



MARCH 2015

# 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

### Basic Christianity: A Lenten Reflection

What are the basics of Christian existence? Most of us would put loving God and loving others at or near the top of a list of Christian essentials. Praying, worshipping God, even *desiring* God would have to be mentioned, too. Mentioning a hunger for God helps to bring home the vitality of faithful living. What we are talking about is not idle speculation.

Following Jesus, serving, and being part of Christ's community cannot be left out, either. All these *many things* (and maybe some more) are at the heart of the *one thing* called living in Christ. Ideally, we help one another to keep all of these activities in play so that we are not missing anything important in the flourishing God has for us. In fact, we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses *in the present* who often show us what grace looks like in daily living. There's someone whose tranquility of soul, through prayer, speaks to us. Nothing seems to knock him off his game, or displace his joy in God. Another person is content to love each person she meets in obedience to Christ. It's the main thing in



her life, more important to her than her job or current events. And then there's old so-and-so who just keeps at it—volunteering, encouraging everyone, seeking solutions, never overwhelmed by problems. Seeing grace-in-action in real situations, and learning from these spiritually significant others is irreplaceable, too. We should put it on our list of essentials.

"Are we alert enough to notice?" is not a bad question to ask in Lent, or ask any time for that matter. And another question is whether we ourselves are so caught up in desiring God and God's will, given over to these things, that the testimony of our life, overflowing with grace, is helping someone else.

Warmly,  
In Christ,  
**Mark+**



## "I Think It's About Forgiveness": Four Sundays in Lent 30-minute discussions starting March 1 at 10:15 am

The title of the series quotes from a song by Don Henley, "*The Heart of the Matter*." The four adult forum discussions, facilitated by the Rev. Paul Gaston, will focus on our forgiving ourselves and others.

We will consider Biblical texts, our Book of Common Prayer liturgies, other useful readings (including a recent column by David Brooks concerning Brian Williams), and, above all, our own experiences as we frame a broader view of forgiveness. At each discussion in G-2/3, the facilitator will distribute readings and liturgical texts. Emphases of each session are as follows:

March 1—"A Right Beginning of Repentance"

March 8—"First Be Reconciled"

March 15—"I Confess" / "As We Forgive the Sins of Others"

March 22—"Renewal"

## Stephen Ministers—We are here for you!

"Trusting someone with personal information about my life was something I feared at first, but I was reassured that not only were Stephen Ministers required to have 50 hours of training but that everything shared was confidential. I agreed to give it a try and I'm so glad I did!"

For more information call Carolyn Chapman 330-604-1094 or Jean Jones 330-573-4579 or talk with any one of our Stephen Ministers.

### Stephen Leaders:



Carolyn Chapman



Jean Jones

### Stephen Ministers:



Jan Burns-Nowicki



Angela Dimezza



Bill Maloney



Bonnie Severt



Suzanne Smaltz



Cindy McBee



Sue Hinson



Dave McBee



Carrie Searle

## ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1361 West Market Street • Akron, Ohio 44313 • (330) 836-9327 • [www.StPaulsAkron.org](http://www.StPaulsAkron.org)

## March Events

**Sun, Mar 1—*MOMENTUM***, 6-8 pm, *Youth Space*. We are privileged to have GUEST SPEAKER Eric Jezewski from Faith Lutheran Church in Fairlawn present the program. As always, there will be plenty of food, music and fellowship! Bring a friend!

**Sun, Mar 1—*Blood Pressures & Blood Sugars***, 8:30-11:00 am, *Family Room*. Checked by our Health & Wellness Team of Nurses.

**Sat, Mar 7—*TrebleFest with James O'Donnell & Evensong***, 3 pm. *Trinity Cathedral*. Music of Stanford, William Harris, and Vaughan Williams.

**Sun, Mar 8—*Evensong***, 4:00 pm, *Church*. The St. Catherine's Choir of Women. Music of Bryam-Wigfield, David Halls, and Colin Mawby.

**Sun, Mar 15—*Artist's Reception***, 12-2 pm, *Parish Hall*. Meet and greet the new artists! All are welcome.

**Sun, Mar 15—*Haven of Rest***, 12:45-3:00 pm, ages 15 and up are encouraged to serve lunch to those in need. Meet in the Commons to carpool or meet at Haven of Rest at 1pm.

**Sun, Mar 15—*Youth St. Patrick's Day Party***, 6-8 pm, *Youth Space*. Come and have some food, fun, drink Green Irish Punch and find the snakes in the church. Wear something green!

**Sat, Mar 28—*Bread Baking***, 10 am, *Kitchen*. 2nd & 3rd grade Church School students bake bread for Palm Sunday.

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1361 West Market Street  
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Phone: (330) 836-9327

## Weekly Happenings in March

### Tuesdays at Noon

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

### 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*

**Reel Redemption**, 6:45 pm, *Youth Space*

**Pilgrims in Christ**, 6:45 pm, *Parish Hall*

## Special Children's Service

**Fri, Apr 3—*Stations of the Cross in Silhouette for Children***, 5:30 pm, *Church*.

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## Flowers to the Glory of God

**Correction:** On February 1, Church altar flowers were given in loving memory of Andrew D. Miller by Rose Miller and family



**Magnificent Easter Flowers** have become a tradition at St. Paul's, a tradition to which we all look forward. Our hearts are lifted when we enter the church after a long winter and Lenten season. Recently, one parishioner said that she always understood intellectually the joy of Christ's resurrection. However, she first felt that joy emotionally when she walked into St. Paul's on Easter Sunday and saw the flower displays.

Help the Flower Guild continue this ministry by making a contribution to the Easter Flower Fund. Flowers are not part of the operating budget at St. Paul's. Arrangements are funded solely by the donations of those who wish to celebrate milestones, honor friends, or memorialize loved ones. Please give what you can. Envelopes are available at the Front Desk.



## Flower Arranging 101 • Saturday, March 14, 9 am, Parish Hall

If you enjoy flowers but don't know the first thing about flower arranging, you need Flower Arranging 101. The Flower Guild is offering a demonstration/workshop on how to arrange simple bouquets from the supermarket. You will leave the workshop with a centerpiece suitable for your Easter table.

The cost of the workshop is \$15, payable at the time of registration. Registration deadline is March 10. If you have any questions or wish to enroll, call Diane Rosenberg at 330-867-4941.