

**February 8, 2026**  
**Announcements and In Our Prayers.**

**Our Imperfections**

As parishioners who attended the February 1, 10:30 service are aware, our electrical contractor had completed installation of energy-efficient LED bulbs in all 74 of the lighting fixtures located high on the ceiling of the nave and sanctuary the week before. Accessing the bulbs was no mean feat, requiring use of a lift that had to be brought in from Boston, removal of pews and the nerve to work from a bouncy basket almost 40 feet above the floor. Thanks to the fortuitous discovery of the original lighting design plan, our contractor was able to obtain LED equivalents to the original bulbs so that we could see our main worship space illuminated as it was originally intended – a first for all but the most senior among us. Seeing the glow of all 74 bulbs on Sunday morning was a moment of great joy for those of us who have long watched the sanctuary become dimmer and dimmer as 15-year-old incandescent bulbs burned out. However, as we did one final inspection with the contractor on Monday, we discovered two bulbs that were not lit. Anticipating that some sockets may have to be replaced while he was replacing bulbs, our contractor had ordered ten replacement sockets before beginning the job. Unfortunately, he had already used nine of those replacement sockets, leaving us with only one, which the contractor used to repair one fixture, leaving one lamp still out. After a long discussion, we decided that the costs of extending the lift rental until a replacement socket could be shipped from Texas were not warranted for one bulb. We will live with the imperfection. Like our lights, St. Paul's is not perfect, but we live with the imperfections, maintaining focus on our larger mission: worshiping God, encourage others to grow in the Spirit, nurturing a compassionate community, and serving those in need. The unlit bulb will be difficult to find, but like all imperfections, you can find it if you look hard enough. Instead, let all of us focus less on our imperfections and more on how we continue to build St. Paul's as a light in our community.

Mark Lowery  
Junior Warden

**Annual Meeting Election Results**

The 2026 parish annual meeting, originally scheduled for Sunday, January 25 but postponed due to inclement weather, was held on Sunday, February 1. Denise Mason was elected as warden (two-year term). Melvin Hitt, Gillian Conover and Jennifer Andrus were elected to the vestry (three-year terms). William Harrison, Katherine Storms and Lisa Walker were elected to one-year terms as convention delegates, and Candace Deisley was elected alternate delegate (one-year term).

## **PAWS (Pets Are Wonderful Support)**

Veteran and Potential Bowlers, Sponsors, and Cheerleaders -- Below is the link for registering to bowl in this year's PAWS fundraiser. PAWS is a program of the Albany Damien Center that "provides pet food/supplies, veterinary care, and in-home support for the pets of persons living with HIV/AIDS to prevent isolation and loneliness and ensure the beneficial effects of pet ownership. PAWS does not receive any government funding, and we rely exclusively on the support of the community to keep this vital program going strong."

<https://www.bowlathon.net/manage/event/bowling-for-paws-2025/bowler/create>

If you decide to register this way, choose "St. Paul's Episcobowlers" from the dropdown menu of teams, then enter your personal information as requested. If you prefer, contact Bob Englert at the [Bob.Englert@gmail.com](mailto:Bob.Englert@gmail.com) and he will do the on-line registration for you.

AND, if you don't want to bowl, sponsors and cheerleaders are more than welcome!

## **Worship Services**

In addition to the regular celebrations of the Holy Eucharist at 8:00 am and 10:30 am every Sunday, the Eucharist is also celebrated most Wednesdays at 12:10 pm in the chapel. Morning Prayer is said in the chapel on most Tuesdays at 9:00 am. Check the [parish calendar](#) to confirm days and times of these services.

Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes will be offered on Ash Wednesday, February 18, at 12:10 pm and 7:00 pm.

## **Recommended Reading**

Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe has written, "In the coming years, our church will continue to be tested in every conceivable way as we insist that death and despair do not have the last word, and as we stand with immigrants and the most vulnerable among us who reside at the heart of God." Read the Presiding Bishop Rowe's full statement on death and despair in our times [here](#).

Albany Bishop Jeremiah Williamson has published the sermon he had planned to give on January 24, 2026. Read Bishop Williamson's sermon on faith in our times, Living Without a Net, [here](#).

## **Community Needs**

Rising costs and other factors decrease food security among many of our neighbors. Demand for the hot lunches served every Saturday at [Loaves and Fishes](#) was more than 16 percent greater in 2025 than in 2024.

Donations collected in the baskets in the narthex are delivered to St. John's/St. Ann's Food Pantry, which provides emergency supplemental food for residents in the South End of Albany. Donations of non-perishable food, toiletries (which cannot be purchased with food stamps), infant formula, baby food and diapers may be placed in the baskets located in the narthex. Donations are acknowledged at the offertory during the 10:30 a.m. service and delivered to the St. John's/St. Ann's Outreach Center on Fourth Avenue. [www.sjsacenter.org](http://www.sjsacenter.org)

Please contribute generously to the food baskets in the narthex and to ministries such as Loaves and Fishes and the [Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York](#).

### **Albany Blooms**

The Albany Blooms Thriving Parish Initiative is a diocesan effort to support, equip and strengthen the work and ministry of the parishes of the diocese. A facilitated Lectio Divina session is held weekly in St. Paul's library weekly at 11:30 am, Wednesdays, prior to the 12:10 pm service. Benedictine Reading and Lectio Groups meet weekly (Tuesday afternoons in person in Greenwich, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings online). The groups are always open to additional participants. More information about that can be found at

<https://albanyblooms.org/grow> .

### **Deacon's Discretionary Fund**

St. Paul's has traditionally deposited the loose plate receipts on the first Sunday of each month to the rector's discretionary fund. As the name implies, the rector may use these funds at their discretion, but they are most commonly used to address unfunded emergency needs of the parish or for charitable purposes. The vestry had suspended this practice when the rector's position was vacated earlier this year, but now that we have been blessed with a deacon, the vestry has resumed the practice as the deacon's discretionary fund. You may contribute anonymously to the deacon's discretionary fund through a loose plate offering on a first Sunday, or you may make a directed donation by check or cash placed in an envelope.

### **Pastoral Care**

If you or a loved one are in need of pastoral care, or would like to add yourself or a loved one to the prayer list, please contact the parish office (518-463-2257) or email [StPaulsEpAlbany@gmail.com](mailto:StPaulsEpAlbany@gmail.com) during office hours.

### **Office Hours**

Parish office hours: 8:00 am – 1:00 pm, Monday-Thursday. Voice mail left at the church office (518-463-2257) and emails sent to [StPaulsEpAlbany@gmail.com](mailto:StPaulsEpAlbany@gmail.com) will be checked on those days. In case of emergency, call or text 518-339-9466. The office will be closed, Presidents' Day, Monday, February 16.

## **In our prayers this week**

### **For those who celebrate a birthday:**

Tom L. 2/12

### **For those who celebrate an anniversary.**

### **For those in need of healing, guidance, and comfort:**

Anita F., Ty C., Dan H., Jen A., LaTasha L., Marylin C., Lynn B., Cheryl S., Joe T., Elizabeth E., Harold W., Hilda H., Raelynn H., Matt A.

### **For those who have asked for our prayers.**

#### **For our mission partners:**

Mother Martha Hubbard and the people of Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church, Albany.  
Father Samuel Louis Charles, and the people of Christ the King Episcopal Church and parish school in LaHoye, Haiti.  
Father Nicolas Stebbing, and the Tariro orphanages.

#### **For the departed:** All our loved ones.

#### **For the victims of conflict and violence.**

#### **For the victims of natural disasters throughout the world and those who suffer from or are vulnerable to extreme weather conditions.**

#### **For the victims of gun violence.**

## **PRAYER FOR A NEW RECTOR**

Almighty God, giver of every good gift; Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a Rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.