



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

Parish Notes

November 2021 • Vol. 64 No. 3



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

Pam O'Halloran
Director of Operations

Nathaniel Powell
Director of Communications

Lauren Dockery
Director of Children's Ministries

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

From our St. Francis Day
Blessing of the Animals Liturgy on
Sunday, October 3.

2022 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

You Make St. Paul's Happen

On November 21 we'll celebrate our annual Commitment Sunday in-gathering. On this day it is the tradition for the St. Paul's congregation to collectively offer up its pledges of financial support for the coming year.

Why pledge and where does your money go? Your gifts enable every worship service, outreach ministry, youth and children's program, pastoral call, funeral, wedding, adult forum, 12-step meeting, Open Doors tutoring, contemplative prayer meeting, SAGES and young adult event, Harlan trip, Christmas pageant...in other words, all that we do!

Your gifts make St. Paul's happen!

The offering of our pledges is primarily an act of faith and gratitude. It is a spiritual acknowledgement that all that we have—the many blessings in our lives—are a gift from God. By making a pledge for the coming year, we offer our “first fruits” to God, rather than give from what may be left over.

Over the next few weeks, we will continue to share our 2022 stewardship message with you through service announcements, postcards, and the campaign brochure (which you should receive in the first week of November along with your 2022 pledge form). We encourage you to prayerfully consider your gifts for the coming year and either bring your completed pledge form on November 21st or return it by mail before November 20th so that we may include it in our prayers of thanksgiving.

Mark your calendar

Commitment Sunday
November 21

What Does it Mean to Serve?

The Rev. Brandon Ashcraft



It's impossible to perfectly describe St. Paul's in just four words. But our new identity statement comes very close: 'Seeking. Serving. Loving. Together.'

This succinct statement captures the essence of the St. Paul's community. And we can trust it will resonate with potential newcomers, inviting them to discover what we have found. The universal appeal of these four words is part of their beauty. It also means we're not alone in claiming them. Royal Caribbean, Triple-A and McDonald's – to name just a few – also highlight seeking, serving, and loving as core to their identity. Undoubtedly, our interpretation of these concepts will find little in common with a cruise line or a fast-food restaurant. But if an outsider asked us to articulate our interpretation, what would our answer be? If asked to paint a picture of what these concepts mean to us, what would that picture look like?

In our Sunday Forums, we've begun the important work of bringing these concepts into sharper relief. We're looking carefully at each of them through the tried-and-true lenses of Scripture, Tradition and Reason. In the first few weeks of our Forums, we had rich and lively discussions about what 'seeking' means to us, and we've recently turned our sights to 'serving.'

The ancient words of scripture help to clarify our unique understanding of 'serving.' In John's Gospel, on the night before his death, Jesus offers a powerful image for the vocation of Christian service. In an act that confounds his disciples, Jesus - their Teacher and Lord - kneels before the disciples and, one by one, *washes their feet*. And Jesus follows this concrete act of humble service with concrete instructions: "I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you." By relinquishing his power and authority to perform

an act of menial service, Jesus reveals just one paradox of many that defines his kingdom: namely, that power is displayed in weakness and strength is revealed humility. Jesus' posture, which so powerfully embodies this paradox, is the posture we seek to emulate as we serve.

Last week, I joined a group of about a dozen parishioners to take a meal to 2100 Lakeside, the men's homeless shelter. Before we left the church, we prayed together in the parking lot. In our prayer, we recalled the parable Jesus tells in the 25th chapter of Matthew. The moral of this parable is that when we give food to one who is hungry, we are feeding Jesus himself. "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me" (Matthew 25:40). With these words, Jesus claims solidarity with the poor and marginalized. In our baptism, we promise to "serve Christ in all persons." This promise commits us to service that will take us to the margins – places like the homeless shelter – where by feeding those who are hungry, we are feeding Christ himself.

Living into our identity as a community that serves is one of the joys of life at St. Paul's. As we do, we should keep Jesus' example at the forefront of our minds. In the months to come, hundreds of Afghan refugees who have fled war and persecution will arrive in the Cleveland area. How might we kneel before them and wash their feet? If we answer this question with humble acts of service, we might just paint a picture that speaks for itself.

Holiday Season Worship

Advent Lessons and Carols

Saturday, December 11, 5 p.m.
Sunday December 12, 5 p.m.^

This candlelit service of scripture and music prepares us for the mystery of Christmas and features carols by the Adult and Youth choirs, congregational hymns, and prelude music from the Handbell Choir and a carillon concert following the service.

Christmas Eve

Friday, December 24

Holy Eucharist with Christmas Pageant
2 p.m.
4 p.m.*^

These two identical services will include a lively narrated Christmas pageant featuring music from the St. Paul's Youth Choir and live animals to complete the nativity scene.

Festival Holy Eucharist
7 p.m.*^
9 p.m.
11 p.m.

These traditional services will feature music from the St. Paul's Adult Choir and favorite Christmas hymns by candlelight.

Christmas Day

Saturday, December 25

10:30 a.m. — Holy Eucharist

The First Sunday after Christmas

Sunday, December 26

10 a.m. — Christmas Lessons & Carols
and Holy Eucharist*^

(This will be the sole worship service on this day.)

*ASL Interpreted
^Livestreamed

ADULT FORMATION

Advent Formation

The Rev. John Kennedy



Advent Forum Series: Handel's Messiah

For each of the four Sundays of Advent, the 10 a.m. Adult Forum will explore Handel's oratorio, *Messiah*, one of the best-loved musical compositions of all time. We will use it as an avenue into the biblical texts on which it is based, as well as deepen our knowledge and appreciation of Handel's masterwork. Forum leaders will include the Rev. Brandon Ashcraft, Kelsey Ferguson, and the Rev. John Kennedy. The final speaker schedule is to be announced.

These forums will be adapted from the Kerygma program, *Hallelujah: The Bible and Handel's Messiah*, written by Carol M. Bechtel.

November 28: Comfort, Comfort My People
December 5: Who Shall Abide the Day of His Coming?
December 12: For Unto Us a Child is Born
December 19: Glory to God in the Highest



Watch for the Light A Virtual Pilgrimage Through Advent

Wednesdays in Advent, 7 p.m.- 8 p.m.
(December 1, 8, 15, 22)

As the days grow shorter and Christmas draws near, you are invited to join together with members of the St. Paul's community from the comfort of your home. We will gather on Zoom for an hour of prayer and reflection based on a selection of readings from the book *Watch for the Light: Readings for Advent and Christmas*. Sessions will be hosted by the Rev. John Kennedy (jkennedy@stpauls-church.org). The book is available for purchase from the publisher (plough.com) or [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com).

From the publisher: Though Christians the world over make yearly preparations for Lent, there's a conspicuous lack of good books for that other great spiritual season: Advent. All the same, this four-week period leading up to Christmas is making a comeback as growing numbers reject shopping-mall frenzy and examine the deeper meaning of the season. Ecumenical in scope, these devotions invite the reader to contemplate the great themes of Christmas and the significance that the coming of Jesus has for each of us – not only during Advent, but every day. Whether dipped into at leisure or used on a daily basis, *Watch for the Light* gives the phrase “holiday preparations” new depth and meaning.

Advent Outreach



Fairhill Partners

For more than 20 years, St. Paul's has been an integral part of a gift program with the Fairhill Center for Aging. In this ministry, St. Paul's parishioners help by providing Christmas gifts to children who are being raised by their grandparents.

In the coming weeks, we will have names and wish lists of the children available on designated Sunday mornings. Once you have a wish list, you can purchase, wrap, and deliver the gifts to the vestibule outside the Parish Office. You can also participate by donating a pre-paid debit card to our office. If you choose this option, please be sure to let us know by calling the church office at (216) 932-5815. Poleda Moodie will take it from there, ensuring your generosity brings Christmas joy to its intended recipient! Watch for more information to come in *St. Paul's Weekly* and *Sunday Notes*.



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

For many years, St. Paul's has partnered with St. Luke's Episcopal Church to provide Christmas gifts for people in the St. Luke's community on the Near West Side. This year, St. Paul's will be delivering

gift bags to St. Luke's for 20 girls and 20 boys, ages 8 to 12. Be on the lookout for a link in St. Paul's Weekly to an Amazon Wish List with needed items to be included in the gift bags. Orders should be placed by the end of November to allow time for delivery to St. Luke's before their annual Christmas event.

Loaves & Fishes

We are excited to revive our tradition of serving a festive Christmas dinner at New Life at Calvary Church at 79th Street and Euclid Avenue. The meal will be served on Wednesday, December 8th at 5 p.m. There are several ways you can volunteer, from assisting with meal prep and service, to helping with set-up and decorations, to providing transportation support, just to name a few. Contact our Loaves & Fishes ministry heads Jeff and Carol Spero at cjmspero@gmail.com if you'd like to participate and learn more.



Open Doors Academy

The Adopt-a-Family program matches donors with families to help provide gifts during the holiday season. Your generosity will give an ODA family the kind of holiday we would want to

provide for our own families. On average, most donors spend \$75 - \$150 per family member, depending upon items on their wish list. Though this option is great for individuals, it is also an opportunity for families, friends and colleagues to sponsor an ODA family together. Once you confirm, expect to receive information about your selected family and their wish list no later than the week of November 22.

You can also volunteer in-person to help the ODA team at one of their two Adopt-a-Family gift distribution days on December 16th & 17th. Sign-up by using their form: <https://bit.ly/2Zsbk0h>



Episcopal
Relief & Development
Working Together for Lasting Change

Episcopal Relief & Development

The ONE THOUSAND DAYS OF LOVE campaign supports Episcopal Relief &

Development's integrated programs and partnerships with local churches and communities in Africa, Asia, and Latin America to bring positive change and to nurture children up to age six so they are learning, growing, and thriving. The Parish is invited to help us raise \$10,000 online through our team page before the end of the campaign:

my.episcopalrelief.org/team/312639

You can also make a special holiday offering through ERD's 'Gifts for Life' program by connecting families with everything from clean water to mosquito nets to bicycles to microloans for women-owned businesses. Explore the 'Gifts for Life' catalog page here: support.episcopalrelief.org/gifts/catalog

Around the Parish



Left: In October, the Eliza Backus Guild enjoyed an outing to the Shaker Lakes Nature Center. **Right:** Our Loaves & Fishes ministry served a meal to residents of Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry's Men's Shelter at 2100 Lakeside.



Left: On October 17, we began celebrating our parish's 175th anniversary with a timeline display of notable events and historical photo puzzles.

Right: The community was delighted at our Jazz Vespers service on October 24.

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 newcomers, invite them to events, and welcome them into our parish life. To learn more, contact Rev. Jeanne at jleinbach@stpauls-church.org



Peter and Nan Hildebrand

Peter and Nan Hildebrand moved to Cleveland from Washington, D.C. in 2020 to be near family. Both Mid-Westerners, they met at the University of Chicago. Peter worked for the past twenty years as a researcher in climate change as the head of Earth Sciences at NASA Goddard in Greenbelt, Maryland. Nan worked for twenty years as a social worker/activist among people with disabilities. She answered her call to the Episcopal priesthood and was ordained in 2007 in the Diocese of Washington, D.C.

St. Paul's was an easy choice for them since their eldest child, Vanessa, who has lived in Cleveland Heights since 2006, suggested that they visit St. Paul's for Easter and Christmas services. They immediately felt at home. When they moved to Cleveland permanently, St. Paul's was their natural choice as their church home. They have found our clergy very welcoming, providing excellent preaching, and creatively leading a dedicated congregation to live a Christian life.

The Hildebrands have two other children, a son and daughter-in-law in Richmond, Virginia and a daughter, son-in-law and two grandchildren in Zurich, Switzerland. They also have a dog, Stella Bella. Peter and Nan enjoy hiking, reading, attending concerts and art shows and talking about civic and political affairs. At St. Paul's, they are interested in outreach and spirituality activities and are ready to support the church community in any way they are able and are needed. We look forward to working beside them.



David and Molly Urban

David and Molly Urban are cradle Episcopalians. David grew up in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania where his father was an Episcopal priest. Molly is from Atlanta, Georgia. They moved to Cleveland from Princeton, New Jersey in 1991 when David took a job at NASA.

They were attracted to St. Paul's by its vibrant, welcoming community with a wonderful music program. They live in Shaker Heights with their adult son, Daniel, and two cats.

David has a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from Berkeley. He is a combustion scientist at NASA Glenn Research Center, studying fire behavior in low gravity and spacecraft fire safety (i.e., he burns things in space!). Molly is a middle school Humanities teacher at Ratner Montessori School. Both are involved in Scouts BSA. Molly is the Scoutmaster of Troop 662 for Girls. The scouts benefit from their love of hiking, camping, and backpacking. They also enjoy gardening.

Molly and David have been very involved in the life of the parish. Molly sings in the adult choir and serves as a lector. She has also been active in Christian Formation programs. David is a member of Men's Council and oversees the raising of the tower wreaths during the Advent and Christmas seasons. David also enjoys pruning the many overgrown bushes in our gardens as part of the Lay Weeders.

The Urbans have enjoyed getting to know the Hildebrands as their EpiscoPals. There was an immediate connection since both David and Peter have backgrounds at NASA.

Parish Life Updates

Weddings



Megan Findling &
Nick Barcelo
Married August 28, 2021

Lindsey Jeavons &
Patrick Chura
Married October 2, 2021



Senior Saints

100 Years and Counting!

Celebrating our parishioners who are 100 years and over!

Bette Twadell, 102 years old

Hazel Martin, 102 years old

William 'Bill' Chilcote, 100 years old

Birth Announcement



Baxter Lee Dodson
Born October 13, 2021

The Rev. Jessie Gutsell Dodson and Joe Dodson welcomed Baxter Dodson into their lives — born 7 pounds, 10 ounces; 21 inches long.

Special Note: In order for Jessie to fully benefit from maternity leave, we ask that you not text, call or visit Jessie during this time. She will not be checking email. If you would like to offer her well wishes, she welcomes notes and cards.

Dear Parish Family,

You may have heard that Gary and I are getting married! Since the time of our engagement, we've been hoping to invite you all to the wedding ceremony.



We believe with declining COVID numbers and high vaccination rates among parishioners, we can safely extend the invitation. Gary and I are pleased to invite you to our wedding on Saturday, November 20, 4:30 p.m. We do ask that you *RSVP to the parish office*, so we can keep track of the numbers. We are so glad to be able to share our special day with you.

Jeanne and Gary

Parish Calendar

Worship

Choral Evensong

Wednesday, November 10, 6 p.m.

The 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. Brandon Ashcraft will offer a brief homily.

Thanksgiving Eve Eucharist

Wednesday, November 24, 6 p.m.

Join us for a special service to start Thanksgiving. We'll give thanks to God for the splendor of creation and the many blessings of our lives with a celebration of the Holy Eucharist and Thanksgiving hymns.

Fellowship



Annual Herb Harvest Sale

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

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

Young Adult Group

Monday, November 22

Young adults, we need your help. The Episcopal Church of St. Luke's on the west side has asked for our help with their Mobile Food Pantry on Monday, November 22. During Thanksgiving week, families in need depend on this ministry. Come build bags of groceries and load them in people's trunks. You will truly be helping families in need.

The first shift is from 2:00 - 4:30 p.m. These folks put food bags together and arrange them for pick up. Often, only senior citizens are available at this time, and it is very physical work. We're hoping we have some students or flexible employees that are free that afternoon!

The second shift is 4:30 - 7:00 p.m. These volunteers load the food bags into folks' cars, and others help direct traffic, etc. Please email Pegah Zardoost at pegah.zardoost@gmail.com if you can help! Distribution Site Address: 2060 W 65th Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44102



All Things Advent

Sunday, November 28, 4 p.m.

Come for an all-parish celebration of the beginning of Advent! Make an advent wreath and a pomander ball, plant a waiting bulb, make an Advent calendar, or play a round of Advent Jeopardy!

Don't forget to bring your wreath forms and bulb vases if you have them from last year. We'll be in Tucker Hall from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Suggested donation is \$5/person, up to \$20 for a family.

Advent Greens Workshop

Monday, December 6, 6:30 p.m.

The Eliza Backus Guild is proud and excited to announce its annual Greens Workshop on Monday, December 6, at 6:30 p.m. in Tucker Hall. Instructors will guide you to make a holiday centerpiece, a boxwood tree, and/or a swag for your door. Everyone goes home with a unique and beautiful decoration for their home! The workshop is open to all, including children! The cost is \$25 for one arrangement, \$40 for two. If you would prefer to make a boxwood tree or holiday centerpiece at home, you can preorder a to-go bag of greens and trimmings for either project for \$22. One dollar from each arrangement will go to St. Luke's Episcopal Church for outerwear for kids in need. To register for the Greens Workshop, to preorder or to ask a question, please contact Lee Deininger: (440) 289-9044 or leedeininger@ameritech.net.

Young Adult Gathering

Thursday, December 16, 7:30 p.m.

On Thursday, December 16th at 7:30 P.M., we will meet at church in the Brooks Room (second floor) for a White Elephant Party (max \$20 gift) and Advent Compline.

Adult Formation



Yoga Class

Mondays at 5:30 p.m.

Join trained yoga instructor Rebekah Colours and St. Paul's parishioners and friends for a weekly yoga class on Mondays from 5:30 to 6:20 p.m. in Tucker Hall.

Classes are free with the option of making a freewill donation to support our outreach partners. Bring your mat, blocks (if desired), and a friend. No registration required. For more information, contact Rebekah Colours: rebekahcolours@gmail.com

Advent Formation

Go to page 4 to learn more about adult formation opportunities in Advent.

Music and Art

Nicholson B. White Gallery

Now through January 23, 2022

Be sure to view the original works by artists Charlotte Lees, Tom Jackson, and Amy Lewandowski. The show includes oil paintings, watercolors, and wooden organ pipes, enhanced with mixed media.



Meditations (RESCHEDULED)

Sunday, January 30, 2022, 4 p.m.

Originally listed for November 14, this offering has been moved to January 30, 2022. Parishioner John Orlock and organist

Karel Paukert offer a program of meditations from American Trappist monk Thomas Merton. Now scheduled for the day before what would have been Merton's 107th birthday, it is interspersed with chorale preludes by J. S. Bach and Johannes Brahms.

Vestry Nominations

At the Annual Parish Meeting on January 23, 2022, we will elect four Vestry members. Following our parish bylaws, the Rector appoints a Nominating Committee, which delivers to the Rector, by the December Vestry Meeting, a list "setting forth the names of as many qualified members of the Parish as needed to fill the positions in the Vestry to be voted upon at the succeeding annual meeting of the Parish."

This year's Nominating Committee consists of Carla Williams, Chair, Jamie Hogg, Susan Quill, Susan Vodrey, and Bill Welsh. They welcome nominations from the Parish. A form for nominations is available on our website along with a Vestry position description: stpauls-church.org/about/vestry/.

Address nominations to Committee Chair, Carla Williams, and deliver in a sealed envelope to the Parish Office or send by email to cwillud@gmail.com. All nominations should be received no later than Wednesday, November 24, 2021.

Parish Notes

Online Edition

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

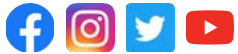
Deadlines

Due to the Holiday Season, please notify Nathaniel Powell of December submissions by November 8 and January submissions by November 16: npowell@stpauls-church.org



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2747 Fairmount Boulevard
Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44106

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@stpaulscl • 216.932.5815



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 6 P.M.
LEARN MORE ON PAGE 10