



NOVEMBER 2012



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

"What Have You Done for Me Lately?" is Not Always the Right Question

A priest from another part of the country complained, in my presence, about the lack of a focus on Scripture in the church he was attending. One week the sermon was on the Boy Scout Pledge. The next week the phrase "Ask Not What Your Church Can Give to You, But Ask What You Can Give to Your Church" served as the holy writ for exposition. I listened to, and agreed with his lament. Unpacking the Scriptures faithfully, with energy, conviction, fluency and imagination, in season and out of season, with the confidence that Scripture is the vehicle set apart by God to make Christ known is essential to our flourishing as Christians and as a church. And yet, there is a place for challenging our culture's dominant patterns of thinking and acting even if the challenge is condensed in words from outside the biblical canon.

We live half a century after John Kennedy asked people to think about what they could do for their country in light of what it had done for them ("for the freedom of man" the quote, importantly, continued). The prevalence of coming at things with self-interest foremost in our minds—as consumers first, workers or soldiers or ambassadors second-- has only increased in my estimation since then.

Against this trend, I have been challenging myself to think about investing more earnestly and intentionally in the lives of others and, as some of you know, growing bolder in making this a public challenge. The consumer mentality has affected church membership. I am not talking so much about how we speak of *shopping* for churches or even being a so-called *cafeteria* Christian who takes only those bits of church teaching that are easiest to swallow. I think people should look around carefully for a church home. I think people should take the time to think through, studiously, what they believe. What I think we leaders have to do is offer people a vision of becoming strong in God, rooted in God, liberated by the gospel, so that the primary posture, to use an analogy from sports, is being in the starting blocks, asking what can I do for the cause of the gospel. Such an image speaks of someone eager to build up the church, focused on what's right about it, thankful for what we have been given, confident that our witness and work will bring glory to God. So glad I am, then, that so many attended the renewal retreat, show up here on Wednesday evenings, and participate in all the mini-communities here that give us a wide base from which to enact our mission. Even more is needed, but we are hearing that challenge and responding. We know, in our hearts, that asking 'What have you done for me lately?' is often a question worth replacing.

Warmly, In Christ,

Mark

Madrigal Dinners 2012

You and yours are most cordially invited to join us for our 2012 Madrigal Dinners! Enjoy delectable, authentic food, period costumes, and outstanding music by our choristers and the Keller Consort.

- Fri, Dec 7 at 6:30pm
- Sat, Dec 8 at 6:30pm
- Sun, Dec 9 at 4:30pm

Tickets are \$40/person
(\$20 tax deductible)

*Proceeds benefit the Choir
Travel Fund.*



To see this year's menu, purchase tickets by credit card, or request particular seating, visit AkronMadrigals.org. Or call 330-836-9327 ext. 36 and leave a message.

Hello St. Paul's Church,

10/8/12

It was with great pleasure that I had the opportunity to attend the Community Wednesday Dinner. It was my first time to visit St. Paul and I am planning to visit again.



Community Meal

I was very warmly greeted by several folks at the dining hall and they introduced me to others so that I would not be dining alone. There were several programs to

choose from after dinner, so I decided to attend the "Contemplative, Compline" group. The group leader, Sally, was very warm, kind and filled with the Holy Spirit. She took time to introduce the others in the group to me and give me a good idea what the group is all about.

Again, I was very impressed with the Christian Welcome and Spirit Filled Wednesday evening, and I plan to visit St. Paul's again.

With warm regards,

*David Noethen
Akron, Ohio*

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

1361 West Market Street • Akron, Ohio 44313 • 330-836-9327 • www.stpaulsakron.org

Wednesday Evenings—Join us!

Holy Communion—5:30pm, CHAPEL

St. Paul's Community Meal—DOORS OPEN AT 5:30pm, DINNER IS SERVED FROM 5:45-6:30pm

Please join us on Wednesdays for dinner in the Assembly Hall! St. Paul's opens our doors and hearts *weekly* to provide food and fellowship to our community, parishioners and neighbors. Free-will donations will be accepted. Anyone interested in volunteering may sign-up in the Commons after Church.

Contemplative Prayer & Compline—7-8:15pm, LIBRARY

Prayer and reflection on writings in the Christian tradition. We finish by saying Compline together at 8:00pm. We welcome anyone who is interested in a deeper prayer life. Contact Sally Goodall at 330.835.3559 or sallygoodall@hotmail.com.

Holy Conversations—7pm, PARLOR

A flexible study of the Christian faith that allows discussion to move from the text to a wide range of contemporary issues and concerns. Led by The Rev. Amjad Samuel.

Faith Flicks—7pm, YOUTH SPACE, LOWER LEVEL

Join us for the following movies from now until the start of the Advent season: *The Nun's Story, An American Adventure – the living legend of Jimmy Gentry, Courageous, The Princess Bride, Mr Smith Goes to Washington, Mother Teresa: In the name of God's poor, and Casablanca.*

Second Friday Club—FRI, NOV 9, NOON

Parish Hall. *Program:* Thanksgiving arrangements by Winnie Leenaarts from Savior-Faire in Pilgrims Square. Bring a covered dish and your own place setting. Join us!

Women's Breakfast CANCELLED—SAT, NOV 10, 8:45am

Dr. Linda Martin, our scheduled speaker, withdrew belatedly because of scheduling conflicts and sends her "profuse apologies." Such is life. The next Women's Breakfast is Sat, Jan 19.

Newcomer's Brunch—SUN, NOV 11, 12:30pm



Newcomer's Welcome

Join us at the Newcomer's Brunch Nov 11 at 12:30pm after the late Sunday service, in the Parlor. Meet staff and other newcomers. Learn more about our mission and ministries, and how to join in. Sign-up is required. Child care provided if requested. Register at Front Desk or email church@stpaulsakron.org.

Evensong—SUN, NOV 18, 4pm

Sung by the St. Catherine's Choir of Women. Music by Phillips, Richard Shephard, and Richard Lloyd.

Men's Breakfast—SAT, DEC 1, 8:45pm

Parish Hall. Save the date to hear The Rev. Mark Pruitt on "Specific Challenges for Spiritual Growth."

Lessons & Carols on Advent Sunday—SUN, DEC 2, 4pm

Madrigal Dinners—FRI-SUN, DEC 7-9

See ad on opposite page for details.

Blood Pressure Screenings—SUN, DEC 9, 8:30am-12:15pm

Family Room (Healing Touch also)

Need prayers? If you would like prayers for you or for someone else, a new group of intercessors will be in the Narthex (the back of the Church) after the Sunday, 9:15am service.

UNEXPECTED BLESSING



One of our Stephen Ministers recently experienced a surprise blessing. The Stephen Ministry meeting was held in a public place, as usual, and was closed in prayer, also as usual. After the meeting, the Stephen Minister was ap-

proached by a woman and her little girl. The mother reported that the little girl had seen the two of them praying, and had excitedly told her mother, "Look Mom, you can pray anywhere!"

We don't always see how God is working in and through our lives, but this time we all can share the joy.



Seeking a New Vocation?

Subscribe to area job listings by emailing to: StpaulsMissions@gmail.com



A Brown Bag Lunch, Fellowship & Bible Study w/ Amjad Samuel

Join us Tuesdays at Noon for one hour in G-4

TOPIC: Geocaching with Jesus through the Gospel of Matthew.

All are welcome, bring friends too!

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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