”

- Samuel Johnson

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Today, as I stare at the blank piece of paper, I wonder what I should “talk” about. So I will begin with the Annual Meeting. I wish to thank everyone that came, broke bread and shared their opinions with the Vestry. So for those, who sadly missed a wonderful time, I will give you a synopsis of what occurred.

First was elections. Jan Lee is our Clerk of the Vestry, Judy Olmsted is Treasurer and Don Lee, Assistant Treasurer. On the Vestry is, Robin Weisbrod, Sr. Warden; Sue Gerling, Jr. Warden; Tania Mousaw; Lynn Mozeliak and Valerie Travers. (Round of applause) Thank you for your service and dedication to St. Paul's.

The normal business, election of Chittenango Area Association of Churches representatives, Convention Delegates, those things occurred. Thanks to those who stepped up to fill the shoes. It is appreciated more than you know.

Then came the meaty stuff, as I call it. If anyone has stopped and taken a good hard look at the outside of the building, you will see that we have quite a bit of rotting wood and all that hard work that Mike Furtado and Tania Mousaw did, is slowly peeling off. So the Vestry set about to get bids for someone to paint the church. Easier said than done. I reached out to known painters, ie Woman at Work - who told me they no longer did Church exteriors. They referred me to a painter in Baldwinsville, who said they didn't want to drive the distance. So I extended my search further out. Joseph Rivers Painting in Cortland came and gave us a bid, as did Mike from Artech Sales, out of Connecticut. If anyone wishes a copy of the bids, let me know and I will get them to you. After much discussion, we went with Artech Sales - now, at first glance, the thought would be, BUT Robin!! They are so much more expensive. True, except, their bid included pretty much everything, and Rivers Painting stated extra charges for repair and wood needed. Another piece of the puzzle was that Artech Sales is a Church Restoration - you can find their website: Church Renovations | New Pews | Rew Refinishing | Artech Church Interiors | 800.222.7397 Expensive? Yes, but this is what they do for a living, they are experts and you can't beat that.

Since we are facing such a big amount, we are going to do the following:

- I will start looking for Grants
- We are going to have a Building Fund Campaign
- We will go to the Diocese and apply for a grant and possibly a low interest loan
- Pray unceasingly

Oh and the amount we are looking at? \$38,000. I know. I understand, that is A LOT of money. But, God willing we will raise it. I know we will.

A couple of things I wish to say, first, Thank you Don Lee for your service as our Treasurer. I will miss our chats, but know that if Judy, Sue or I need anything, you will be there. Judy, Thank you for stepping in as Treasurer, a huge task, but you are up to it. I will miss you as my Junior Warden and your voice on the Vestry, but I know you are up to the challenge of Treasurer, especially with Don's help. Sue, thank you

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The Mission of our Parish is to be an active community reflecting God's presence in Chittenango and other communities we represent.

## Our Services

Sundays at 9 AM

Join us on Zoom!

Link will be posted to our Facebook page every week

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Chittenango, NY 13037  
(315) 687-6304  
stpaulschittenango.net

## Contact Information

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## St. Paul's Vestry

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Treasurer

Judy Olmsted  
Jr Warden  
Education

Tania Mousaw  
Outreach

Lynn Mozeliak  
Fellowship/Pastoral Care

Sue Gerling  
Worship

Jan Lee  
Vestry Clerk

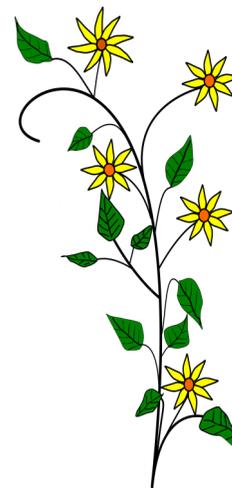
Amy Veator  
Newsletter Editor

## Prayer List

Ethel Barber, Helena Brown, Collette Cook,  
Charles Grover, Joan Grover, Donna Hoffman,  
Patricia Ladd, Ed Link, Woody McAllister,  
Ahshinnhare Tarbell, Gerry Weisbrod, Mike  
Weisbrod and Ruth Williams.

New Prayer List for February 2023/March 2023 has  
been posted on the bulletin board.

If you wish to have someone added to St. Paul's Prayer  
list, please contact Becky Kraus at  
bak092364@gmail.com / 315- 382-9056 or Robin  
Weisbrod at rdweisbrod@gmail.com /315-655-4321.



If anyone would like a written copy of the weekly lessons/Gospel,  
Psalm, and Fr. Leon's sermon, either mailed to you or emailed to  
you - please contact the Church, by phone or by email and let  
Becky know. She will drop them in the mail to you weekly.

Please email  
stpaulschittenango@gmail.com

## About St. Paul's

The earliest record of Episcopal Church services in this vicinity  
was 1816 when St. Stephen's Church of Perryville was incorpo-  
rated. At that time Chittenango was little more than a gathering of  
frame and log houses. From 1816-1832 rectors from St. Stephen's  
held missionary services in Chittenango.

Around 1849 a few gentlemen who greatly admired and revered  
the beautiful services of the Church, agreed to make an effort to  
have services occasionally held. By the spring of 1855 services be-  
gan to be held regularly once a month in the Bethel. St. Paul's was  
officially organized as a parish on June 18, 1855. St. Paul's church  
was built in 1865 as a Gothic Revival-style structure. The lot, build-  
ing, furniture and windows cost \$5000. The building  
was completed in less that six months. The first service was held in  
the church on Easter Day, April 1, 1866.

On May 12, 1866 the church was consecrated by Bishop Coxe. It  
was added to the U.S. National Historic Register of National Places  
in 1996.

# February

## Birthdays

06 Ida Goins

10 Pat Davis

22 Neil Huebler

23 Roberta Kincaid

## Anniversaries

09 Jim & Becky Kraus

## Ministry Team Schedule

### February 5, 2023

#### Holy Eucharist

Rev. Dr. Leon C. Mozeliak, Jr.

L.E.M.: Judy Olmsted  
 Lessons: Claudia Jensen  
 Prayers: Claudia Jensen  
 Acolytes: Ed Hoffman  
 MIDI: Valerie Travers  
 Coffee Hour: Vestry

### February 12, 2023

#### Morning Prayer

Robin Weisbrod

Lessons: Judy Olmsted  
 Prayers: Judy Olmsted  
 Acolyte: Ed Hoffman  
 MIDI: Valerie Travers  
 Coffee Hour: Please volunteer

### February 19, 2023

#### Holy Eucharist

Rev. Dr. Leon C. Mozeliak, Jr.

L.E.M.: Judy Olmsted  
 Lessons: Sue Gerling  
 Prayers: Sue Gerling  
 Acolyte: Ed Hoffman  
 MIDI: Valerie Travers  
 Coffee Hour: Please volunteer

### February 26, 2023

#### Morning Prayer

Robin Weisbrod

Lessons: Meg Hermann or Sue Gerling  
 Prayers: Meg Hermann or Sue Gerling  
 Acolyte: Ed Hoffman  
 MIDI: Valerie Travers  
 Coffee Hour: Please volunteer

### Altar Guild for February:

Sue Huebler

Becky Kraus

## Talking to the Salt, Epiphany 5 (A) – February 5, 2023

Charles Hoffacker

[RCL] Isaiah 50:1-9a, (9b-12); Psalm 112:1-9, (10); 1 Corinthians 2:1-12, (13-16); Matthew 5:13-20

The celebrated Chilean poet Pablo Neruda wrote many odes. An ode, you will recall, is a poem that addresses its subject in an exalted fashion. Thus, we have poems by Keats such as “Ode to a Nightingale” and “Ode on a Grecian Urn” in which an enchanting bird and an ancient ceramic vessel are directly addressed. Pablo Neruda follows the same pattern in “Ode to My Socks” and “Ode to Salt.”

In his “Ode to Salt,” Neruda says a great deal before reaching his conclusion, where, speaking still to salt, he declares: “The smallest, the tiniest wave of the shaker brings home to us not only your domestic whiteness but inward flavor of the infinite.” So, the smallest grain of salt, one invisible to the eye, brings to us the flavor of the infinite, the inward flavor. Thus, the poet offers high praise to ordinary salt. Strange though it seems, he speaks to the salt directly, with a voice of respect, about how well it serves to bring about an epiphany, the inward flavor of the infinite.

Someone else speaks to salt, sings its praises. We heard from him today in the Sermon on the Mount. Looking out at his disciples, including us, Jesus announces, “You, you are the salt of the earth!” Like Neruda, Jesus talks to salt. A strange thing for anyone to do, but maybe not so strange if we recognize the salt as bringing home, even in its smallest quantities, the “inward flavor of the infinite.”

To put this in football language, Jesus catches a pass thrown by Neruda and runs down the field with it. The least bit of salt brings home “inward flavor of the infinite,” claims the poet, and Jesus then runs with this bold assertion, making an even bolder claim: his followers, all of them, are grains of salt through whom “inward flavor of the infinite” is encountered. Touch-down!

But do the countless fans who witness this feat roar forth their approval? Maybe not at first. For here, Jesus identifies every Christian as a living paradox. We are, each of us, so tiny, yet infinity shines forth through each of us.

Most of us don’t feel like that most of the time. But sometimes, in diverse matters, we are called in this

direction, and we must be ready to offer the right response, to serve as salt that has not lost its savor. Our human discomfort with this role appears to have two aspects. First, we do not wish to appear so small. A grain of salt is easy to miss, inconsequential, unlikely to receive applause.

The second aspect is related to the first. Not only do we dislike appearing so small, but the focus on what Neruda calls the “inward flavor of the infinite” is not a focus on us; attention goes elsewhere.

Our spiritual practices can be a help here, as these practices remind us in different ways that we are not here to magnify ourselves, to draw attention to ourselves, to become large and massive, all for our own satisfaction. We are here to love and serve and give glory to God. We need reminders of this repeatedly. It is the easiest thing to forget.

And so, it is just fine that we are, and that we remain tiny grains of salt in God’s vast world. As such, we can even do some good. It can even happen that the “inward flavor of the infinite” can be experienced through what we do. It may happen through one single, momentary action where our discipleship becomes unmistakable, when we sparkle as salt that has not lost its savor.

Here’s a story from long ago that has proven surprisingly durable. It recounts a single action that sparkles with the inward flavor of the infinite.

In the fourth century of the contemporary era, a young man named Martin was serving in the Roman army near what is now the French city of Amiens. On a bitterly cold winter night, he encountered a beggar pleading for help near the city gate. All the other passersby ignored him; Martin wanted to help. But what could he do? He had no money or food or shelter to offer. So, he took off his big, warm army cloak, used his sword to cut it in two, gave one part to the beggar, and kept the other part for himself.

Something else happened that night. Martin had a dream, a big dream, one of the sort most of us have

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for not falling off your chair when I said (not asked...lol) you were my next Junior Warden. Think of yourself as the “Little Engine that Could”- I think I can, I think I can, I think I can, I know I can, I know I can.....(my Dad used that as a sermon at a non denominational church he filled in for one Sunday - I loved it!). This Vestry can and will! I know it.

We are almost liturgically done with Epiphany. February 22nd is the beginning of Lent, doesn't seem possible. The Church will change from Green to Pur-

ple, we will slow down and reflect on the season of Lent, think of the struggle our Lord, Jesus went through and realize, nothing we face is as horrific as what he faced. We need to take strength from that.

Thank you for supporting St. Paul's, we may differ in ideology or whatever, but we all have a love for St. Paul's that is surpassed by none.

Peace and God's love,  
Robin W.  
Sr. Warden

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rarely, if at all. Jesus appeared in Martin's dream, accompanied by angels. The angels asked Jesus where he had received the half of a cloak he was wearing. Jesus replied that Martin had given it to him. The young soldier had responded in this costly way to what Jesus says at the Last Judgment in Matthew's Gospel, “I was naked and you gave me clothing.”

At that time, Martin was a catechumen, engaged in the long and demanding process leading to baptism. Eventually, he was baptized and later became a monk. He founded the first monastery in Gaul, which became an important center for Christianity. Before his death in 397, Martin served many years as the bishop of Tours in the Loire Valley of what is now France.

Martin's life is well-documented. His witness is honored throughout the churches. The Episcopal Church keeps the feast of Martin of Tours on November 11. Churches throughout the world are named for him, including Anglican and Episcopal parishes in London, Philadelphia, Houston, and many other places.

Of all that can be said about Martin, what is most securely lodged in the memory of the church about him is how he helped someone in desperate need by splitting his own cloak in half. Why? Because the story shows so clearly the discipleship of Martin, even though at this point he was still awaiting baptism. We have in this story “the inward flavor of the infinite,” a saltiness that remains forever.

Artwork from many places and many centuries depict the encounter between Martin and the beggar. Besides numerous icons, paintings, and statues, there is even a German Christmas stamp of 1984 that shows Martin on horseback, sword in hand, and the naked beggar receiving half of the cloak.

Talking to salt is a strange thing. Pablo Neruda did it in one of his odes. Jesus did it in the Sermon on the Mount. Martin heard himself addressed as salt in the pleading of a beggar.

God still talks to salt when we pray and find ourselves spoken to.

Perhaps you know what it is like to be addressed as salt, invisible grains that manifest the “inward flavor of the infinite.”

Perhaps you will be addressed as salt in the days ahead, for certainly, our world stands in need of that “inward flavor of the infinite” available through the salt of discipleship.

Whatever the circumstances when you are summoned, do not close your heart. The world waits for what only you can provide.

*The Rev. Charles Hoffacker lives in Greenbelt, Maryland with his wife, Helena Mirtova. He is the author of A Matter of Life and Death: Preaching at Funerals. Many of his sermons appear in the lectionary preaching resource SermonWriter and he contributes regularly to Sermons That Work.*

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/sermon/talking-to->

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**stpaulschittenango.net**

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