



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

Parish Notes

July and August 2022 • Vol. 64 No. 10



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CLERGY REFLECTION

A Summer of Play

The Rev. Jessie Gutsell Dodson



This past month I preached a sermon on the Holy Trinity's invitation to us to delight, dance, and play. I drew this invitation from the cosmic poem of the eighth chapter of the book of Proverbs. Within the poem, the voice of Lady Wisdom is personified. She "daily delights" in the creation of God, she rejoices with the created order, and she calls to us from the heights and in the depths.

I found the invitation to delight and play such a welcome one. So often, our lives are filled with intensity and stress, difficult news, and knotted systemic issues. So often, our lives of faith are seen as utterly serious and solemn matters. What a relief it was then, to find God speaking to me through Proverbs, inviting us into something filled with joy and marked by play. As I said in my sermon, if God delighted and played with creation in the first days of the earth, then surely play and delight is a proper human response back to God.

So as summer unfolds, I hope that you'll take up this invitation from God to play. Yes, there's much serious work to be done. Yes, there's so much within our world that is aching and in need of prayer. But so too is there true cause for delight. For gazing at the beauties of the world with wonder. For celebrating our loved ones and relationships with awe and gratitude. For taking a moment to do nothing but *play*. To do nothing but *delight*.

May the Wisdom of God, who calls out from the gates of the town and from the public square, find you wherever you are. Indeed, She calls "to all that live," we're told. So may you hear the voice of Wisdom of God calling, beckoning you into a summer of delight. And after you've taken Wisdom up on this invitation, may you find yourself refreshed and renewed.

Jessie +

Cover Photos

This issue's cover photos come from some of our favorite moments this June: Holy Hiking, our youth mission trip to Harlan, Layweedeers Garden Tour, Cleveland Guardians game, Men's Council Picnic, and the Eliza Backus Guild's Burgerfest.

In the Sound of our Turning

Dr. Steven Plank



*To every thing there is a season,
and a time to every purpose
under heaven.*

Tonight as I sit at my desk and compose my thoughts, my mind drifts to those familiar words from Ecclesiastes, words that remind us that the easy and the hard, the pleasant and the sad, the light and the dark, all have their time, all have “their season.” And while there are times that we eagerly anticipate and times that surely we dread, neither our eagerness nor our dread changes the fact that things have “their season,” their time. With this autumn, some changes at St. Paul’s have “their season,” and with them, so too does my long tenure in the choirmaster’s seat at the corner of Fairmount and Coventry.

The tenure of twenty-five years has been blessed by so many things: cherished friendships, a shared musical life, and the unshakeable bonds that are formed when one sings, prays, worships, and loves together. These wonderful things, treasured deep in my heart, came into my life “in their season,” and for that and for each and every one of you, I am so grateful.

My dear old friend, Karel, reminded the choir and me the other day that “we are all forever connected.” To that I can only say *ano jistě, můj starý přítel* (yes indeed, my old friend). I think were I to challenge Ecclesiastes it might be on precisely this: that the abiding nature of these connections seems far beyond the idea of any season. For that I am grateful, too.

I came to St. Paul’s in 1996 thinking I would know almost nobody. But the “small world” discoveries soon seemed abundant. I did already know Karel from the museum and the fact that we had gone to the same graduate school where, unsurprisingly, his reputation still lingered in my day! Hearing Ernie Petrey chatting in Tucker Hall one morning and recognizing in his accent the sound of home, I quickly discovered that our families were from the same small mill town in Gaston County, NC. What a joy it was to look out in the nave

one day and see William and Susan Vodrey, who had been my students in London in 1985 (where yes, they became an “item”). Rich Israel and I discovered we had lived in St. Louis at the same time, unbeknownst to each other, but we found that we had important friends in common, and had even been at the same cathedral service where one of those friends was installed as Dean . . . maybe we even sat on the same pew! Upon discovering where and when Nick White was ordained, it became clear that I quite likely had played trumpet at his ordination service. Harold Lewis’s organist in Pittsburgh was my former student, and he had an uncanny knack of being able to predict what hymns Harold might pick on any given Sunday. And on and on it goes. Karel’s point is that we are forever connected through our shared experiences; and these small world experiences here—they bring such a smile—remind me of some of the ways in which our lives intertwine. For that, I am grateful, as well.

I wonder how many of us learned the Ecclesiastes text from Pete Seeger’s popularizing of it as a folk song, especially in the 1965 version by the Byrds. (You didn’t expect me to go there, did you?) Seeger kept Ecclesiastes intact, but added the phrase “turn, turn, turn.” (For years I had assumed that was Biblical, too!) The present moment is one of turning. The old Shaker Hymn, “Simple Gifts” reminds us that “to turn, turn, will be our delight till by turning, turning we come round right.” In the sound of our turning, I hear not “good-bye,” nor can I say it; I hear only my heart saying “thank you,” for I am indeed grateful for you all and our many years together.

With love,
Steve

We will celebrate Steve Plank’s 25 years of devoted service at St. Paul’s with an exceptional service of Choral Evensong on Sunday, August 14, at 4 p.m.

Meet Karen and Jim



Karen McKeehan and Jim Nicks began attending St. Paul's in 2019 and were confirmed by the bishop on May 29, 2022. They have been married for almost 43 years and live within walking distance of the church. Before attending St. Paul's, they were

members of Heights Christian Church (Shaker Heights) for twenty years.

Jim is a retired civil engineer. Karen is a former computer technician who has worked for several years in the nonprofit management field. Karen now works as a Cleveland Metroparks trail monitor and a high school and college track official. She is also on the board of Progress with Chess and helps run scholastic chess tournaments.

Karen and Jim enjoy hiking, bicycling, and running. They have bicycled the Great Allegheny Passage (Pittsburgh to D.C.), and Karen has run the Boston Marathon.

They joined the Altar Guild in March 2022 and always work together. They have been attending the 7:45 a.m. service. Last summer, they enjoyed the outdoor service. They also serve on the archives committee, and Karen volunteers at the Act II shop. A belated welcome to Karen and Jim; we're so glad you're here!

MEET OUR DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Welcome to Kevin Jones!

The Rev. Jeanne Leinbach



Dear Parish Family,

I am delighted to announce that Kevin Jones will join our staff on September 1 as our full-time Director of Music.

As you know, this search began over a year ago...well worth the wait! Kevin brings a wealth of expertise and experience to the position.

He is a professional organist and choral conductor who is passionate about enhancing the role of music in parishioners' worship experiences and in their spiritual formation. He demonstrates gifts for vocal development of volunteers and professionals.

Most recently, Kevin has been the Minister of Music at First Congregational Church U.C.C. in Columbus, Ohio, where he is the principal organist, conducts a semi-professional adult choir of 52 singers, and plans, directs and rehearses the children and youth choirs, and the bell choir. He has planned and organized nine summer choral residences in the United Kingdom — a program I have long hoped to bring to St. Paul's. He has also served, also, as Director of Music at Christ Church Cathedral in Hartford, Connecticut, and as Organist/Choirmaster at Christ Church in Pelham, New York. In addition, he is currently an editor for the American Guild of Organists' monthly journal, *The American Organist*.

Kevin has a Master of Music in Organ and Collaborative Piano from the Cleveland Institute of Music. He is a former student of Karel Paukert's and served as Assistant Organist and Choirmaster here at St. Paul's from 1992 to 1993. Kevin is married to Joe Bellissimo, who is a chiropractor.

The Search Committee, along with his references, find Kevin to be an extraordinary talent: a precise and encouraging choral conductor, inspiring organist, well-prepared, detail-oriented, collaborative, thoughtful, caring, and deeply rooted in the transcendent nature of music. Indeed, we are excited about Kevin joining the staff.

I offer my sincere thanks to our Search Committee, who all agreed to serve again this year even after a failed search last year. My thanks to Jason Chance, Susan Gray, Mike Lyford, Julie Micheletti, Dave Mitchell, Nathaniel Powell, and Sandy Simon. I am so grateful for their time and expertise. My thanks, also, to the Rev. Jessie Gutsell Dodson for shepherding this process while I was away on sabbatical.

Peace,

Save the Date!

We will welcome Kevin as part of our Parish Picnic celebration on Sunday, September 18.

Reading Camp 2022

Julie Micheletti and Betsy Hockey

St. Paul's has not held its Overnight Reading Camp since 2019, and it felt a little like we were starting over; but all the effort, time, and lack of sleep was worthwhile! We had a fantastic week at Bellwether Farm with 18 rising 3-5-graders, five counselors, and many wonderful St. Paul's volunteers. These five counselors and the adults who joined us were living out their Baptismal Covenant, "serving Christ in all persons, loving their neighbor as themselves, and respecting the dignity of every human being." Even more, every volunteer was a witness to God's love, loving and caring for these children.

We are grateful to the church for this opportunity to serve children in need, and it was an experience of great joy for all of us. The children engaged fully in every activity presented to them. They played with great zeal, listened and worked hard, ate with gusto, and frequently laughed with glee!

We took advantage of the many delights of Bellwether Farm, including a farm tour where we met a pair of 2-week-old goats! We planted, learned about keeping bees, hiked in the woods, fished in the big pond (first having dug our own worms), and caught fish! We listened to and spotted many frogs of all sizes, enjoyed the beautiful water lilies, and used the basketball court. Parishioner Shauna Hajek joined us to lead an art project, a relief portrait in the style of Picasso's Cubism.

This stretched the minds of the children, and the outcome was amazing! Akua Saunders also visited us with a friend to share African greetings and beautiful stories from black authors. The children listened intently, and Akua received many hugs following the storytelling.

In the evenings we had more fun! On Monday evening, we had an interactive presentation on the Underground Railroad. The children donned costumes and had antique props to help them act out the story and reflect upon it. Author Tricia Springstubb joined us another evening and gave each child a unique shoe to use as a prompt for writing and sharing a short story. The resulting stories were creative and witty. We, of course, had a campfire with s'mores and awards for each camper designed and presented by our excellent counselors.

Of most importance, the children were loved by "strangers" and affirmed as children of God. As volunteers in this ministry, we witnessed their growth in so many ways. They grew socially by interacting with new friends, counselors, and caring adults; they grew by the many new experiences of being in the beautiful setting at Bellwether, and they grew at least a bit in their reading skills. To be a part of this growth is a blessing for all who volunteer, and we volunteers get more out of the week than we can possibly give.

PHOTO GALLERY

Reading Camp 2022



Confirmation Sunday



PHOTO GALLERY

Pride in the CLE March



Around the Parish

Worship



Summer Worship Services
From now until Sunday, September 4

7:45 a.m. | St. Martin's Chapel

9 a.m. | Fairmount Lawn

10:30 a.m. | Nave

Bluegrass Holy Eucharist

July 17, August 7, September 4, 9 a.m.

Save the Dates

September 11 | Kick-Off Sunday

September 18 | Parish Picnic and
Celebration of Ministry

Outreach



Loaves & Fishes

*Wednesday, July 13 & August 17, 11:15
a.m., & Monday, July 25 & August 29,
5:30 p.m.*

The Loaves & Fishes ministry is now serving two meals a month: lunch at the 2100 Lakeside Men's Shelter and dinner at the Haven Home, a women and children's emergency shelter. All interested in preparing food or serving our guests may email Jeff and Carol Spero: cjmspero@gmail.com.



Gun Violence Discussion

Wednesday, July 20, 7 p.m.

We'll gather to discuss the book *Whom Shall I Fear? Urgent Questions for Christians in an Age of Violence*. Commended by Bishop Hollingsworth, this brief book explores critical questions about gun violence in the light of scripture. You can pick up a copy of the book for free in the church office. All are welcome. To RSVP, contact Rev. Brandon: bashcraft@stpauls-church.org.



Affordable Housing Workday

Saturday, July 23, 9 a.m.

Lutheran Metropolitan Ministries has purchased and renovated several new homes in the area, creating a path for families to exit homelessness with affordable rent and connections to supportive services. By lending a hand on a simple landscaping project from 9 a.m. to noon, we can help get one of these homes ready for its newest residents. The home is nearby, on the edge of Cleveland Heights and East Cleveland. Contact Rev. Brandon if you'd be interested to volunteer: bashcraft@stpauls-church.org.

Fellowship

Holy Hiking

July 23, and August 27, 9:30 a.m.



Lace-up your hiking boots for an exploration of our local parks with our church community. We'll pause mid-way through our hike to share in a brief service of Holy Eucharist, overlooking God's creation. Mark your calendars for the following Saturday hikes, all beginning at 9:30 a.m.

July 23 | Holbrook Hollows

August 27 | Brecksville Reservation

Contact Rev. Jessie to RSVP: jdodson@stpauls-church.org.



Bellwether Together

Register by Friday, July 15

All ages and life stages are invited to join the fun from Friday, August 12, to Sunday, August 14. Come relax with family and friends, enjoy delicious farm-fresh meals, walk along the river or explore the beautiful woods, try gentle yoga, arts and crafts, meet the farm animals, go for a swim, and enjoy rich conversations and a chance to connect in new ways with church friends. Accommodations range from comfortable bunk cabins that house up to 10 people, to fully-equipped hotel-style single and double retreat rooms. The facility is fully accessible, and program options are designed for all ages. For more information and to sign up, visit our website: www.stpauls-church.org/bellwether

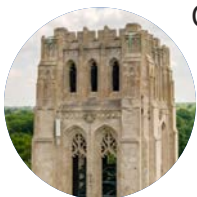


Ice Cream Social

Friday, July 22, 6:30 p.m.

The Women's and Men's Councils invite you, family, friends, and neighbors to the annual Ice Cream Social on the lawn from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. We'll also have a bike decorating station for children to pedal around the church in style.

Music and Art



Carillon Concert

Sunday, July 3, 6 p.m.

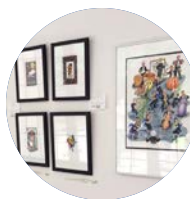
Join us for a festive Independence Day eve carillon concert on Sunday, July 3, at 6 p.m. Our resident carillonneur, David Osburn, will play a one-hour concert including such patriotic favorites as "You're a Grand Old Flag," "When Johnny Comes Marching Home," "Yankee Doodle," and more.



Choral Evensong

Sunday, August 14, 4 p.m.

We will celebrate Steve Plank's 25 years of devoted service at St. Paul's with an exceptional service of Choral Evensong.



Summer Art Show

Now through August 4

Visit Nicholson B. White Gallery's Summer Art Show featuring art from the residents of Judson Park and Judson Manor. The show runs through August 4.

In the Diocese



2022 Convention

Beginning Friday, November 18

The Annual Convention of the Diocese of Ohio is the legislative body that approves the diocesan program and budget, elects persons to various groups, which serve the diocese, adopts resolutions on various issues, and approves changes in the Constitution and Canons of the diocese. The Diocese of Ohio Annual Convention is held once per year, usually the second weekend in November. This year, clergy and delegates will elect our next bishop. The 206th Annual Diocesan Convention will be held November 18 to 19, in Cleveland, Ohio at the Cleveland Marriott Downtown at Key Tower. Registration will be available in the fall.

Parish Notes

Online Edition

Need a clickable link? Head on over to our website! stpauls-church.org/parishnotes/

Deadlines

For the September edition of *Parish Notes*, please notify Nathaniel Powell of any submissions as soon as possible. Submissions are due Monday, August 8: npowell@stpauls-church.org



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FRIDAY, JULY 22, 6:30 P.M.

Ice Cream Social!

Learn more on page 11

