



MAY 2016

The Mini-Messenger

NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS
ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH • AKRON, OHIO

The Mini-Messenger is a brief news update sent out in months between our regular full-sized newsletter.

From the Rector

Keeping the Momentum Going, Here and There... and There

Our *Lenten Groups* were wonderfully successful in numbers. Over eighty parishioners participated. Even if that number were halved, there would still be much for which to be thankful and enthused. At our feedback session on April 24 with Dane Allphin, participants spoke warmly of the experiences they had, and expressed a deep yearning for more. What elicited praise was the 'community building,' 'the chance to meet people,' 'the power of Scripture in groups,' 'a bond of closeness,' 'the hospitality of the hosts,' 'the intimate size,' 'the joy of others,' 'the accessibility of the materials,' and the 'way it made us more alive to God.' Suggestions were made, too, for ways to move forward. What we need to embrace as a congregation is that *significant small groups have to be a vital part of our overall ecology* for growth in its many forms. It takes 2-3 years, so the experts say, to make groups part of a church's basic dynamics. Next steps for us include promoting a Tuesday morning group at church, helping groups continue, and then making these three offerings part of our yearly calendar: Kick-off Groups in the autumn, Lenten Groups, and Easter Groups.

Our *Community Meal*, already a wonderful part of our ecology, has been operating for over three years and is part of our weekly calendar, and our basic dynamic. And now it needs a reinvigoration, an infusion of new energy in the form of volunteers. It's natural for ministries (and all organizations) to hit these stages. I'll be happy to nag about this, in a joyful way, because this is a ministry worth continuing and improving. Please consider helping out.

Last, as our *Annual Appeal* is launched, remember that money is the muscle that makes ministry happen. *If God has us, God also will have our money, our time, and our talent.* It takes something to keep this in view, individually and corporately. It's another front, in addition to the two already mentioned, that we have to move forward on. We challenge people who give to strive toward the tithe, and this year we are asking those who do not give to make a pledge as a step of faith. I'd like to see at least 25 pledges from those who haven't pledged before.

All of this is to keep the momentum going and, we pray, not for our sake but for the glory of God.

Warmly, In Christ,
Mark⁺



Don't miss our current sermon series entitled:
The Gospel According to Jesus:
Sundays at 11:00 am—May 1, 8, 15, 22

Looking for ice cream?

Most people would agree that you don't look for an ice cream store unless you want ice cream. So one of my favorite things to say about *Stephen Ministry* is that unless someone is experiencing a rough place in life, he or she might not ever read a newsletter article about how great it is to have a trained, compassionate, one-to-one caring presence during difficult times. So, if you know someone who could benefit from a Stephen Minister and you're not sure if they know about us, why not talk to them and let them know they needn't journey alone.



We have people ready to listen and support anyone who is going through a stressful time, and remember - everything that is shared is strictly confidential.

Call either Carolyn Chapman 330-604-1094 or Jean Jones 330-573-4579 to find out more.

URGENT NEED: VOLUNTEER COOKING TEAMS

The push is on for new cooking teams and those who have tried it before! – for our Community Meal on Wednesday evenings. We need a handful of 3-4 member teams to cook one time every six to eight weeks. **Contact Pat Ovark at 216-389-4630 or Angela DiMezza at 330-864-5928. Thank you!**



St. Paul's Episcopal Church Annual Summer GOOD SAMARITAN YOUTH MISSION TRIP

FRIDAY, JULY 29 – MONDAY, AUGUST 1

It's a Four-Day Workcamp in WV!
Getting Things Done to Help Others!
Open to all Jr. & Sr. High Students, (ages 12+).

Call the church for more information.

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1361 West Market Street • Akron, Ohio 44313 • (330) 836-9327 • StPaulsAkron.org

May Events

Sun, May 1—*MOMENTUM*, 6-8 pm, *Youth Space*. Food, games, and a short program will allow us to continue our fellowship and sharing with new friends. See you there, and bring a friend!

Wed, May 4—*Evensong*, 6 pm. *Trinity Cathedral*.

Fri, May 6 & 13—*Serious Fun*, (for Grades 6-8), 6-8 pm, *Youth Space/Gymnasium*.

Sun, May 8—*Rogation Sunday*, services at 8:00 am, 9:15 am, & 11:00 am. Bagpipes & Ice Cream follow both the 9:15 & 11:00 am services. Donations to the Rogation Day plantings or cost of bagpipes can be made at the Church. *Thank you!*

Sun, May 15—*Pentecost*, services at 8:00 am, 9:15 am, & 11:00 am. String Orchestra at both the 9:15 & 11:00 am services. Help us celebrate the birthday of the Church!

Sun, May 15—*Haven of Rest*, 12:45-3:00 pm, ages 15 & up are encouraged to serve lunch to those in need. See Dave McBee.

May 20-22—*Youth Confirmation Retreat*, *Salt Fork State Park*.

Sun, May 22—*Trinity/Commitment Sunday*, services at 8:00 am, 9:15 am, & 11:00 am.

Sun, May 22—*Mitzvah Day*, many ways to serve! St. Paul's is sewing dresses for Haiti, Assembly Hall 1-5 pm.

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Weekly Happenings in May

Tuesdays at Noon

Tuesday Brown Bag Bible Study, Noon, G-4.
Bring your lunch! Led by Dane Allphin.

Wednesday Mornings—

Morning Prayer, 7:00 am, *Chapel*, Bible Study to follow.

Wednesday Evenings—

Join us for a service, meal and/or a program!

Holy Communion, 5:30 pm, *Chapel*

Community Meal, 6:00 pm, *Assembly Hall*

Come to dinner at 6:00 pm! Volunteer opportunities available. Inquire at the Front Desk.

Contemplative Prayer & Compline, 7-8:15 pm, *Library*

The Sacrament of Baptism

We are looking forward to our next baptism on Sunday, May 22 at 9:15 am. If you are interested in the sacrament of Baptism, please watch for our series of *Preparation for Baptism Classes* beginning in August or September.

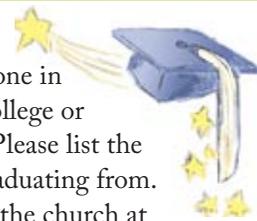
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The Vestry Nominating Committee is now accepting nominations for the Vestry Class of 2020. Nomination forms are available at the entrances to the church and chapel or at the front desk, and should be submitted to the church office when completed. The deadline for nominations is July 31, 2016. *Thank you for prayerfully thinking towards the future of St. Paul's!*

Call for Graduates!

Class of 2016 – If you have someone in your family who is graduating from College or High School, we would like to know! Please list the graduate's name and where they are graduating from. Leave details at the Front Desk or call the church at 330-836-9327. *Thank you!*



Garrett Law has enhanced our music and it is with bittersweet emotion we announce that Garrett, our Assistant Organist and Choirmaster has been appointed Organist and Choirmaster at St. James Anglican Catholic Church in Cleveland. Garrett has been with us for nearly three years and is held in high esteem by the choirs and staff. While we are very sad to see him go, this is a great opportunity for him, and, as a busy student, one that minimizes his commute. Garrett's last Sunday with us will be June 5.



Pentecost Sunday
May 15 at 9:15 & 11 am
We celebrate the birthday
of the Church with
String Orchestra!
Join us!