

St. Paul's Messenger

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2010

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Deadline dates for Messenger articles:

**December Issue due
November 11**

**January Issue due
December 9**



WITH THANKFUL HEARTS

Some Thoughts about Giving

In every age, misconceptions about the church and money hang over the minds of churchgoers like an early morning fog. Ours is no exception. Sometimes these misconceptions result from poor communication. Sometimes they stick around because our thinking—individually and in groups—runs to old, easy, patterns that ignore the facts. Human nature perdures! Whatever the reasons, it falls to church leaders in every generation—even if they would rather talk about something else—to bring some light to the more common misconceptions—let's call them myths—about the church and money, burning the fog away for the sake of clarity, first of all, and even more importantly for the sake of living into the fullness of our mission.

The first myth: Others in the church will pay our bills and fund our mission, so I don't have to. The truth, however, is that we should not base our personal giving on this assumption. The truth is that every single contribution to our church—whatever its size—is vital to our mission. Money is the muscle that makes things happen. Each gift, whatever its size, means we can better fulfill our vocation. Everyone is called, one by one, to that growth that only comes through the discipline of cheerful and sacrificial giving. Those so-called 'titans of industry' whose wealth once may have been the muscle of St. Paul's are no longer around. Even if they were, the call to grow through giving is a call made to all, not just to those with ample wealth. Everyone has a part to play.

A second myth: We are a church with a large endowment so my giving is not so important. The truth, however, is that our endowment only pays, roughly, our annual property costs, no more—and then only at the endowment's peak value. It has never paid all of our bills and in the last couple of years, the endowment has seen losses totalling 30 percent of its highest value. Our operating budget must be funded by robust pledging, gifts above and beyond pledges, and (again) by sacrificial giving shared by all.

A painful truth about endowed churches is that many of them have been lulled into complacency, and, lacking a clear sense of mission coupled with the challenge to increase giving, have closed their doors within a generation or two. Or—and this strikes me as almost worse—some endowed churches have used their endowments not to become something bigger and greater but to support very small congregations with very limited missions. We, happily, are in no danger of closing our doors. We will be here, and we will be useful, for a long time. But we want to be much more than useful. We want to be vibrant, and only the widespread embrace of proportional giving will create an operating budget aligned with our mission.

(continued on Page 10)

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

1361 West Market Street
Akron, Ohio 44313

Phone 330.836.9327

Fax 330.836.1012

www.stpaulsakron.org

Email: church@stpaulsakron.org

Office Hours: Weekdays 8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

Staff Information

- ◆ **The Rev. Mark Pruitt**, Rector (ext. 23),
mpruitt@stpaulsakron.org
- ◆ **The Rev. Amjad Samuel**, Associate Rector (ext. 28),
asamuel@stpaulsakron.org
- ◆ **The Rev. Edward Perkinson**, Assistant Rector (ext. 31),
eperkinson@stpaulsakron.org
- ◆ **The Rev. Polly Glanville**, Deacon (Seniors Ministry),
revgville@aol.com
- ◆ **Sheila Svoboda**, Director, Family Ministry (ext. 32),
ssvoboda@stpaulsakron.org
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- ◆ **Laureen McGarry**, Printing (ext. 40),
laureenmcgarry@aol.com

+ Joyful Worship +

Worship With Us

WEDNESDAYS

7:00 a.m. (Wednesday) Holy Communion in the Chapel

5:30 p.m. (Wednesday) Holy Communion in the Chapel

SATURDAYS

5:30 p.m. Holy Communion in the Chapel

SUNDAYS

8:00 a.m. Holy Communion in the Chapel

9:15 a.m. Holy Communion in the Church

11:00 a.m. Holy Communion in the Church:
(first and third Sunday)

Morning Prayer in the Church:

(second, fourth and fifth Sunday)

Music Notes

For more information, contact **Dan Fortune**:

dfortune@stpaulsakron.org or 330-836-9327, ext. 29.

Rehearsal Times

TUESDAYS

5 p.m. Boys' & Girls' Ribbon Training

5:45-7 p.m. Rehearsals of Boys, Girls

7 p.m. Adult Musical Education

WEDNESDAYS

7-8:30 p.m. Women's Choir

THURSDAYS

5 p.m. Boys' & Girls' Ribbon Training

5:45-7 p.m. Rehearsals of Boys, Girls

6:45-8:30 p.m. Men's Rehearsal

MADRIGAL FEASTERS*

St. Paul's Choirs and the Lord of the Manor are pleased to announce that 2010's Madrigal Dinners will be held on:

- Friday, December 10, 6:30 p.m.
- Saturday, December 11, 6:30 p.m.
- Sunday, December 12, 4:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$40 per person. Call 330.836.9327, ext. 36, to make your reservation now. Check or credit card payments are accepted. Madrigal tickets make great corporate gifts as well! Join us for a wonderful evening of merriment and start your Christmas season joyfully!

MADRIGAL HELP NEEDED

Help is Needed!

Planning is already underway for the 2010 Madrigal Dinners! This year the dates of the dinners will be December 10, 11, & 12. As you know, this is not only a way to showcase our choirs, but also a major fund raiser for the Choir Travel Fund.

Volunteers are needed to work the weekend of the dinners.

Volunteers are also needed for the pre-cooking:

November 10 & 11	Meat Pies, Apples & Onions
December 6	Cookies
December 9	All Day

If you are interested in helping this year, please call Mary Blumberg at 330.867.5807.

Come enjoy the fun and fellowship while helping the choir raise much needed funds!

+ Faithful Prayer +

Prayer Groups

We invite you to try the small group prayer opportunities at St. Paul's!

Saturday, 10:00 a.m., in the Library

Lay-led prayer and meditation on the Gospel reading for the week: a small group interactive experience incorporating a variety of worship styles to make the Gospel reading more meaningful and relevant to our lives.

Wednesday evenings from

7:00 to 8:15 p.m. in the Library

Comtemplative Prayer and Compline

We welcome anyone who is interested in a deeper prayer life. We open with verses from a psalm, then listen and reflect on how we each respond to a short selection from the writings of Thomas Merton and others from a variety of spiritual traditions. We finish by saying Compline together at 8:00 p.m.

Please call Sally Goodall at 330.835.3559 or e-mail sallygoodall@hotmail.com for more information.

+ Lifelong Learning +

Bible Study

Wednesdays, 7:30 a.m., G4

Pilgrims in Christ

Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m., Parlor

EfM

Monday Evenings

Sunday Adult Education, 10:10 a.m.

November 7 More About Prayer I *led by Ed Perkinson*

November 14 More About Prayer II

November 21 Mission Sunday: Special Guest Speaker: Dottie Achmoody, OPEN M

November 28 Thy Kingdom Come: An Advent Series on The Lord's Prayer *led by Mark Pruitt*

+ Family Ministry and Education +

Check This Out!

What is better than a cozy sit with your favorite little one, reading a good book? As the weather keeps us indoors more we tend to read more. Upstairs in the Education Wing, next to my office door, I have a bookcase full of remarkable new books I'd like you to take a look at. Ione and Bill Cowen have made a wonderful donation of their time and resources to help me find some remarkable children's books that relate to spiritual formation. There are books of prayers and psalms, Jesus' life, nature, and life's lessons. Take a look, sign one out, and then let me know what you think!

Questions? Concerns? Ideas? Contact Sheila Svoboda: sheila_svoboda@hotmail.com or 330.836.9327 ext. 32



+ St. Paul's Caring Ministries +



St. Paul's Caring Ministries are comprised of a core of volunteers who are dedicated to assisting parishioners with a variety of needs. Whether it is a resource or a personal visit, we are ready to respond to your call. Please help us assist you by communicating your wishes.

Flower Delivery Ministry

Altar flowers are delivered to members of the parish who have had a death in the family, are in the hospital, in nursing homes, or are unable to come to church. After services, members of the Flower Guild separate and arrange the flowers in individual containers which members of the Flower Delivery Ministry then transport, taking with them good wishes from St. Paul's.

Contact

Chris Williams 330.864.2476
email hawkiwms@aol.com

Health and Wellness

The Health and Wellness Ministry promotes holistic health and wellness within S. Paul's community. Specifically we offer blood pressure and glucose screenings, outreach to St. Phillips Church, annual flu shots, ongoing health education and the availability of medical equipment.

Contact

Angela Dimezza 330.864.5928

Eucharistic Visitors

Eucharistic Visitors are trained and licensed by the Diocese to take consecrated bread and wine to those unable to attend church. Through conversation and sacramental presence, they help to sustain a connection with God and the congregation of St. Paul's Church.

Contact

St. Paul's Church 330.836.9327

Wrapped in Prayer

Members knit/crochet and pray over shawls which are then given to anyone in need of comfort. Newborn and baptismal shawls are given in celebration of new life. Shawls are then presented by clergy or other St. Paul's caring ministries.

Contact

Marcia Giordano 330.336.7270
Email: cmgtin@att.net
Sandy Tyson 330.864.7739
email: sandra.tyson@sbglobal.net

Partners in Prayer Thursday mornings, email and phone

We pray for our church and church family, the nation and the world, and to our loving God who heals and comforts those in trouble, guides the lost and rejoices when he finds us looking to him!

Contact

Email Prayer Partners Eileen Foley 330.869.0458
email: justoutrbf@aol.com
Prayer Phone Chain Pat Morgan 330.864.4525
email: pm49@webtv.net

Quiet Committee

The Quiet Committee provides immediate aid to members of St. Paul's when they experience a death in the family or have been discharged from a hospital or care facility after a serious illness.

Contact

Alice Bergstrom 330.666.6281
email: lberg1899@aol.com
Michelle Tognetti 330.701.3575, cell
email: mbtpelican@aol.com

You may contact one of our Caring Ministries directly, or contact our Caring Ministries Coordinator, Carolyn Chapman, at email CRFLOWERS1@HOTMAIL.COM or 330.604.1094.

STEPHEN MINISTRY



Why did I become a Stephen Minister?



I was introduced to the idea of joining Stephen Ministry by Carolyn Chapman at one of St. Paul's Ministry Fairs. Although I worried that it might be difficult to be a Stephen Minister, she made it clear that the training would be in-depth and backed up by an ongoing support system. She also pointed out the usefulness of the training in my personal life. I must admit that she was right on all counts! I am profoundly grateful to Carolyn for encouraging me to take advantage of this opportunity, and especially for her exceptional skills as our instructor.

For me, Stephen Ministry is an opportunity to be a conduit of God's love for someone who needs support during a particularly stressful time. Our fast-paced culture is one with incredible demands that tend to isolate us from each other. We feel alone in an impersonal world trying to resolve our problems by ourselves. As a Stephen Minister, I am dedicated to providing that personalized, caring, non-judgmental attention. It's fulfilling and uplifting to comfort and encourage others knowing that they will be healed by Jesus' love.

Stephen Ministry is a wonderful program. The training ensures that we are prepared to make those who receive our care the center and purpose of our ministry. The 50 hours of intense training are an incredible opportunity to form new and lasting friendships or to deepen existing ones as we learn how to care for others. As an added bonus, these skills help us in everyday relationships. With both Carolyn and now the Rev. Robbin Harvey as our Stephen Leaders, I feel confident and excited about this program at St. Paul's.

Debby Walasek

Could you use a Stephen Minister?

Going through a divorce, just relocated, have a new baby, has there been a death in your family, or is retirement not what you expected? Whatever your situation, we are here to support you.

Call Carolyn Chapman at 330-604-1094 or Robbin Harvey at 330-836-4495 to find out more. Dedicated Stephen Ministers are waiting to lend a listening, confidential ear to support you and share Christ's healing love. We are the caregivers, Christ is the cure-giver!

Current Stephen Ministers

Frank Harvey
Bill Maloney
Amanda Noel
Ellen Hay

Dave McBee
Bonnie Severt
Sue Hinson

Cindy McBee
Suzanne Smaltz
Debby Walasek

+ Significant

Small Groups +

Potluck Supper

When: Sunday, November 21, 2010
Time: 5:00 p.m.
Where: Church Parish Hall

Please join us at November's Potluck Supper!

Visit and share a great meal with fellow parishioners! Table service and beverages will be provided.

Complete a reservation form available at the reception desk or simply call the church, 330.836.9327, to let us know how many adults and children will attend and what you will bring. See you there!

Second Friday Club

When: Friday, November 12, 2010
Time: Noon for potluck lunch—bring a main dish, salad, or dessert to share and your own table service. The program begins at 1:15 p.m.
Where: Church Parish Hall
Topic: **YOUR SAFETY AND MINE.**
 The speaker will be from the Akron Police Department.

All are welcome! Join us.

For more information, contact: Sandra Tyson, 330.864.7739

For reservations, contact: Linda Harrison, 330.836.3212

Wrapped In Prayer

The Prayer Shawl Ministry Group welcomes visitors and guests! All those who knit, crochet or wish to LEARN please come. If you just want to sit and visit, but not stitch, join us!

When: Saturday, November 13
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Family Room

Questions? Please contact : Sandra Tyson, 330.864.7739

St. Paul's Art Gallery

Welcome North Eastern Ohio Fiber Artists!

New Exhibit: October 31 through December 31
 The Art Gallery will welcome the Works of North Eastern Ohio Fiber Artists, including the works of Contemporary Cloth Artists (CoCA)

Artist Reception: Meet the artist's in person!
 Sunday, November 7
 Parish Hall
 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

P.S. Don't forget to cast your vote for your favorite piece of artwork from the whole show! The vote box will be on the table in the hall part of the Gallery.

Health & Wellness

Blood Pressure Checks

Sunday, November 21

8:45 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. Family Room

Sunday, December 19

8:45 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. Family Room

If you have questions, please contact Therese Dowd, 330.836.8665, or Angela Dimezza, 330.864.5928.

+ Proclamation in

Word and Deed+

Thinking Ahead to the Giving Tree 2010:

Tags will be available December 4-5

Giving Tree tags will be available before and after all church services on the weekend of December 4-5, and any not spoken for that weekend will be available the following weekend. The Missions Committee is partnering once again this year with the Broken Chains Jail & Prison Ministry to provide Christmas gifts for children who have a parent who is incarcerated. These children's requests are typically very modest, so we also add extra gifts to their lists, such as clothing and books, and games for their families to enjoy together. Information on when and where to return the wrapped gifts will be available along with the tags on December 4-5 and on the Missions kiosk. More information about Broken Chains is available by following links on the Outreach section of the St. Paul's website. Please plan to join us in helping to brighten the Christmas season for these families!

Mission Sunday - November 21

Join us on Sunday, November 21, during the adult education hour, to learn more about Missions at St. Paul's and the Akron community! Dottie Achmoody, the director of OPEN M, will speak with us about outreach in the local community. The Missions Committee works closely with OPEN M on many projects (including Christmas food boxes, about which you can read more below!). Many individual members of St. Paul's also volunteer their time for the many services that OPEN M provides. We will have tables in the parish hall displaying information about the outreach work coordinated and led by our Missions Committee and information about how you can get involved.

While all of this is going on inside the parish hall, the Good Samaritan Hunger Center van will be waiting outside in the parking lot to receive your donations of non-perishable food items. Look for grocery bags to fill and return in the weeks prior to Mission Sunday. **See you there!**

OPEN M:

Christmas Boxes: Collecting 32oz Jars of Jelly

During November, the Missions Committee will be collecting 32 ounce jars of jelly for the OPEN M Christmas Boxes. These boxes, for which each covenanting church of OPEN M adopts a particular food item each year, are assembled to make up a full week's menu for a family. St. Paul's has committed to provide 200 jars of jelly, so please join us in this effort to meet our goal and put food on the holiday tables of those in need.

- ***Please bring in 32 ounce jars of jelly by November 28.***

Leave them in the designated crate in front of the Missions Kiosk.

- ***Want to know more about the work of OPEN M?***

Check out the information and links available on the Outreach section of the new St. Paul's website; come hear Dottie Achmoody on Mission Sunday (Nov. 21); or speak with Anne Cannon, our Missions Committee liaison with OPEN M.

- ***Want to give more than jars of jelly?***

Look for information on the Missions kiosk by the east commons entrance (or at the Giving Tree table on November 28) about "adopting" a family for the Christmas holiday through OPEN M. Or while you are in the jelly aisle, bring in some peanut butter for our year-round collection for OPEN M!

Other OPEN M Needs

Save your Acme "cash back" receipts from now through February 19, 2011, for the Community Cash Back Receipt Program to benefit OPEN M.

There is an envelope on the Missions Kiosk where you can deposit these receipts.

The OPEN M free clinic is looking for dentists who can volunteer either to work onsite in the clinic or to take one OPEN M patient for a year, a month, or a week.

If you are able to offer your time to this important ministry, please contact the OPEN M clinic office manager, Kristina Spontarelli, at (330) 434-0110 (x406) or clinic@openm.org

Habitat for Humanity

See How Far We've Come!

Grass seed is sprouting; shrubs are planted; ground cover and hostas are scheduled to be planted soon. Most of the drywall has been hung; taping and spackling are going well. Soon we will be ready to prime and paint the inside and then cut and install the trim. To see our progress, check out the pictures on our website at <http://www.stpaulsakron.org/habitat-for-humanity.aspx>.

We've come a long way since spring, but there is still much work to do before the house is completed. The Habitat office has extended our Thursdays into November, and we are also planning to work some additional Saturdays through November. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Mary Shepherd at 330-666-8302 or mshep@ohio.net for more information.

For news and updates on mission activities, go to www.stpaulsakron.org and click on the Outreach tab.

+ *Cheerful and*

Sacrificial Giving +

Gifts and Memorials

We give thanks for all gifts.

A gift to the Quiet Committee was received from Jack and Anne Clement.

A gift to the Stephen Ministry Program in honor of Carolyn Chapman's birthday was received from William and Nancy Noall.

A gift in memory of Charles R. Fox was received from Mrs. Ethel Fox.

An honorarium in celebration of their 55th wedding anniversary was received from Frank and Robbin Harvey.

A gift in memory of Patrick Reymann was received from Gene Wilson.

A gift for the general operating budget was received from the Jean Thomas Lambert Foundation.

A gift for the New Initiatives Fund was received from Kenneth and Patricia Dorsett.

A gift to the Endowment Foundation in memory of R. Bruce Silver was received from Elizabeth Sandwick.

Gifts to the Rowe Acolyte Fund in memory of Lorine Schild were received from Katherine Heppe, Janet Schild, Karen Hackenberg and Dick Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Burton Riley, Mrs. Fern Wertz, David and Andrea Portnoy, Arthur and Sarah Jane Wilde, Barbara Harrington and Family, R. Dave and Kathy Daniels, Diane Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Guy, Maggie Volchko and Alice Wondoloski and Family.

Flowers To The Glory of God

October 3

CHAPEL

In Memory of Mildred Wille from her husband Herman Wille

October 17

CHURCH

In Memory of Anne Quade from Bob Quade and Family

CHAPEL

In memory of John and Beverly Hurst and Beulah Edwards from Toni Costa

November 7

CHURCH

In memory of Harvey Graves from his Family

CHAPEL

Available

November 14

CHURCH

In memory of Charles Pierson from Carmen Pierson and daughters Alexandra, Melissa and Valerie

CHAPEL

In loving memory of Bruce Blake on his Birthday from Jeannette Blake

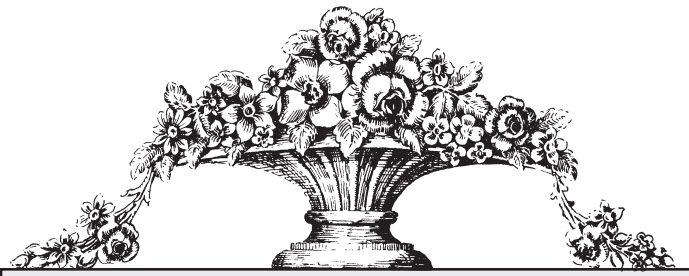
November 21

CHURCH

In memory of Richard Silver from Walt and Pat Silver

CHAPEL

Available



Altar Flowers

Do you know that the lovely floral arrangements created by St. Paul's Flower Guild every week rely upon our contributions? It's true! You can donate flowers as a memorial, a celebration, or an acknowledgement of thanksgiving. The donation for a specific date for a Chapel arrangement is \$40.00 and a Church arrangement is \$60.00. All gifts to this ongoing ministry at St. Paul's are greatly appreciated.

Christmas is also a wonderful time to memorialize your loved one. Donations to the Flower Guild help us plan a grand display for Christmas, and your donation assures that your loved one will be honored at this time of year.

Honor a loved one with a gift of altar flowers. Please contact Nancy Parker, 330.867.1538, for more information.

A Note from the Lending Library

A grateful "thank you" to those who have shared their magazines by contributing them to the Periodical Lending Library located in the Family Room. The name tells the story!

You are invited to the annual **Community Thanksgiving Service**

Thursday, November 25, 2010

10:15 a.m.

St. Sebastian Catholic Church
476 Mull Avenue

Preacher: The Rev. Amjad Samuel

+ + + + +

Our 2010 Thanksgiving Offering will go to
The Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank

From The Treasurer - 2010/2011 Operating Budget

Our budget supports our mission, which is our primary focus. Therefore, we added a new Director of Music Ministries last fall and have added a full-time Associate Rector, as well as a part-time Chaplain. A renewed vision for the future of the parish continues to emerge. It's a time of new initiatives, renewed focus, and moving ahead confidently at St. Paul's. Our giving back to God makes it all happen.

With that in mind, the finance committee recommended and the vestry approved the following budget with the understanding that we need to promote generous giving throughout the congregation to reach our pledge goal of \$750,000.

INCOME:	Amount	% of Total
Contributions		
Pledge income	\$ 750,000	64%
Non-pledge income	70,000	6%
Other Contributions	25,300	2%
Total Contributions	\$ 845,300	72%
Endowment Foundation	\$ 217,125	18%
Trusts for Operations	\$ 84,000	7%
Rent, honorariums, etc.	\$ 31,950	3%
Total Income	\$1,178,375	100%
 EXPENSES:		
Clergy, Staff & Administration	\$ 516,627	40%
Property	\$ 293,527	23%
Diocesan Assessment	\$ 186,000	14%
Education	\$ 123,145	10%
Music	\$ 107,228	8%
Parish Life	\$ 53,550	4%
Lay Staff Salary Reserve	\$ 12,200	1%
Missions from Operating Budget\$	7,200	1%
Total Expenses	\$1,299,477	100%
Projected operating deficit	\$ (121,102)	

Clergy expenditures include expenses such as clergy compensation, mileage, discretionary funds, clergy relocation funding, and supply clergy. Administration expenditures include expenses such as support staff compensation (executive assistant, financial administrator and part-time printer, receptionist, and business manager), audit and appraisal expenses, office supplies, telephone, computer and website support.

Property expenditures include expenses such as sexton compensation, utilities, maintenance and repairs, supplies, property replacement, grounds and insurance.

The Diocesan Assessment supports Diocesan missions and operations.

Education expenditures include expenses such as education and youth staff compensation, curriculum purchases, youth projects, confirmation retreats, supplies, food, and transportation.

Music expenditures include expenses such as music staff compensation, funding for Christmas and Easter brass, and other music department expenses.

Parish Life expenditures include expenses such as postage, printing, worship supplies, stewardship, advertising, parish retreat and fellowship.

(continued on Page 10)

2010/2011 Operating Budget

(continued from Page 9)

The Lay Staff Salary Reserve represents an amount in the budget for staff retention payments. Our lay staff has not had any salary increase in nearly two years. An amount has been budgeted to allow for this.

Mission expenditures represent the portion of total mission spending that is paid from the operating budget. This amount does NOT include the Christmas or Easter offerings, pink envelope giving, mission outreach or disaster relief giving or other outreach initiatives.

This budget has a projected deficit of about \$121,100, or about 9.3% of the budget. While still a deficit, it is smaller both in amount and percent of the overall budget than last year's budgeted deficit. How will we finance this? We can finance this through (a) parishioners who give above and beyond their pledges in support of our mission, (b) continuing to implement operating efficiencies, and (c) using a portion of our undesignated operating funds.

No one favors deficits. However, it is evident that we need to continue to move forward to support the mission of St. Paul's. We are making progress in so many areas... in pastoral care and clergy leadership with the hiring of a full time Associate and part-time Chaplain, renewed vigor in our family, music, and youth ministries, and addressing issues with our facilities.

If you have questions concerning church finances, please do not hesitate to contact Sherrie Petrochuk at 330-836-9327, ext 24 or by email at spetrochuk@stpaulsakron.org.

An Important Note from the Treasurer To Those Who Donate Stock:

As we approach the end of the calendar year, some parishioners may wish to fulfill their pledge by donating stock. Please notify our Financial Administrator, Tom Valtman, when transferring stock to St. Paul's. We are currently in receipt of a stock donation with no donor information, and therefore cannot credit the donation to anyone.

**Contact Tom Valtman:
tvaltman@stpaulsakron.org
330-836-9327, ext. 22.**

(Mark Pruitt's Letter, continued from Page 1)

The third myth: This might even make you laugh—is that personal giving should be based on 'my fair share', a kind of fee-for-service approach to stewardship. It happens. A rector friend of mine in a large parish tells the story of a stingy giver who claimed his pledge "covered the coffee he drank on Sunday mornings." That admission would have stunned me into silence, but my sharper colleague quickly asked the man if he really thought we should go down the slippery slope of charging for everything—that is, a weekly admission charge to the sanctuary; user fees for hymns, pews, lighting, and heat; and a fixed price for, say, each communion wafer and sip of wine. (Are you laughing? Crying?) The truth, however, is that learning to give, and give more, is not about calculating our lowest share but about sharing together—namely, sharing in our joint mission, each according to ability, starting with what we have been given financially.

Most of us have other issues to work through: not so much myths, but areas for real growth. I know that I have had to learn to support projects which have been good but not perfect. I now know the joy of contributing to things at various stages of their life cycles. If I would have waited for everything to be just right or just what I wanted, I would have remained on the sidelines for a long time, disengaged, without participating in the action on the field—in other words, the health of the organization. And I now also know it's always worth asking just when and where in our lives are we ever in complete agreement with things—in our schools, our government, our health care, our culture, our families, our workplace? Mature involvement means giving and working toward shared aims, in every season of life, with one another, imperfect as we are, all the while living before the face of God.

As our calendar year nears its end, we can report we have some solid results from this year's Annual Pledge Campaign. We have more pledges this year (303) than we had at this time last year, and more than we had all of last year. The pledged amount (\$653,000) is greater than last year's pledged total, but still short of our ambitious, but reachable, goal of \$750,000. We still need 50 to 60 pledges and increased giving as December approaches. Please consider, in this season of thankfulness, helping us reach our goal so we can fulfill our mission.

Warmly,

In Christ,
Mark +

REVERB Youth Movement of St. Paul's Episcopal Church

November Program Guide



Regular Programs

<p>Every Thursday Night 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Youth Group Jr./Sr. High Combined Grades 7-12</p>	<p>Our midweek gathering is in the Youth Room. This is a time to hang out, play basketball, foosball, bumper pool and more while snacking on items from the cafe from 6-7 p.m. Then we spend the next hour talking about relevant topics and experiencing God in many active and dynamic ways. Thursdays allow students in the Choirs to join in after rehearsals for the second half of our time together. Bring Friends!</p>
<p>Every Sunday at 10:15 a.m. Youth Forum Grades 8-12</p>	<p>Join us for an ongoing dialogue on the topic "Am I Happy? The Search for Something More". Students enjoy great breakfast foods, frappuccinos and relevant conversations about life, school, friends, and God. We meet in the Youth Room on the lower level of St. Paul's near the Gymnasium. Friends are always welcome!</p>
<p>Every 3rd Sunday 11/21/10 12:45-3:00 p.m. Haven of Rest For Students ages 15+</p>	<p>We take a group over to Haven to serve lunch to over 100 people in need. We meet in the Commons at 12:45 p.m. to car pool. We are finished and back at St. Paul's by 3:00 p.m. This is a great way for students to help those less fortunate and to get some of those much needed service hours as well. Please contact me when you or your student plan to attend Space is limited, and a carpool needs to be arranged.</p>
<p>Every 2nd and 4th Sunday Serious / Fun! Grades 6-8</p>	<p>On November 14 and 28 we will have our Middle School Program that will begin with a pizza lunch in REVERB's Café (lower level next to gym), then some SERIOUS discussion of a relevant topic before playing some FUN games in the Gym. Please bring \$1.00 per slice for the pizza (drinks and chips will be covered). Friends are welcome!</p>

Additional Events

<p>Sunday, November 7 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. T.E.A.M. Leader Meeting</p>	<p>This is the Teens Engaged in Active Ministry monthly leadership meeting for all Teen and Adult Leaders. We check in and see how everyone is <i>really</i> doing, follow up on T.E.A.M. assignments and continue to actively serve our church and youth ministry in new and exciting ways. Please bring all your notes and have your hearts and heads ready to move forward.</p>
<p>November 19-20 (Fri 9:00 p.m.- Sat 8:00 a.m.) Lock-In at Pinnacle Sports Grades 7-12</p>	<p>We have joined with three churches in the area and Pinnacle Sports to offer a fun filled night with an encore showing of the film "To Save a Life". There will be competitive games on the dual fields/courts including Ultimate Frisbee, flag football, basketball, and more. The cost is \$5.00 and includes all activities as well as pizza, drinks, snacks and breakfast. Registration begins Friday, 8:45 p.m., at the door. Bring friends!</p>

Programming is intentionally a bit lighter this month because of fall sports, Thanksgiving, and Madrigals.
Please encourage your teen to attend these regular and special events.
Have a happy and blessed Thanksgiving on Thursday, November 25!

If you have questions or need more information, please contact:
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Other links:

Trinity Cathedral

www.trinitycleveland.org

Diocese of Ohio

www.dohio.org

The Episcopal Church

www.episcopalchurch.org

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



NOVEMBER REMINDERS

- 11/7 *FALL BACK* Daylight Savings Time Change, 2 a.m.
Artist Reception, Parish Hall, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- 11/12-13 Diocesan Convention, Toledo
- 11/14 Evensong, Church, 4 p.m.
- 11/19-20 Teen Lock-In at Pinnacle Sports, Fri. 9 a.m. - Sat. 8 a.m.
- 11/21 Missions Sunday
Potluck Dinner, Parish Hall, 5 p.m.
- 11/25 Community Thanksgiving Service at St. Sebastian, 10:15 a.m.
- 11/28 Advent Lessons and Carols, 4 p.m.