



The Weekly POINT



ST. PAUL'S PARISH
EPISCOPAL-ANGLICAN

Journey to Freedom: Dare to Take It—Detour

Reflection by the Rev. John Morrison, Priest-Emeritus

Several weeks ago, I wrote a short piece for this publication titled “Journey to Freedom—Dare to Take It—Part 1,” which suggested that there would be more to follow. I would use that initial reflection as a catalyst for some additional thoughts about the journey into the living Christ within the context of life in this parish. However, rather than Part 2, this reflection’s subtitle is Detour.

Three years ago, erstwhile Bishop of Durham, England and renowned New Testament scholar, Tom Wright, wrote a marvelous and accessible little book, *Into the Heart of Romans: A Deep Dive into Paul’s Greatest Letter*. I read it a few months before coming to this parish; I am reading it again for a study group I belong to on Long Island. As he does often, Wright tells a story to make a point. Only two pages into the text, the bishop used this technique to make a connection between London taxi drivers and the Bible, about their amazing knowledge of the intricacies of London’s geography and the drivers who navigate all the nooks and crannies that are hundreds of years old. You might be wondering, “Hmm, is this the detour, Fr. John? Or just another of your digressions?” Let me illustrate.

What follows is a story not only from a personal perspective, but also a mandate for the journey you and I as Christians have chosen to take as we make our ways toward a Cross and a Crown, a new heaven and a new earth. I have been to London more than a dozen times and I have become familiar with the West End and the Houses of Parliament, the Imperial War Museum and Westminster Abbey, the Palace and the parks. About this kind of familiarity (which always needs to be deepened), Wright suggests the following:

...the church as a whole needs, if I can put it this way, biblical taxi drivers...not least for the sake of its mission to the world [but also because it needs] clergy and laity who fall in love with the great city we call scripture and want to get to know it much better and to help others to find their way wisely around it. We need people whose minds and hearts have been transformed by this amazing tool. We need people whose biblical hippocampi have been enlarged, whose theological spatial awareness has been heightened.

This is a mandate for the people of Saint Paul’s, individually and collectively.



Nearly a year ago, my middle granddaughter left Saint Paul's the day after her grandmother's funeral and on the drive back to Ridgefield announced to me, "Grandpa, Jesus is in this church." Indeed, he is, and when I make pastoral visits, He becomes palpably present, not just in a shared communion, but in vulnerable lives and mutual devotion. It is not just that I bring something to them—I know that I do—but that they fill me with joy when I depart on the "wings of eagles" because we have waited on the Lord together. To revise a Collect I read each morning at Morning Prayer a few weeks ago: The people I visit awaken me to our Lord's glory, open my eyes to his presence, open my ears to his call, open my heart to his love.

Frequently at our Wednesday healing service, a soloist will offer a piece of music as a prelude. Occasionally, perhaps more often than I suspect, the congregation "becomes the music [with the singer] while the music lasts" (to cite T. S. Eliot in *The Four Quartets*) and enters the song, not as performance but as an engagement with truth. Unbidden, yet unobtrusive, the congregation joins softly in the refrain: "Come, follow me, and I will give you rest." The next morning at the men's group we noted the uniqueness that shapes and centers us on our individual yet collective journeys and one person closed our gathering with the observation, "this is what I've longed for all my life."

Even in the detours, the journey into freedom, with Jesus Christ as our companion, is a present reality here at Saint Paul's. What Jesus has done and is doing is the dominant thread in the tapestry of this parish. One might suggest that "in Christ alone" lies the cornerstone of Saint Paul's, that he is the beginning, the one who goes with us on the journey, the completion of everything accomplished. If you haven't done so already, join us on the pilgrimage to become ever new creatures in the company of the risen Lord.

[CLICK HERE for a PDF version of this newsletter](#)



The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 4th, 2026

8:00 a.m. TRADITIONAL SERVICE in the Nave

Service begins at 7:55 a.m. with the Prelude.

Celebrant: The Rev. Nathaniel Jung-Chul Lee, Ph.D.

[Download](#) the Traditional Service bulletin.

[Click here to Livestream the TRADITIONAL Service](#)

9:15 a.m. Coffee Hour in Crocker Hall



9:45 a.m. Sermon Talkbacks in Crocker Hall

Sermon Talkbacks are a chance to keep the conversation going. At St. Paul's, we believe preaching happens not just for the church, but with the church. Join us in Crocker Hall at 9:45 a.m., September 20 to October 25, to reflect on our current series on *The Giving Parables of Jesus*.

9:45 a.m. Church School & Confirmation in the Sunday School Wing

10:30 a.m. CONTEMPORARY SERVICE in the Nave

Service begins with a time of informal praise and worship; Liturgy begins at 10:45 a.m.

[Download](#) the Contemporary Service bulletin.

[Click here to Livestream the CONTEMPORARY Service](#)

1:00 p.m. St. Francis Day Celebration



On the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, we celebrate his deep love for creation and his faith in Christ, giving thanks for the animals who share our lives. Join us **October 4 at 1:00 p.m. in the Parish Meadow** for a short liturgy followed by the **Blessing of the Animals**. Bring your furry, feathered, or otherwise beloved companions as we praise God, maker and keeper of all creation, and rejoice with St. Francis in “all creatures of our God and King.”

QUICK LINKS

READ THIS SUNDAY’S SCRIPTURE:

[The First Lesson](#) [The Psalm](#) [The Epistle](#) [The Gospel](#)

MAKE YOUR WEEKLY OFFERING ➤ Visit StPaulsTithe.ly

REQUEST A PASTORAL VISIT ➤ Email [St. Paul's Pastoral Care](mailto:St.Paul's Pastoral Care)

SUBMIT A PRAYER REQUEST ➤ Email St. Paul's Prayer Chain

Your prayers are requested for members and friends of the parish who are sick, sorrowful, or in any kind of trouble:

Allie, Barbara, Elizabeth, Greg, Jack, Jim, Jimmy, Larry, Linda, Liz, Lois, Margaret, Markus, Rose, Sherrill, Sheryl, Walter

To add a name to the prayer list email Ops Director Mary Perry.

LAST WEEK @ St. Paul's

Although it may have seemed like a quieter week, there was still much church life happening as we settle into our fall routine. Sunday school, multiple bible study groups, a weekly walking group, and scout meeting, caring for the property and each other all continue to take place and offer opportunities for worship, service, and connection.

LAST SUNDAY'S WORSHIP

[Click here to watch the TRADITIONAL Service](#)

[Click here to watch the CONTEMPORARY Service](#)

RECORDINGS FROM LAST WEEK

[Click for Sunday's SERMON: "Which Prize...?"](#)

[Click here to watch the Wednesday HEALING Service](#)



Walking Group

This September marks the one year anniversary of our St. Paul's walking group, organized by Ron Switzer. The group meets weekly on Friday mornings to explore local state parks, nature preserves, and other trails with historic interest and beautiful landscapes.



Boy Scout Campout

Despite a campground closure due to the storm our Boy Scout Troop 5 kept their 62 year tradition of camping once a month alive on Saturday night. The meadow was the perfect location to appreciate the beautiful sky and spend the night close to home.

NEXT WEEK @ St. Paul's

Monday
October

5

9:00a: Administrative Meeting (Zoom)
7:00p: Monday Men's Bible Study (Crocker Hall) - [Livestream](#)

Tuesday
October

6

9:00a: Ladies Morning Bible Study (Guild Room) - [Zoom Link](#)

Wednesday
October

7

10:00a: Holy Communion & Healing Service (Nave) - [Livestream](#)
11:30a: Parish-Wide Prayer Service (Guild Room)
7:00p: Ladies Evening Bible Study (Zoom) - [Zoom Link](#)

Thursday
October

8

9:30a: Iron Sharpens Iron (Crocker Hall)
7:30p: Choir Rehearsal (Nave)

Friday
October

9

10:00a: St. Paul's Walking Group, Sunny Valley Preserve in Bridgewater.

Saturday
October

10

7:30a: John 20:12 Group (Theo's Diner, New Milford)
10:00a: PraiseMoves (Crocker Hall) - [Zoom Link](#)

For our a **full calendar of events** [click here](#) to visit our website

UPCOMING EVENTS @ St. Paul's

Visit from Cambodian Missionaries

Will & Becky McLaughlin

October 18th at 9:45 a.m.



On **Sunday, October 18th**, we'll have a special opportunity to reconnect with our missionaries in Cambodia, **Rev. Will and Becky McLaughlin**, and hear firsthand how God has been moving through their lives and ministry over the past three years. Will and Becky will share stories of hope, challenge, and transformation as they serve among millions who have yet to hear the good news of Jesus. Their experience will inspire and equip us to be more intentional, faithful partners in this vital work.

- **Will McLaughlin will be preaching in both morning services**
- **A special presentation and Q&A with Will and Becky will follow the 8:00 AM service in Crocker Hall**

Don't miss this chance to be encouraged and inspired—and to strengthen your connection to what God is doing in Cambodia. **Let's show up, listen well, and partner deeply.**

Trunk-or-Treat
October 25th at 2:00 p.m.

"All Hallows' Eve" is one of the oldest celebrations in the Christian Church, and part of the Triduum of All Saints—a season in which Christians have long remembered the saints and the faithful departed. For generations, Christians have marked the occasion with feasting, costumes, stories, and a healthy dose of good humor in the face of death and darkness.

We invite you to join us on **Sunday, October 25th** as we continue that tradition in a slightly more contemporary fashion! Families will gather at 2:00 p.m. for an afternoon of costumes, candy, and community. Our parking lot will become a parade of creatively decorated cars, with plenty of treats for everyone. Come in costume, decorate a trunk if you can, and get ready for some good old-fashioned Halloween fun!





The Triduum of All Saints
October 28 through November 4th

The **Triduum of All Saints** brings together three ancient Christian observances. **All Hallows' Eve** is the vigil of All Saints' Day—a time of preparation and anticipation. **All Saints' Day** celebrates the whole communion of saints, both those known to the Church and the countless faithful who have gone before us, reminding us that we, too, are called to lives of holiness and faithfulness. **All Souls' Day** remembers those who have died, giving us space to remember those we love, entrust them to God's mercy, and proclaim our hope in the resurrection. Together, these three days celebrate the saints, remember the departed, and proclaim the hope we share in Christ.

This year, we'll be stretching the Triduum over a week, allowing us to mark each of these observances together in worship:

- **All Hallows' Eve:** Wednesday, October 28th at 10:00 a.m.
- **All Saints' Day:** Sunday, November 1st at 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
- **All Souls' Day:** Wednesday, November 4th at 10:00 a.m.



October 31st at 8:00 a.m.

St. Paul's will host its Fall Blood Drive on Saturday, October 31st, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Help make a difference in our community by donating blood. Appointments are required and can be scheduled by calling the Red Cross at 1-800-RED-CROSS.

Every donation can help provide lifesaving blood to patients in need. We hope you'll consider joining us and supporting this

important community effort!

PiC Listening Session #4
November 1st at 9:45 a.m.

Join us for the fourth PiC Listening Session of the year. These gatherings are part of our ongoing commitment to fostering a culture of safety, connection, and shared purpose within the parish. It's an opportunity to ask questions, share reflections, and hear where we've been and where we're headed as a community. We'll also take stock of the main topic of discussion for this season: giving.





ST. PAUL'S PARISH

EPISCOPAL-ANGLICAN

COVENANT SUNDAY



NOVEMBER 8TH

OUR CHURCH.
OUR COMMITMENT.
OUR COVENANT.

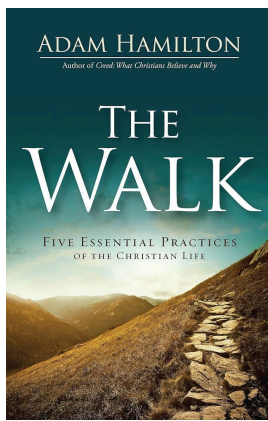


Covenant Sunday

November 8th at 9:45 a.m.

Covenant Sunday is our annual opportunity to renew our covenant with God and with one another. Rather than simply treating stewardship as a matter of raising money for the coming year, we see our giving as a spiritual practice—a way of entrusting to God what God has first entrusted to us. Each year, we prayerfully consider how we will offer our resources to God and to the mission of St. Paul's, bringing our covenant cards to the altar as an act of faith and ultimately offering them to God.

This year, we are deepening our practice by remembering that a covenant is about more than a dollar amount—it is a relationship. Alongside our financial commitment, our covenant cards will invite us to make six commitments about how we will relate to money: receiving what we have as a gift from God, living lightly with the things of this world, growing in generosity, resisting the pull of consumption, using our resources for the good of others and the mission of the Church, and sharing the joy of a generous life. We will take these commitments home as a visible reminder of the covenant we have made, while continuing to offer our financial commitments together at the altar. In this way, Covenant Sunday invites us not simply to give more, but to become more deeply the generous people God is calling us to be.



Advent Adult Education Series on [The Walk](#) Begins
November 8th at 9:45 a.m.

Beginning November 8, join us for a special Advent Christian formation series featuring Adam Hamilton's inspiring video series, [The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life](#).

Advent is a season of **waiting, preparing, and drawing closer to Christ**. Together, we'll explore five simple yet powerful practices that can deepen our faith and shape the way we live: **Worship • Study • Serving • Giving • Bearing Witness**. Each session will invite us to reflect on Jesus' example and discover how these practices can become part of our daily walk with Christ—and our life together as a church. **Come this Advent and take the next step on your journey of faith. Let's walk with Christ—and with one another.**

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, Nov 15th

- "Day of Thanks"
- Youth & Parish Service Day at [CVH Animal Sanctuary](#)

Sunday, Nov 22nd

- Celebration in Honor of the Feast Day of C.S. Lewis
- Brookfield Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service

Wednesday, Nov 25th ➤ St. Paul's Thanksgiving Service

Sunday, Nov 29th ➤ First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 13th

- Youth Christmas Pageant
- The Service of Lessons and Carols

Thursday, December 24th

- Christmas Eve

Friday, December 25th

- Christmas Day

PARISH LIFE @ St. Paul's



Gratitude Reflection Kagan and Max Kronberg

In this week's worship, Kagan and Max shared a thoughtful and honest testimony about their journey toward generosity. They reflected on how their understanding of giving has grown and changed over time, and on the ways practicing generosity has shaped their faith, their relationship with money, and their trust in God. We're grateful for their willingness to share their story and to remind us that generosity is not simply something we do—it is one of the ways God forms and frees us.

BIRTHDAYS

October 4 ► **Diane Loring**
October 4 ► **Chris Buck**
October 6 ► **Elias Kronberg**
October 7 ► **Christine MacMillan**
October 7 ► **Barbara Castronova**
October 8 ► **Cindy Maier**
October 9 ► **Nancy Rekart**
October 10 ► **Mill Reynolds**
October 10 ► **Jack Collins**

ST. PAUL'S SERVES

MISSION UPDATES

God at Work in Cambodia

“For some time, St. Paul’s Vestry had been considering ways to increase our global outreach, and after prayerful consideration, decided to partner with the Anglican Frontier Missions and the McLaughlin’s who were hoping to go to Cambodia. Will and Becky caught a vision for international missions after spending the first two years of marriage (2013-2015) in China, teaching English, and sharing Jesus. For seven years, they worked as the Youth Pastors at the Church of the Holy Spirit, an Anglican church in Roanoke, Virginia, all while feeling a pull back into overseas missions. Then, as an ordained Anglican Priest, Will and his family packed up and moved to Cambodia in June 2022 to plant an Anglican church in the capital city of Phnom Penh.



Why Cambodia? The Khmer people of Cambodia are an unreached people group (less than 2% Christian) with tremendous needs. The McLaughlin’s spent their first year in intensive study of the Khmer language with a view to effectively train, equip, and encourage local pastors and NGO workers. They partnered with an existing church to plant an Anglican church in Phnom Penh with the goal of impacting surrounding villages through local pastors.



Now, some four years later, Will and Becky have seen God wonderfully work and a church has emerged along with an amazing facility that is already being used for outreach along with worship, and training. Will and Becky have proven to be wonderful ministry partners with St. Paul’s and are fulfilling our prayers to expand St. Paul’s global impact for the gospel. We look forward to Will and Becky’s visit to St. Paul’s on Sunday,

October 18. Will be speaking at both services, and along with Becky, they will do a presentation along with Q and A during in between the two services.”

Dan Bacon

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

† Greeters Needed

Did You Know That? Most newcomers make up their minds within the first 6–10 minutes of arriving at a church - long before the sermon, music, or community life can speak for itself. The research consistently points to a narrow window in which first impressions determine whether someone will return.



Greeting people in a warm way makes them feel good about their presence in church.

At St. Paul's, we are always looking for people who feel called to serve in this important ministry. We have a particular need at the 10:30 service for greeters. If you are interested in becoming a greeter, please contact Fr. Nate, Pam Szen (prszen@gmail.com) or David Szen (Dszen@yahoo.com).

Looking to get involved? There's a place for you to serve, connect, and make a difference at St. Paul's. Here are a few ministries currently looking for volunteers:

- **ALTAR GUILD:** Prepares the altar and worship space for services.
Contact: Mary Beth Durkin (durkin.mb@gmail.com)
 - **COFFEE HOUR:** Hosts fellowship and refreshments after worship.
Contact: Beth Beck (bkolwicz@yahoo.com)
 - **GARDEN MINISTRY:** Cares for and beautifies the church grounds year-round.
Contact: Mary Beth Durkin (durkin.mb@gmail.com)
 - **LAY SERVERS:** Serve as acolytes, readers, greeters, and intercessors during worship.
Contact: David Szen (dszen@yahoo.com)
 - **MUSIC MINISTRY:** Leads worship through music and song.
Contact: Kirsten Peterson (kirpeterson@comcast.net)
 - **PRAYER:** Offers prayer support through services and the prayer chain.
Contact: JoAnn Hornak (jomac79@att.net)
 - **SEXTON COMMITTEE:** Helps maintain and care for the church building and grounds.
Contact: Jeff Chowanec (chowanec57@gmail.com)
-

The People Behind WP



CREATIVE DIRECTORS

Fr. Nate Lee, *Priest-in-Charge*;
Mary Perry, *Operations Director*;
Maggie Lyons, *Admin Assistant*;
David Szen



CONTENT CONTRIBUTORS

Fr. John Morrison, *Priest-Emeritus*; Kirsten Peterson, *Music Director*;
Mary Beth Durkin, *Warden*; Chris Barrett, *Warden*; JoAnn Hornak,
Ron Switzer, and Andrea White.



EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Dan Bacon, *Scholar-in-Resident*; Max Kronberg,
Brittany Marcalus, and Haley Perry.



ST. PAUL'S PARISH
EPISCOPAL · ANGLICAN

[Worship Schedule](#)

[What We Believe](#)

[Parish Leadership](#)



ST. PAUL'S PARISH
EPISCOPAL · ANGLICAN

(203) 775-9587
174 Whisconier Rd
Brookfield, CT 06804

Get In Touch



St. Paul's Parish Brookfield | 174 Whisconier Rd, | Brookfield, CT 06804 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!