



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Seeking. Serving. Loving. Together.

Parish Notes

October 2021 • Vol. 64 No. 2



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Cover Photos

The cover photos are from our Kick-Off Sunday celebrations.



ACT II is Back!

St. Paul's Act II is back and better than ever! With large display windows, on-site dressing rooms and a fully remodeled sales floor, you'll think that you are in a luxury department store (until you look at the price tag). Whether you are in the market for clothing, outerwear, shoes, handbags, jewelry or accessories, this second-hand store is for first-place finds! Gently used furniture, housewares, and linens are available, along with a myriad of silver pieces and vintage items that will make your home look like those you see in magazines.

You will also feel good about doing good since Act II's proceeds support local charities, outreach programs, community engagement events, and a variety of church projects. We are open Thursdays (10-3), Fridays (10-3), and Saturdays (10-1) for shopping, and will gladly receive your donations by appointment (call 216-238-4221n, no electronics or children's clothes). Whether you leave with your hands full from purchases or your trunk empty of donations, you'll be glad you came. Your hidden treasures are waiting.

What does it mean to seek?

The Rev. Jessie Gutsell Dodson



At our opening Adult Forum last month, Rev. Jeanne shared some background on conversations we've been having as a Vestry and staff over the past several years. Through these sessions, we spent time in conversation about St. Paul's identity. We talked

about who we are, what we do, and why we do it. We looked for words that identify us; words that are easily remembered and easily shared, so others are attracted to this dynamic community. Last month, Jeanne announced that the conclusion of those conversations led us to focus in on the words: Seeking, Serving, Loving, *Together*. You've probably already begun to see this identity woven through our communications, and you'll hear much more about it in our Adult Formation programming this year.

As part of our continued exploration of these guiding words, the clergy will each reflect on a different word of the phrase over the next few months. By doing so, we hope to add a spiritual grounding and depth to this identity statement. What does it mean to seek, serve, and love together? What does Jesus have to say about these things? How can they shape our ways of being as a community?

This month, I begin our exploration with a reflection on "seeking." Last month, I joined in conversation about what it means to seek with the Rev. Lois Annich, a pastoral counselor, coach, and friend of the parish. We began our conversation by attempting to define "seeking." For me, seeking is defined by its dynamism. Movement is inherent in its definition. When you seek, you feel an ache, a hunger, for something that's beyond you. As Lois and I spoke, we realized that

seeking, especially seeking God, is often a non-linear pursuit. For those of us in the church world, we often seek a connection with the past, whether it's through liturgy or tradition, or through connection to the ancient words of Scripture. While at the same time, we often long for a future that's not yet been revealed. As Christians, we seek reconciliation with all creation, and a reunion with the saints in heaven in the future. As we enter the world of seeking, we find ourselves swirled up into a non-linear journey, connecting us with the past, present, and future, sometimes all at the same time.

Welcoming newcomers is a central part of my ministry here. While serving this community, I have the distinct and energizing task of meeting the seekers who come through our doors. Many, if not all newcomers, speak openly about being on a "seeking journey." That's often what brings people to a church community. They're seeking something, whether it be connection with other people, a relationship

with God, or some other kind of transcendent experience. As a community, we aspire to welcome all seekers onto the journey of discipleship with Christ. There's a particular spark of the divine that often happens in the context of meeting new seekers in our parish, and I am continuously privileged to stand on the threshold of our community and welcome them.

As our church continues to make the words "Seeking, Serving, Loving, *Together*" our own, I wonder how you might find yourself called deeper into reflection on "seeking." What is it you seek? What makes your heart ache? What do you hunger for? My hope is that you'll bring your wandering heart and mind to the community, and there you'll find what it is you have sought. Or perhaps you'll discover that it wasn't you seeking so much as God seeking you all along.

I sought the Lord,
and afterward I knew
he moved my soul to
seek him, seeking me.

Hymn #689

Jessie +

ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Why St. Paul's?

The 2022 Stewardship Committee



The fall is the time when we celebrate the restart of our Christian education programming, and a new year of worship and fellowship together. It is also the time when our pledges of support are sought for the mission of the church and all that goes on at and through St. Paul's.

The question for us is: Why St. Paul's? Why offer our gifts to the church when so many other worthy organizations need our help? What sets the church apart from other institutions and organizations that "do good?"

We've all been rocked by the past 18 months, the church included. It was challenging to experience God through the internet; it was difficult to feel a sense of community on a Zoom call; emails and newsletters couldn't take the place of personal contact.

But St. Paul's never stopped "being the Church," just as it didn't during a previous pandemic, the Depression, the Great Recession, and two world wars. Services were held, sermons were delivered, countless pastoral calls were made, Sunday school programs continued, choirs sang, bible study groups met, many hungry were fed, and students were offered a safe space for connecting with their classrooms while their parents worked.

While numerous things may have shifted over the last many months, our call to be God's hands in the world — seeking, serving, loving — remains unchanged, especially now.

We invite you to look forward with us, exploring the role of God in our lives and the importance of faith communities such as St. Paul's. Over the next few weeks, we will consider the question, Why St. Paul's, through sermons, emails, articles, postcards and testimonials, and how our gifts make a difference.

The Stewardship 2022 Campaign will launch on October 17 and culminate with our Commitment Sunday ingathering on November 21. During this time we look forward to engaging with you as we focus on "being the church" *together*.

The 2022 Stewardship Committee,

Chris Chance,
Co-Chair

Kerry Watterson,
Co-chair

Lael Carter

Maureen Kilroy

Sam Hartwell

Julia Kaesberg

Ben Johnson

Mike Knoblauch

Pam O'Halloran,
Director of Operations

Mark your calendar

Commitment Sunday
November 21

Meet Another EpiscoPAL Pair

Every St. Paul's newcomer is offered an EpiscoPAL for their first year here. Existing parishioner Pals get to know the newcomer, invite them to events, and welcome them into our parish life. To learn more, contact Andy Wheaton (ajwheaton@gmail.com) or Ginger Ratcliffe (vratcli47@gmail.com).



Keith, Monica, and Fletcher Jochum

Natives of Northeast Ohio, the Jochum family recently found their way to St. Paul's. Keith isn't a stranger to the parish though, since he was a member here as a teenager.

Now the family commutes from their home in Fairview Park to attend together. Since joining the parish, the Jochums have jumped in with both feet. You can find them at the 9 a.m. service serving as ushers, Monica serving as a lector, and Fletcher making his way to Godly Play following the service. Keith has already helped our Layweeders as well. When not in church, the Jochums lead busy lives on the West Side. Monica is a teacher in the Berea City Schools, Keith works at Fairview Park Library, and Fletcher is focused on his 2nd grade studies. But they still find lots of time for fun. As a family, they enjoy hiking, camping, fly fishing, and cheering on Cleveland sports teams (Go Browns!). Fletcher likes soccer, football, and playing with Legos.

When asked to describe their experience at St. Paul's so far, they shared: "We have felt so welcome at St. Paul's and are so happy to be part of a community that offers many ways to be involved and connect with others."

We're delighted to share in community with Keith, Monica, and Fletcher, and we were especially blessed to celebrate Fletcher's baptism here this past June. Welcome, Jochum family, we're so lucky to have you!



Mike, Eppie, Zach, Ivy, and Nicky Miller

The Miller family has been attending St. Paul's for years now, after they sought out a parish to meet the needs of their young, growing family. Before settling in Cleveland, Mike and Eppie's relationship began at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Eppie, a native of Durham, North Carolina, was serving as Director of Children and Youth Formation at the church, while Mike was playing principal trumpet for the Charlotte Symphony. They met, fell in love, and relocated to Cleveland Heights (Mike's hometown) in 2006. Mike isn't a stranger to worshipping on Fairmount Blvd., as he'd been raised Roman Catholic at Communion of Saints (St. Ann) just down the street. Mike continues his musical pursuits here, playing trumpet in the Cleveland Orchestra and teaching trumpet at the Cleveland Institute of Music. Eppie is an educator, working as the Outdoor Learning Specialist and a Pre-Kindergarten teacher at Mandel Jewish Day School. She also does reading intervention and math tutoring through A Plus Solutions, and runs summer camps for Hawken School.

Mike and Eppie have three children: Zach, a freshman studying finance at the Ohio State University; Ivy, an 11th grader at Hawken School; and Nicky, a 7th grader at Hawken. When not in school, you can find Ivy on the Intensity Synchronized Skating Team in Mentor, Ohio, and Nicky apprenticing at the City Ballet of Cleveland. The Millers also have two dogs, Romeo (a lab/shepherd mix) and Calvert (a min pin mix).

The Millers are thrilled to welcome the Jochums to St. Paul's, and have enjoyed getting to know them as their EpiscoPALs.

Celebrating 175 Years



1846

St. Paul's Church
founded in downtown
Cleveland on October 26.

1928

St. Paul's merges with
St. Martin's Church
and moves to Coventry
and Fairmount.

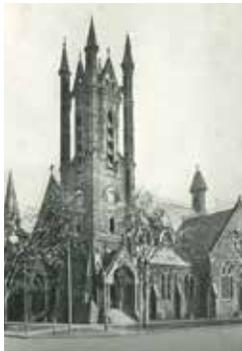


1956

West Wing addition
opens and later becomes
home to a preschool.

1990

The South Wing addition
completed and dedicated
under the leadership of the
Rev. Nicholson B. White.



1876

St. Paul's moves from
Euclid and E 4th
to Euclid and E 40th.

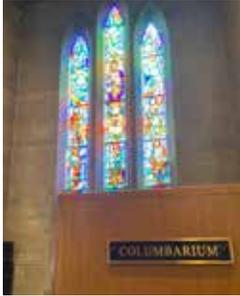
1951

Dedication of the Nave
(Holtkamp Organ
dedicated in 1952)
under the direction of
The Rev. John O'Hear.



1963

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther
King, Jr. speaks at St. Paul's.



2003
Columbarium constructed and dedicated.

2011
Coventry House dedicated under the direction of the Rev. Alan Gates.



2020
COVID-19 Pandemic leads to recording and livestreaming our services.



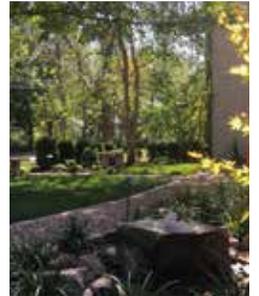
1992
Open Doors Academy, an after-school program for Roxboro Middle School students, formed.

2008
Youth pilgrimage to South Africa as part of our larger partnership with the community.



2015
The Rev. Jeanne Leinbach called as first female rector.

2021
Memorial Garden dedicated.



October 26, 2021 marks the 175th anniversary of St. Paul's. Here's a sampling of some of the seminal events of our parish's history over the decades. Our thanks to Cathy Lewis, Chris Smythe, Mark Souther, and Jessie Dodson for selecting these events to highlight, and to our parish archivist, David Sloan, for his invaluable help in collecting photos and dates. Stay tuned for more ways to celebrate this major anniversary!

What We Heard From You

Pam O'Halloran

The staff is enormously grateful to the 234 parishioners who completed our formation survey last month. We learned from a survey last June that almost all eligible parishioners are fully vaccinated. However, the emergence of the Delta variant has increased concern that we remain vulnerable, especially with news of an infected St. Paul's staff member. Here is what we learned by listening to you.

We are weary of COVID! We are tired of worrying about it, talking about it, fighting about it, wearing masks, social distancing, and of all that the pandemic has kept us from doing.

While we lack consensus about masking and other safety measures taken by St. Paul's, the vast majority of you are very supportive and appreciative of the efforts to care for the health of all, especially those most vulnerable.

- Most comments were positive, *"I hate masks but know how critical they are."* *"All these measures were appropriate. Thank you for initiating them."* *"I appreciate the cautionary procedures which witness to loving our neighbors as ourselves."*
- A few parishioners expressed frustration with St. Paul's policies: *"...mask wearing by vaccinated adults is just theatre."* *"As long as the church considers masking necessary, I will not attend."*
- And some believe St. Paul's isn't doing enough, *"[I will not be at in-person worship] until protocols are revised to minimize risk of transmission."*

Most of us are anxious for a return to "normal" and value the opportunity to regather for worship and, to a lesser extent, formation. Some continue to be uncomfortable in large group settings, especially indoors, and many are in between, waiting to see if the situation changes. Many hoped that forums would be recorded or streamed as a safer alternative.

- *"Thank you for all you're doing to maintain relationships and some sense of normalcy. In-person services are the most important to maintain IMHO."* *"I am comfortable gathering with all wearing masks."*

- *"I am still somewhat leery of doing anything in person inside a building with lots of other people."*
- *"I'm concerned that in-person formation [may not] be safe. Zoom programming can be problematic but I am in favor of using this format."*

Parishioners with young (unvaccinated) children were the most conflicted about in-person Sunday morning formation. Some yearned for their children to return to former routines, yet there is much uncertainty about the risks of increasing infection rates once school resumes and the weather cools.

- *"We're prioritizing sending our unvaccinated child to school, and therefore limiting other in-person, indoor activities."*
- *"I would really like in-person. They're too young to be engaged virtually."*

Most parents with older, vaccinated children feel that virtual programming for youth is considerably less engaging and that their children yearn for in-person interaction.

We learned that more frequent, and perhaps briefer, communications would have been preferred this past year. Our lives are busy and we often don't have the time to absorb lengthy letters or emails, but we still like to know what's going on at St. Paul's.

And we learned that we could've done a better job at letting you know about all the things we've done to diminish virus transmission risks. These include:

1. The fresh air intake and exhaust systems in the nave have been completely overhauled and updated. Fresh air is now drawn in from the outside and exhausted through three fans on the roof resulting in a very effective turnover of air in the nave while the system is operating.
2. The ventilation system in the south wing has been cleaned and repaired, improving air circulation in that space.
3. We purchased two electrostatic sprayers to eliminate virus germs on surfaces.
4. Windows are kept open during all indoor services, meetings, and events.

Faith in Action

The Rev. Brandon Ashcraft

*Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons,
loving your neighbor as yourself?*

This baptismal promise lies at the heart of our commitment to outreach at St. Paul's. Here are just a few snapshots depicting the joy that comes with living our faith through service to the broader community. To learn more about St. Paul's outreach ministries, and the ways you can get involved, contact the Rev. Brandon Ashcraft at bashcraft@stpauls-church.org.

Loaves & Fishes:

Jeff & Carol Spero lead a team that prepares and serves a meal on the last Monday of each month. They're always looking for more cooks and kitchen helpers!



2100 Lakeside Men's Shelter: At Ohio's largest homeless shelter, Jan Hart helps the residents stay connected to their loved ones by offering free greeting cards for all occasions. She also serves as a compassionate conversation partner for those who need a listening ear. We're expanding our partnership with the shelter and will begin serving a monthly meal in October. We need more cooks and servers to join us!

Tutoring: Tutors are needed more than ever, after so many students fell behind during the pandemic. We're relaunching a tutoring ministry, starting with neighboring Roxboro Elementary School. There are opportunities to volunteer Monday through Friday.



St. Luke's Mobile

Pantry: Nancy Sherwin invites you to bag produce with her at this ministry that provides fresh, healthy food to those in need on Cleveland's near West Side. It's hard work, but as Nancy will tell you, "I'm almost 90 years old, and if I can do it, anyone can!"



A big thanks to our **Food Drive** volunteers, led by Brian Fitch, who completed our final food drive in August. Over the worst of the pandemic, we collected hundreds of pounds of food for those confronting food insecurity.

Parish Calendar

Worship



Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 3, 4 p.m.

From kittens to chickens, guppies to puppies, our clergy will be blessing all *pets* great and small. Join us for a brief service and blessing out on the front lawn.

Jazz Vespers

Sunday, October 24, 5 p.m.

The Cleveland Jazz Orchestra, led by parishioner Paul Ferguson, in collaboration with the Children and Youth Choirs will present a Vespers service. A mainstay of St. Paul's, this service will feature original works by Paul Ferguson and favorite hymns.

Annual Service of Remembrance

Wednesday, November 3, 6 p.m.

Recognizing the loss and grief so many of us carry privately, St. Paul's will hold its annual Service of Remembrance to honor those whose deaths have touched our parish family this past year. Through gentle music, prayer, readings, and a candle-lighting ritual, we will hold our loved ones and one another in God's presence. The service will be held on Wednesday, November 3, at 6 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

RSVP to the Parish Office, (216) 932-5815, by October 27. To help us include the names of those you wish to honor during this service, please give: 1) your name, 2) the name of your loved one, and 3) the approximate number of family members and friends planning to attend. In addition to these named individuals, the remaining names on the parish Necrology will be read at this service. Please contact the Rev. Jeanne Leinbach with any questions: jleinbach@stpauls-church.org

Choral Evensong

Wednesday, November 10, 6 p.m.

The children and youth choirs will lead a service of choral evensong at Trinity Cathedral (2230 Euclid Ave, Cleveland, Ohio 44115) featuring works by George Dyson, Felix Mendelssohn, Andrew Walker, and William Archer. The Rev. John Kennedy will preside and offer a brief homily.

Adult Fellowship

Newcomer Event

Thursday, October 7, 6 p.m.

All newcomers (those new to the parish in the past two years or so) are invited to join the clergy and Newcomer Council for dinner in the church courtyard on October 7 at 6 p.m. Join us for a catered meal as we get to know each other. The dinner will be rescheduled in the event of inclement weather. *To learn more, contact Andy Wheaton (ajwheaton@gmail.com) or Ginger Ratcliffe (vratcli47@gmail.com).*



Young Adult Gathering

Sunday, October 17, 12:30 p.m.

All St. Paul's young adults (folks in their 20s/30s) are invited to join us in celebrating the beginning of fall. We're going to Mulberry Corners Pumpkin Patch (11591 Chillicothe Road, Chesterland, Ohio 44026) where there are pumpkins to pick out, mums, face painting, and more, followed by an Apple Cider Reception at the home of Pegah Zardoost. If you'd like to meet us at Mulberry Corners, we'll be there by 1:15 p.m. Please RSVP to Pegah at pegah.zardoost@gmail.com. Rain date will be Sunday, October 24.

Annual Herb Harvest Sale

Sunday, November 14, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Annual Herb Harvest Sale is coming to Tucker Hall on Sunday, November 14 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. — just in time for holiday gifts. The proceeds from this sale are used to beautify the gardens of St. Paul's.

Adult Formation

Theology Matters: Big Questions

Beginning Wednesday, October 6, 7 p.m.

Why are we here? Is there life after death? Does science point toward or away from God? Can we make sense of suffering? If these questions cross your mind from time to time (or perhaps regularly!), then join the Rev. John Kennedy for a reading and discussion series on some of the most enduring and weighty of theological and philosophical questions. We'll meet for four consecutive sessions beginning Wednesday, October 6, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Sanders room. Registration is encouraged but not required. To register or learn more, contact the Rev. John Kennedy: jkennedy@stpauls-church.org

- Oct 6: "Why Are We Here?"
- Oct 13: "Is There Life After Death?"
- Oct 20: "Does Science Point Toward or Away From God?"
- Oct 27: "Can We Make Sense of Suffering?"

Sacred Ground

Beginning Thursday, October 14, 9 a.m.

Already familiar to many at St. Paul's, Sacred Ground is a film-based dialogue series on race and faith developed by the national leadership of the Episcopal Church. It is an invitation to "peel away the layers that have contributed to the challenging divides of the present day — all while grounded in our call to faith, hope and love." Following four transformative Sacred Ground Circles last year, St. Paul's is offering another this fall led by the Rev. John Kennedy and parishioner Eustacia Netzel-Hatcher.

Beginning October 14, we will gather every two weeks on Thursdays from 9 to 10:30 a.m. in the Sanders Room (with a break for the holidays) for a total of ten sessions. Parishioner Kaneala Nelson participated in Sacred Ground last year and described it as equipping his group with "new knowledge" to "promote racial healing, reconciliation and justice in our personal lives, our ministries and society," and added that he hopes others will "accept this gift by joining others in this unique and fulfilling program."

The group will have a maximum of 14 participants and registration closes on October 7. To register or learn more, contact the Rev. John Kennedy: jkennedy@stpauls-church.org

Music and Art

N. B. White Gallery Fall Show

Beginning Sunday, October 3

This fall, be sure to view the original works by artists Charlotte Lees, Tom Jackson, and Amy Lewandowski. The show will include oil paintings, watercolors, and wooden organ pipes, enhanced with mixed media. An artists' reception and opening will take place on *Friday, October 15, from 5 to 6:30 p.m.* Look for more information and updates in the coming weeks.

Children and Youth

Youth Trip to Cedar Point

Saturday, October 16

For more information, contact Lauren Dockery, ldockery@stpauls-church.org

The Village Halloween Event

Sunday, October 31, 3:00 p.m.

The Village, the fellowship group for families, is having a Halloween Party in the St. James parking lot for trunk-or-treating, crafts, and a costume contest on Sunday, October 31 from 3 to 4:30 pm!

Around the Diocese

Diocesan Convention

November 12 to 13

Due to the continued increase in COVID-19 cases in Ohio, the decision has been made to move to a completely virtual convention for this November 12-13, 2021. Participants will be limited to Clergy delegates, Lay delegates, and those with Seat & Voice privileges. For more information, visit: dohio.org



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See Pages 8 & 9