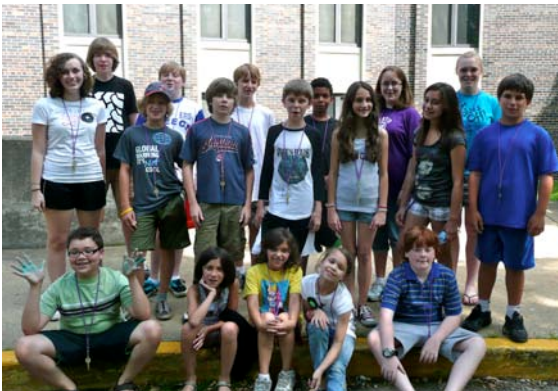




The 2009 Madrigals

Madrigals

Each December, choristers, their families, and the greater St. Paul's community team up to present the area's most authentic Madrigal Dinners. Fine music, period costumes, sumptuous food, and plentiful ale are impeccably served in a traditionally decorated Tudor Hall. This is truly one of the year's highlights!



*Participants of the 2010
Choir Camp*

Choir Camp

Once a year, the boys and girls from the choirs trek to Kenyon College for several days of music and fun. This beautiful historic campus is situated in the small town of Gambier, Ohio. The choristers enjoy a host of activities, participating in rehearsals, games, crafts, sports, music, meals, and worship, as well as just spending time with their friends.



Daniel Fortune was appointed organist-choirmaster at St. Paul's in the fall of 2009. He has worked with adults and children musically in churches for over 20 years. He held a similar position at Old St. Paul's in Baltimore for almost twelve years, and for six years was an assistant at St. Paul's Cathedral, Buffalo. He received his education from Houghton College and the Eastman School of Music, both in Western NY. He is dedicated to providing a positive, creative environment where both children and adults can flourish, singing the timeless music of the faith with understanding, vitality, and great musical expression.



Assistant organist-choirmaster Jim Hopkins is a graduate student at the Cleveland Institute of Music where he studies organ with Todd Wilson. He received his BMus from Westminster Choir College in Princeton, NJ, studying organ with Ken Cowan. He began his work at St. Paul's in the fall of 2011.



Marcia & Carl Giordano are former music teachers who received their music education degrees from Bowling Green State University. They work each week with our choristers in ear training, music theory, and sight-singing. They make an invaluable contribution to our program as teachers, and are also choristers themselves.



John Bee has studied voice from high school through the artist level with such teachers as Roger Havranek and Clifford Billions. He has performed solo roles in opera, oratorio and classical music, including roles with the Ashland Symphony and the Blossom Music Festival. He has long had an interest in vocal coaching and is happy to be able to contribute at St. Paul's by teaching vocal technique to the adult choristers on Tuesday evenings.

Typical Rehearsal Schedule

Tuesday

5:15–7 Boys' & Girls' Rehearsals & Ribbon Training
7–8 Adult Education (optional, on selected days)

Wednesday

7:00–8:30 p.m. Women's Choir

Thursday

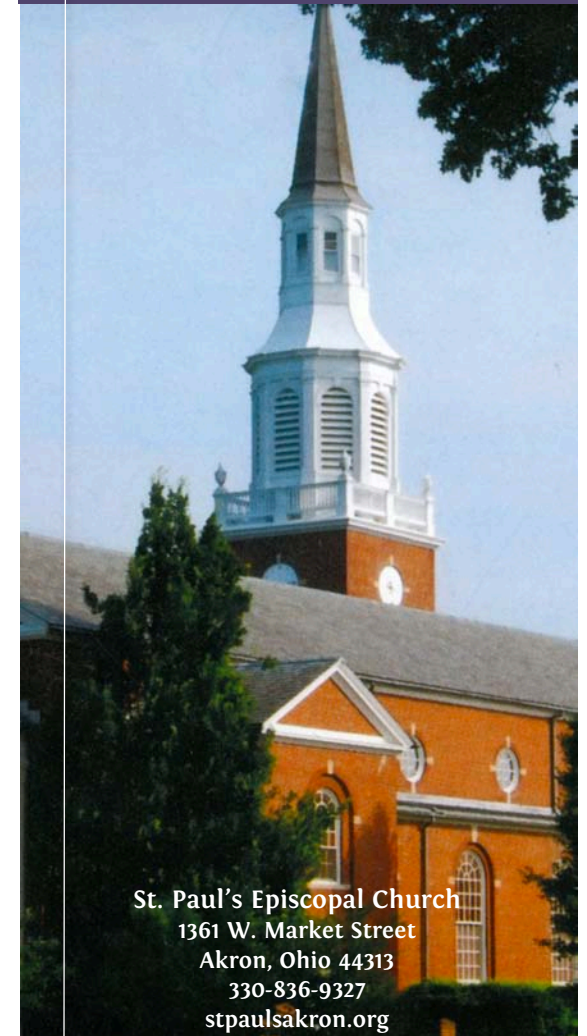
5:15–7 Boys' & Girls' Rehearsals & Ribbon Training
6:45–8:30 Men's Rehearsal

Sunday

8:30 a.m. Rehearsal for 9:15 service
10:00 a.m. Rehearsal for 11:00 service
2:45 p.m. Rehearsal for 4:00 Evensong
Evensong is sung about once a month.

*The choirs alternate singing the Sunday a.m. services.
A choir calendar is published with specifics.*

The Choirs of St. Paul's



St. Paul's Episcopal Church
1361 W. Market Street
Akron, Ohio 44313
330-836-9327
stpaulsakron.org

The Choir of Men and Boys

Choirs of men and boys are an important legacy in the venerable Anglican tradition. Formed in 1893, our choir is recognized in Akron, throughout the U.S., and the world for its high standards in maintaining a living Anglican choral tradition. The opportunity to sing in such a choir is becoming increasingly rare as we are but one of fewer than 30 in the entire country. The individual and collective sound of boys' voices is unique and inspiring. St. Paul's is fortunate to have such a choir where boys can come together and work as a team, singing professionally alongside the gentlemen of the choir, many of whom began as boys themselves in this very choir. Membership in the Men's Choir is open to teenage/adult altos, tenors, and basses.

Community & Service

Our choirs lead our diverse congregation in corporate worship, offer prayers and praise through our music, and reach outside the walls of St. Paul's to share our musical offerings. Participation in these outstanding choirs gives young people rare experiences of co-operation, discipline, responsibility, and community with other young people as well as adults, all while striving for musical excellence. We perform a wide variety of music, from spirituals to motets in Latin, and sometimes even sing in German or French!

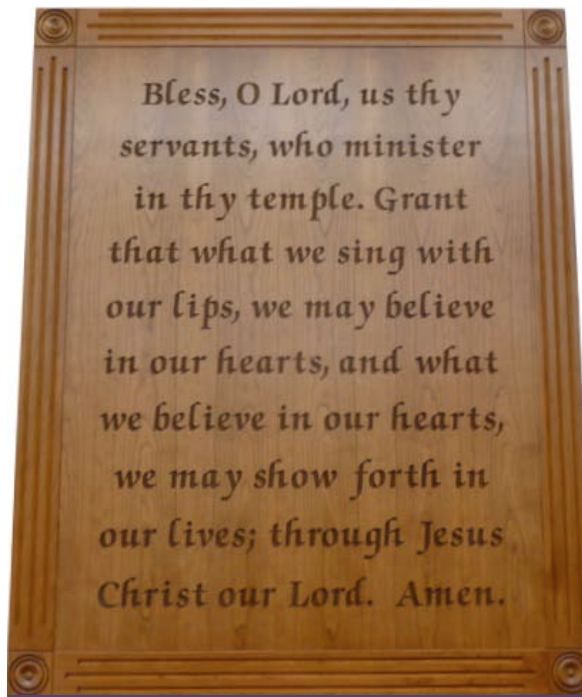
More than singing

Choir is fun, satisfying, and never dull! Choristers embark on domestic and international tours, go to choir camp (where they sing and play sports and games), put on annual Madrigal Dinners, go to concerts, and some participate in the youth group and other church activities. We are a diverse and closely-knit community of adults and young people who are very welcoming towards and enriched by new singers and families.

The St. Cecilia Choir of Girls

While choirs of girls are a relatively new phenomenon in Anglican worship, St. Paul's has had a choir for girls since 1952. They sing the finest music in the sacred treble repertory. They regularly join forces with the Men, which affords them the opportunity to sing music from the even richer SATB repertory. They join the Men and Boys for special services and Evensongs. The Girls recorded a widely-acclaimed CD in 2006, *A St. Cecilia Christmas*. Since the girls' ages range from 7–18, they have a nurturing family dynamic all their own which informs and inspires their singing together.

The mission of the music program at St. Paul's is to proclaim the Word of God through music, and to glorify God with our lips and in our lives.



The prayer of the Royal School of Church Music, with which St. Paul's is affiliated, from a beautiful wood carving on display in the Choir Room.

The St. Catherine's Choir of Women

The Women's Choir at St. Paul's is our newest musical group, formed in 2008. Just as many of our men who sang as young trebles continue to sing at St. Paul's, graduates of our Girls' Choir, along with other women in the parish, are now afforded the opportunity to rehearse and sing services on a regular basis. The Women have also sung concerts, including Benjamin Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols*. Membership in the Women's Choir is open to adult sopranos and altos.

Free training for Boys & Girls

Boys and Girls are accepted into the choir as early as age 7 if they can read words easily. No prior music training is necessary, and no formal audition is required. Every prospective chorister is encouraged to join choir on a trial basis to see if it's a good fit. Early on, the choirmaster will want to hear his/her voice informally to assess vocal agility. We welcome anyone to our community, regardless of church background or affiliation. The ability to read music and the joy of knowing how to make beautiful music is a gift that remains with every child for a lifetime, and it cannot be taken away! We ask only for a commitment to timely and regular attendance.

Education & Mentoring

We provide free "on-the-job training" for everyone, not only in vocal production, but in ear training, music theory, sight-reading, and Christian understanding. The boys and girls receive specialized attention as part of their weekday rehearsals through a series of graduated studies spanning four levels. Their achievements are recognized with ribbons they wear at services as well as with a modest monetary stipend given monthly. As they progress and gain singing experience, the older choristers act as mentors to the younger singers. Their example and work is as important as the training and example given by their teachers. Adults also have the option of an educational hour on Tuesdays, with an emphasis on vocal technique and sight-reading.