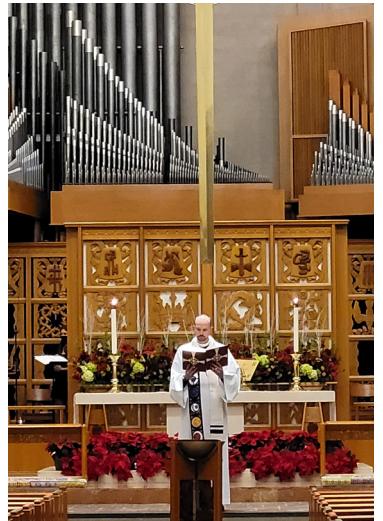




ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Seeking. Serving. Loving. *Together.*

Parish Notes

February 2022 • Vol. 64 No. 6



Clergy

Jeanne Leinbach, Rector
jleinbach@stpauls-church.org

Jessie Dodson, Associate Rector
jdodson@stpauls-church.org

Brandon Ashcraft, Assistant Rector
bashcraft@stpauls-church.org

John Kennedy, Assistant Rector
jkennedy@stpauls-church.org

Staff

Karel Paukert
Organist

Steven Plank, Ph.D.
Choirmaster

Kelsey Ferguson
Director of Children's & Youth Choirs

Lois Bell
Handbell Choir Director

David Osburn
Carillonneur

Lauren Dockery
Director of Children's Ministries

Nathaniel Powell
Director of Communications

Pam O'Halloran
Director of Operations

Brenda Burton
Controller

Jenni Thomas
Administrative Coordinator

Gail Emmet
Receptionist

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

2747 Fairmount Boulevard
Cleveland Heights, OH 44106

(216) 932-5815
www.stpauls-church.org
info@stpauls-church.org

Pastoral Care Line:
(216) 238-4001

Cover Photos

Cover photos from our Christmas
celebrations including Epiphany and
lowering of the tower wreath. Credits:
Jim Ptacek and Brandon Ashcraft



Lent

Lent is just around the corner and, with it, the blessed return of spring that calls to mind the hope of the Resurrection. In fact, Thomas Merton wrote that the original meaning of Lent was the Church's "holy spring" (*ver sacrum*). This time of year brings an invitation to interior awakening and healing as the earth around us begins to waken from its winter sleep. At St. Paul's, you will find a variety of ways to lay hold of the grace of this season, including forums that continue our journey through Handel's *Messiah* and a virtual prayer and discussion group that will meet weekly to follow the steps of Jesus along the Stations of the Cross.

Visit our Lent page as plans develop: www.stpauls-church.org/lent

Shrove Tuesday at Home *Tuesday, March 1*

This year we will distribute "Shrove Tuesday at Home" bags to all households who would like to participate. Bags will include pancake mix, syrup, Mardi Gras beads and masks, and more. Just because we're virtual doesn't mean that we can't still have pancakes together on Shrove Tuesday! Make your pancakes and join us online at 7:30 p.m. for brief liturgy where we will burn palms from last year's Palm Sunday service to make ashes for Ash Wednesday.

To ensure that we have enough bags prepared, we ask those who would like one to register by February 20. To register, please go to [our website](#) or call the parish office at (216) 932-5815. Make sure to let us know how many are in your household.

Ash Wednesday Services *Wednesday, March 2*

Join us for the service that best fits your schedule. Imposition of ashes at all services. *All* are welcome!

7:30 a.m. in St. Martin's Chapel
10:30 a.m. at Judson Park (*below*)
12 p.m. in the Nave
5:30 p.m. Tucker Hall
Ash Wednesday Service for
Children & Families
7:30 p.m. in the Nave
(*livestreamed*)

Ash Wednesday at Judson Park
On Ash Wednesday, March 2, at
10:30 a.m. Judson residents and St.
Paul's clergy will gather for the Ash
Wednesday liturgy and Eucharist in
the Auditorium at Judson Park.

A Note From Our Rector

The Rev. Jeanne Leinbach



We are going on two years now since the COVID virus came into our lives. Two years... it is rather hard to believe. I find myself disoriented around time. Did that event happen last year, or two years ago, or three years ago? In fact, recent studies are looking at this

distortion of time; it's happening to many of us. Our sense of time is attached to experiences — weddings, graduations, birthday celebrations, trips — which the pandemic has significantly interrupted. In addition, new experiences shape our sense of time: visiting new places, trying new restaurants, making new friends. In some ways, newness has been interrupted. In life-giving ways, newness is with us every day. Our faith is forthright about the challenges of life - the pain, disappointment and heartache. Our faith is forthright, also, about hope eternal, about the light of Christ showing us the path forward.

I am so grateful to all of you, parishioners and staff, for remaining grounded in faith, continuing to love, and seek, and serve through this pandemic. Worship highlights this year include attendance of about 2,500 at our Holy Week Services; new services for Holy Saturday, Ascension, and Epiphany; a return of Jazz Vespers; two Advent Lessons and Carols services and six Christmas services to accommodate COVID safety guidelines; and, many baptisms, weddings, and funerals, which had been delayed due to the virus.

We rolled out a new identity statement this year: *Seeking, Serving, Loving, Together*. We hope this statement invites newcomers and gives you all the language to share the Good News of St. Paul's with family and friends. You see this identity statement in our communications, including our new wall hanging in the Narthex.

Programming this year included the play, *A Wrinkle in Time*, and the Harlan, Kentucky mission trip for our youth; a Book of Revelation Copying and Reflection Project for our Young Adults; and trips to the Cleveland

Museum of Art and the Cleveland Botanical Garden for our SAGES group. We relaunched our EpiscoPAL program, which connects newcomers with existing parishioners to invite them to events and welcome them into our parish life. In June, we dedicated our new, beautiful Memorial Garden, an outdoor option for interring remains. We offered many opportunities over the summer to enjoy each other's company in person, including Holy Hiking, outdoor concerts, small groups, yoga, and outdoor movie nights. This fall, we celebrated the 175th Anniversary of the founding of our parish.

Integral to our faith is caring for our larger community. Our Outreach ministries continued this year, including a monthly Food Drive in the midst of COVID. We delivered more than 5,000 pounds of food to the Greater Cleveland Food Bank. Our financial support for Outreach in 2021 was over \$500,000.

As you saw in the budget presentation, we are in a good place financially. We continue to be good stewards for today and for tomorrow. This past year, we put together a Long-Term Financial Planning Task Force to look at our parish demographics around giving and the financial needs of the parish in the coming decade. We hired Playhouse Square Management to perform a 10-year capital needs study. We will provide an update on the work of this task force later this spring.

My 3-month sabbatical will begin on February 13. I am looking forward to a trip to the Holy Lands, which will depart on February 14. I am in the midst of putting together a document with all of my responsibilities that will need attention over the coming months. I will be reviewing this document with Jessie, who will be leading the parish while I am away, in consultation with the Wardens and Staff.

My thanks to all of our staff who serve this community so faithfully. As I have mentioned, they pivoted time-and-again over the past year, through the ebb and flow of the COVID virus. They are the best. They challenge and inspire me every day. As always, it is an honor and pleasure walking in the light of Christ with all of you — seeking, serving, loving, *together*. Thank you!

Parish Calendar

Worship



Theological Education Sunday *Sunday, February 6*

For Theological Education Sunday we'll welcome Canon Patrick Malloy, former professor of liturgy and academic dean of the General Theological Seminary in New York, as our guest preacher at all three services. Canon Malloy, who currently serves as the Sub-Dean and Canon for Liturgy and the Arts at the Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine in New York, will also lead our Adult Forum.



Absalom Jones Service *Sunday, February 13, 4 p.m.*

The Wilma Ruth Combs Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians and the Diocese of Ohio will host this year's Absalom Jones service at St. Paul's. This annual service commemorates the Rev. Absalom Jones, the first African American ordained a priest in the Episcopal Church.

World Mission Sunday *Sunday, February 27*

The Last Sunday after the Epiphany is designated by the Episcopal Church as World Mission Sunday, a day to focus on the global impact of our call to "seek and serve Christ in all persons." The St. Paul's Global Mission Action Group (GMAG) will offer an informative display in the South Wing so parishioners can learn about their ministries across the globe and ways to get involved. Our worship on this day will also include special prayers led by GMAG members.

Fellowship

St. Paul's 101

All newcomers (those who've joined the parish in the past 2 years or so) are invited to attend a series of interactive gatherings on Sunday afternoons in February. These gatherings are specifically designed for those who are new to St. Paul's, and those who want to learn more about the ministries and operations of St. Paul's. Each week will focus on a different aspect of our church. Contact Rev. Jessie Gutgsell Dodson to RSVP: jdodson@stpauls-church.org

St. Paul's 101 At-a-Glance:

Sunday, February 6, 4 to 5:30 p.m.
Music & Worship (O'Hear Room)

Sunday, February 13, 2:30 to 4 p.m.
Christian Formation (Evans Room)

Sunday, February 20, 4 to 5:30 p.m.
Communication & Administration (Brooks Room)

Sunday, February 27, 4 to 5:30 p.m.
Outreach (Dining Room)

Reading Camp Book Fair

Sunday, March 13, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The annual Reading Camp Book Fair will be held March 13 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Tucker Hall. This year we will again join forces with Appletree Books of the Cleveland Heights Cedar/Fairmount neighborhood. We will have books available to purchase for your home library, for our Reading Camp library, and for our campers to take home. All purchases benefit St. Paul's Reading Camps and the children we serve.

Adult Formation

In the Adult Forum

After exploring “Loving” in our January forums, we now turn to “Together” in February as we conclude our Sunday forum journey through our new identity statement, “Seeking. Serving. Loving. *Together.*” Join us on Sundays at 10 a.m. in Tucker Hall (or watch from home; see our “Worship Online” page at www.stpauls-church.org/live) as we explore how our life together inspires and equips us to seek, serve, and love.

Sunday, February 6: Theological Education Sunday
Guest: The Rev. Canon Patrick Malloy, Ph.D.

Sunday, February 13: Together & Scripture
Rev. Jessie Gutgsell Dodson

Sunday, February 20: Together & Tradition
Rev. Brandon Ashcraft in conversation with
Br. Lucas Hall, SSJE

Sunday, February 27: Together & Reason
Roundtable discussion



Spirituality on the Silver Screen
Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Spirituality on the Silver Screen continues! On Wednesday evenings between Epiphany and Lent, members of the St. Paul’s community will host screenings and discussions of movies with spiritual significance. Out of an abundance of caution, Spirituality on the Silver Screen is a virtual experience. We will watch the movies independently and gather on Zoom at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday nights for conversations led by our hosts. To learn more, or to sign up and receive the Zoom link for our virtual discussions, contact Rev. John at jkennedy@stpauls-church.org.

Wednesday, February 2: The Straight Story
hosted by Liz Richmond

Wednesday, February 9: The Way
hosted by Sally Wilson

Wednesday, February 16: Samsara
hosted by Kaneala Nelson

Wednesday, February 23: Defending Your Life
hosted by William Vodrey

Children and Youth

CAST Winter One Act

This year, CAST’S (Christian Action through Student Theater) Winter One Act is *Murder With Tomato Sauce* by David J. Lemaster. Co-directed by Avery Bandy-Zalatoris and Clara Lyford, it’s a hysterically funny murder-mystery, as Detective Rathbone invites the world’s greatest detectives to dinner and challenges them to solve a murder. There will be three performances:

Friday, March 11, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 12, 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 13, 6:30 p.m.

2022 Winter Convocation



The 20-Day Evangelism Challenge
Go Deeper in Faith with Others in the Diocese of Ohio

We are saddened that we are again unable to meet in person, but also excited about The 20-Day Evangelism Challenge being offered online on February 7 and 27, with daily questions arriving by social media each day between. The Diocese expects to offer some in-person events in the spring.

Two Zoom Meetings:

Monday, February 7, from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m.
Sunday, February 27 from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m.

For more information and to register, go to the home page of www.dohio.org and click on “Winter Convocation.”

Parish Notes Deadlines

For the March edition of Parish Notes, please notify Nathaniel Powell of any submissions as soon as possible. Submissions are due Monday, February 14, 2022: npowell@stpauls-church.org

Annual Campaign Report

Pam O'Halloran

The commitment of gifts to the annual fund each year is essential for ensuring the ongoing health of our church. Without our collective generosity, there could be no St. Paul's. The Stewardship Committee and Vestry are enormously grateful to those who have offered their pledges and gifts to support the ministry of St. Paul's in the coming year. If you have not yet made a pledge to the 2022 annual fund, we encourage you to do so.

By the Numbers

As of January 21, **336** households have offered their pledge or gift commitments to support the programs and ministries of St. Paul's in 2022. This number is lower by 2 from last year at this time, and by 22 pledges in January 2020. Gratefully, total pledges and gifts have increased by **\$64,270**. We are hopeful that many of those who have not yet submitted a pledge for 2022 will continue to give.

	<u>2022 (as of Jan. 24)</u>	<u>2021 (as of Jan 17)</u>	<u>2021 (final)</u>
Total amount pledged	\$1,557,083	\$1,492,813	\$1,523,377
Total pledges/gifts	336	338	352
# Increased pledges/gifts	136	118	123
# New pledges	11	17	23
Average pledge/gift	\$4,634	\$4,417	\$4,328
Median pledge/gift	\$2,000	\$1,800	\$1,800

Campaign Highlights

- The median pledge/gift to the 2022 annual fund increased to \$2,000. The median had been \$1,800 for many years.
- For 2022, our oldest pledging member is 101 and our youngest is 9 years old.
- 72 volunteers wrote personal notes to parishioners, inviting others to join them in faithful giving to the church. Their dedication to St. Paul's is greatly appreciated and valued.
- Campaign messages, shared through postcards, Parish Notes, and testimonials, stressed how our gifts make a difference in the lives of the congregation, the community, and in the world:
 - We are nourished and strengthened for our daily living.
 - Our children are instilled with a sense of reverence, a spirit of generosity, and the knowledge that God loves them.

- Our music of St. Paul's uplifts us and enhances our worship experience.
- Our faith community enables and empowers us for active outreach service.

We thank our dedicated Stewardship Committee for their work on this successful campaign during a difficult year:

Co-chairs Chris Chance and Kerry Watterson; Committee members Lael Carter, Sam Hartwell, Ben Johnson, Julia Kaesberg, Maureen Kilroy, Mike Knoblauch; and the dozens of volunteers who wrote personal notes.

Please join us in thanking those who have made a gift or pledge to the 2022 annual fund as of 1/21/22.

Did we miss your name? Please contact Pam O'Halloran, Director of Operations: pohalloran@stpauls-church.org.

Anonymous (4)
Mary Adams
Cathy Albers
Chace & Josie Anderson
Denny & Mary Anderson
Barbara Andrews
John & Gail Applegate
Tim & Susan Armstrong
Brandon Ashcraft
Tom Austin
Chip & Janet AuWerter
Patrick & Jenny Azouri
Tony & Michelle Bandy-Zalatoris
Dave & Diane Banyard
Randy & Gini Barbato
Jane Barber
Jim & Marjorie Bashaw
Cynthia Bassett
Bill & Carolyn Batcheller
Linda Bayer
Eileen Beal
Lloyd Bell
Lois Bell
Lloyd & Betsey Bell
Gwen & Clifford Bennett
Jim & Jean Bingay
John & Susan Blackwell
Katie Blaser
Edgar & Beth Boles
Bonnie Bolton
Emily Braman
Eugene Brand
Bob Brown & Catherine Scallen
Sonia Brown
Stephen & Lesley Brown
Dick & Diane Bush
Bill & Laurie Buss
Bill & Gail Calfee
Dot Campbell
Mary Ann & Harry Carlson
Ian & Barbara Carlstrom
Michael Carlstrom
Charlie & Jan Carr
Bill & Lael Carter
Helmut Cascorbi
Jason Chance
Mark & Chris Chance
Elizabeth Chandler & Carl Greppin
William Chilcote
Homer & Gert Chisholm
Emil Chuck
Beth Clough
Kari Collier
Kirby Colwell & Gail Gatewood
Bill & Mary Conway
Charlie Cooley
Jonathan Cooper & Rebecca Hartman
Marcia Corrado
Dennis & Beverly Coughlin
David & Laverne Cowan
Ensign & Lana Cowell
Joe Coyle
Ben & Rosie Craig
David Crouch & Jackie Smith
Jackie Curtis
Sara Cutting
Glenn & Kathleen DeBoer
Rick & Lee Deininger
Julie DeJager & Rob Guerin
Mike & Katherine Dell
Candace DiLello
Clark & Lynne Distelhorst
Jessie & Joe Dodson
Patrick Doherty & Anne Rowland
Greg & E.B. Donley
David & Julie Dornback
Barbara Driscoll
Eva Ellis
Kate Emerson
Bob & Gail Emmet
Carol Engler
Ben & Cynthia Eppes
Andy & Leigh Fabens
Ann Failinger
Ann & Harry Farmer
Katie Fedor
Paula Feher
John & Betsy Feighan
Lynne Feighan
Ted & Dagmar Fellowes
Brian & Cathy Fitch
Paul Flowers
Bob & Kathy Fox
Betty Fredman
Nancy Freed
David & Claudia Fulton
Bill Ganger
Jenifer Garfield
Jim & Cynthia Gascoigne
Tom & Amy Gilchrist
Rob & Kara Girvin
Char Glatley
Nancy & Ted Goble
Kevin Goodman
Charles & Linda Goodwill
Brian Gran & Mary Beth McCormack
Jim Gray & Julie Micheletti
Scott & Susan Gray
Kari & Chris Greenfield
Terry & Kathy Gutgesell
Dutch & Lynn Handke
Jeffrey Hardacre & Hadley Wood
Martha Harding
Jan Hart
Tom & Claudine Hartland
Sam Hartwell
Edward Hemmelgarn & Jan Hammond
Sarah Henricks
Wally Henricks & Katy Downes
Ann Herbruck
Chuck Herbruck
David & Dozie Herbruck
Gretchen Herbruck
Peter Herbruck
John & Laura Herrick
Peter & Nancy Hildebrand
Hermine Hinds
Stan & Betsy Hockey
Barbara Hockstra
Jamie & Kathy Hogg
Dick & Sarah Hollington
Norma Horswell
Lanse & Patience Hoskins
Mike & Kendra Howley
Jonathan & Stacy Hren
Nan Hunter & Percy Grant
Reid Isaac
Keith & Monica Jochum
Ben Johnson
Geoffrey & Eva Johnson
Charlie & Lindsay Jones
Peter & Jan Jones
Trevor & Jennie Jones
Rob & Margaret Josey
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Julia Kaesberg
Jonathan & Jennie Kaffen
Ben & Jocelyn Keck
Ellie Kendrick
John Kennedy
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Mike & Sarah Knoblauch
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Gretchen Larson
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Cathy Lewis
Ray LeZak
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Ann Loughran
Mike Lyford & Sonja Rajki
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David & Katerina MacGregor
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Steve & Mary Ann Mahoney
Jim & Wendy Malgieri
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Jay & Arlene Mann
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Ruth Severiens
Nancy Sharp
Nancy H. Sherwin
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George & Ellen Shook
Jeffrey Shook
J Shorey & Sharon Herene
April Siegel-Green & Don Green
Jeff & Celia Sinclair
John Sindelar
Brian & Ann Skerry
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Michele Smolin
Chris & Suzanne Smythe
Keely Souther
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ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
2747 Fairmount Boulevard
Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44106

stpauls-church.org



@stpaulscl • (216) 932-5815



SAINT PAUL'S 101

Beginning February 6
LEARN MORE ON PAGE 4