

Living Out A Full Expression of the Christian Faith

Joyful Worship

Lifelong Learning

Faithful Prayer

Significant Small
Groups

Cheerful and
Sacrificial Giving

Proclamation in
Word and Deed



*Let all things seen and unseen their notes together blend,
for Christ the Lord is risen, our joy that hath no end.*

Hymn 210

Prepared for the 2026 Annual Meeting on February 8, 2026

St. Paul's Episcopal Church • Akron, Ohio

A Letter From Our Rector Mark Pruitt

Dear Friends,

Some thoughts, looking back over the year(s) behind, and looking forward to the year(s) ahead, in relation to our mission statement.

Our Mission Statement

Living Out a Full Expression of the Christian Faith is the first part of our mission statement. Admittedly, it's ambitious—some may say presumptuous—to think we can embody such an aspiration. But, first, ask who would want to live out a thin, malnourished expression of the faith? Not me! And I hope not any of us.

I am reminded of a professor at Boston College (founded by the Jesuits) who said recently BC stands for Barely Catholic! That's somewhat understandable for an educational institution. Somewhat. Maybe. But congregations that are led by the vision and examples in the New Testament, speaking as it does, of each follower of Christ 'growing in the full stature of Christ,' 'abounding in hope,' of 'love being poured into our hearts,' and of the gospel bearing abundant fruit across the world, and much more, well, no congregation can be satisfied with being barely Christian.

The Holy Spirit: Our Past, Our Present, Our Future

But second, only the Holy Spirit can lead us on toward a maximalist expression of the faith. Throughout the long history of this congregation, the Holy Spirit has been at work. This has been so because God is faithful, because Jesus promised it, because Pentecost happened! But we must pray to be filled again and again, by the Spirit, and pray to be led by the Holy Spirit, "When the Spirit of truth comes," Jesus said, "he will guide you into all truth." (John 16:1). And this means not just theological truth, but in John's gospel, 'living in the truth.'

The pages that follow, displaying many at work to serve their Lord, are evidence of the Spirit's leading in our present time. So many are playing their part in our congregational life and mission. Their response may have felt like a duty. Or it may have been a common-sense answer to a need. They may have stepped up to do something after prayerful deliberation. Or, acted after listening to the Scriptures. Their response may have been responding to conscience, or to a nudge, a tug, hearing a whisper, a faint call.

Moving Forward

A few years ago, we set as priorities (1) the renewal of our music program, which in short, has meant adding new members, and (2) increasing foot traffic. Along with everything we are already doing, these remain a major part of our weekly focus and work as a staff. Recently, we've added two other major priorities: (3) Growing Young and (4) Growing in Evangelism.

A word about each follows.

Growing Young

An increase in foot traffic, a number of baptisms, and new members joining, give us confidence that we can lay down this challenge to younger members of our congregation: namely, to be the next generation of loyal servants. We have had so many solidly faithful parishioners serve in so many ways (on boards, tasks forces, mission work, outreach, etc.,) for so many years, that we can issue the call (and provide the training) for the next generation to take the batons moving into the future. To show the same kind of loyalty evident in previous generations.

And to be loyal out of God's loyalty to us, his creatures, in the gift of Jesus Christ.

Growing in Evangelism

Speaking of God's loyalty to us in the gift of Jesus Christ is a fresh way, perhaps, to think about the gospel. God has not abandoned us to our own fallen ways, but has acted, and still acts, to overcome the relationship between God and creatures that had broken down. It's because God seeks our health and salvation.

Articulating this is part of our task to evangelize and make disciples. The second half of our mission statement keeps this before us: To Call All People to The New Life of Discipleship in Christ.

And so, we are teaching about evangelism and encouraging people to attend our five-session course *Being Renewed...for the Sake of The Gospel*, on the first Sunday nights of the month, beginning in February (except for April in which the first Sunday is Easter, so we meet on the second Sunday. It's geared toward developing a natural way to share our faith with others. Please consider joining!

Warmly, in Christ,

Mark+

Mission Highlights

The World Is Our Parish

For generations St. Paul's through its mission activity has provided witness to the love of Christ throughout our local community and the world. Following are the salient points of our work in 2025. Whatever your mission interest, our church has a place for you!

Helping at Home: The Community Meal

Beginning in October 2012, parishioners and clergy have led a short worship service and served supper in the assembly hall to those in need. In 2025, teams prepped, cooked, served and cleaned up for 55 to 70 guests each week. This ministry is the most regularly laborious of St. Paul's work and a big thank-you goes to all those who contribute funds (\$6,731 in 2025), set up tables, cook, serve and clean up for this successful ministry.

Helping at Home: The Christmas Fund

For several decades we have devoted our Christmas giving to helping those with emergency financial needs. This work is our oldest local mission, and it continued in 2025 as we disbursed \$29,969 to assist, mostly with rent and utility bills, 41 families comprising 48 adults and 56 children, which marks an increase over 2024.

Helping at Home: Nan's Giving Tree

Another long-standing Christmas ministry is Nan's Giving Tree, in memory of long-time parishioner and Giving Tree coordinator Nan Bartlett. This mission works with Broken Chain's Lydia's House, a curriculum-based, faith-centered recovery program in a safe home environment based upon Restorative Justice that helps women overcome substance abuse and achieve independence. In 2025, parishioners provided presents for 9 mothers and 23 children. Thank you to all who took a tag from the tree and provided gifts.

Helping Around the World: Mitzvah Day

Volunteers from St. Paul's, Temple Israel and other area congregations met at St. Paul's on Mitzvah Day (June 8) to sew dresses for Dresses with Love, an international organization whose mission is to distribute dresses to girls in need.

Helping Around the World: Disaster Relief

In 2025, St. Paul's Disaster Relief Fund provided \$1,527 to the national church's Episcopal Relief and Development to assist victims of flooding in Texas and other natural disasters.

Helping at Home: Habitat for Humanity

Working with the nine other congregations in the Common Mission Coalition and Habitat for Humanity, in 2025 we completed work on a new ranch house at 595 Hollibaugh Ave. in Akron. The house, built in Habitat's Silver Maple Ridge allotment on North Hill, is already occupied and is the 14th house we have helped to build. St. Paul's parishioners years ago were instrumental in establishing the local Habitat chapter and we continued to support it in 2025 through volunteers (27 different people working across 12 build-days) and financial contributions (\$5,000 in 2025) from our Easter Fund.



Helping Around the World: Haiti

We continued to stay in touch with and pray for our brothers and sisters at St. Etienne's parish, but continued unrest in Haiti hampered progress on new work with the church. Additionally, the local rector with whom we were working took a position in Canada. Although we have not been able since 2019 to send a team to Haiti, in 2025 we donated \$2,000 for shoes and backpacks for the students at the church's school. In October, members of the Missions Committee visited St. Patrick's Episcopal Church in the Washington, DC, Georgetown neighborhood, which also has a long-standing mission with St. Etienne's, and discussed the possibility of our parishes working jointly. We will pursue this prospect in 2026.

Mission Highlights (cont.)



Helping Around the World: Nigeria

Beginning in 2011, St. Paul's has supported the construction and operation of five schools in Gusau and Kaduna in northern Nigeria, serving a combined enrollment of 2,350 students. This area of Nigeria for many years has seen fraught relations between the Muslim (usually herders) and Christian (usually farmers) populations, and in the interest of fostering peace and equality the schools are purposely non-denominational, co-educational and open to all. Our work is through Africa Education Partnership (AEP), a non-profit American organization, and in coordination with the local Anglican bishops in Nigeria. Along with several parishioners who independently made donations to AEP, St. Paul's contributed \$6,400 from the Frank World Mission Fund to the operation of the schools. For more information about past and current projects, and how to sponsor individual students, go to www.africaep.org.

Pilgrimages

Searching for God

St. Paul's Center for Learning & Ministry

Four years ago, St. Paul's Center for Learning & Ministry created a vision to develop pilgrimages for the parish. These spiritual journeys would offer participants the opportunity to connect with God in a new way, through ancient cultures, sacred sites and Scripture. As they journey with fellow Christians, pilgrims would experience together the joy God has in store for those who seek Him on these uniquely designed excursions.

In 2025 St. Paul's organized two pilgrimages. During Eastertide 44 pilgrims from St. Paul's and seven neighboring congregations followed the journeys of St.

Pilgrimages (cont.)

Paul in Greece. The group visited Philippi, the site of St. Paul's first missionary outreach in Europe. Other stops included Thessalonica, Berea, Athens, Corinth, Ephesus, and Crete. The itinerary also included a stop on the island of Patmos and a visit to the Cave of the Apocalypse where St. John wrote the Book of Revelation.

Each day began and ended with communal prayer, song and praise. The in-between times were filled with glorious surprises from God as the pilgrims reflected on the various letters of St. Paul and Revelation.

Walking on the streets where St. Paul walked and taught, seeing the cell where he was imprisoned in Philippi, and visualizing St. John's vision of the return of Jesus from deep within a cave on Patmos brought the faithfulness of these men and other early Christians to life for the pilgrims. Those who made the journey came back with a renewed sense of gratitude for the work of the saints in spreading the Gospel.

The second pilgrimage of 2025 was a half-day journey to Medina and its historic Spring Grove Cemetery. This glorious autumn day featured Morning Prayer, song, and reflections on seeking freedom from sin and death in Jesus Christ. Cemetery volunteers told how the cemetery was founded and gave accounts of the historic figures who are buried there, including a Medina couple whose home was a stop on the underground railroad.

The vision of these pilgrimages, to seek God, to find Him and to embrace Him, continues this year, from November 3-6, as another group of pilgrims goes on a journey of new beginnings to learn how God makes all things new. The New Beginnings pilgrimage features several stops, including to a replica of Noah's ark in Williamstown, Kentucky; the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption in Covington, Kentucky; and Hopeton Earthworks, a ceremonial site of Native Americans in Chillicothe, Ohio. Go to incrediblejourneystours.com for more details and to register.

A second pilgrimage for 2026 is being planned for this spring in northeast Ohio, as well as a European pilgrimage in 2027. Details to come!

For all those who have prayed for the pilgrims and supported the pilgrimages in a variety of ways, please accept our heartfelt thanks. May God bless you.

Vestry Nominees for the Class of 2029



Brian Borthwick

Brian Borthwick currently serves as an usher and has worked with the Sunday school program. He was active with Boy Scout troop 273 and volunteered with the Stow High School Marching Band. Brian brings

previous Vestry experience. Brian is the President of Sta-Warm Electric and he and his family have attended St. Paul's since 2007.



Jean Jones

Jean Jones is a long-time member of St. Paul's and has served as a Stephen Minister leader, Diocesan convention delegate and member of the Vestry. Currently, Jean continues as a member of the choir and participates

in the Tuesday Bible Study and the Needlepoint Guild. Outside of St. Paul's Jean serves as secretary of a condo association board and has led interdisciplinary teams as a vocational rehab counselor.



James Cribbet

James Cribbet and his family have attended St. Paul's since 2005 and have been active in the life of the parish. James was involved in the development of the Community Meal program and currently serves on the

Endowment Board and leads the Art Guild as well as serving as a greeter. James has served on the board of several non-profits and is looking forward to returning to the Vestry.



Ben Vail

Ben Vail is President of the Massillon Container Co. and has attended St. Paul's for many years. He also serves as President of the Board of South Suburban Montessori School.

Currently, Ben serves as a lay reader and was a member of the 2023 class of the Vestry. In his free time Ben enjoys reading, films, walking and running.

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Limitless Power

Through the Spirit, Jesus Christ the exalted one generates a new mode of common human life, the life of the Church. To participate in that common human life, hearing the gospel in fellowship under the word of God and living together under the signs of baptism and the Lord's supper, is to exist in a sphere in which God's limitless power is unleashed and extends into the entirety of human life: moral, political, cultural, affective, intellectual.

John Webster, *Holiness*

The Vestry

The Vestry is the legal representative of the congregation, the governing body, and with the Rector sets the policies and course of the congregation to further Christ's mission.

A Full Expression of The Christian Faith

In 2025, the Vestry continued to support, once again, the vision set out in our two-part mission statement:

**To live out a full expression of the Christian faith.
To call all people to the new life of discipleship in Christ.**

In addition to the legal and canonical (church laws) responsibilities entrusted to the Vestry, our Vestry continued its role as a wise counsel of advice, supporting the need for strategies and steps to increase foot traffic and to keep the task(s) of evangelism in front of us, endorsing new initiatives in this regard.

We continued to make steps in increasing attendance and revitalizing the choir with new members—and speaking of new members, we had 18 baptisms including two adults (!), and more young families join. The Vestry commended steady teaching on evangelism and, as ever, supported the work of the Missions Committee, marking the 13th year of the Community Meal, continuing to support Barnabas Ministries, and authorizing support for Haiti.



Leadership In 2025

Diocesan Delegates In 2025: Peter Dimezza, Jean Jones, Mary Shepherd

Diocesan Trustee: Todd Rosenberg

Summit Missions Area Council: Karen Knowles, Mary Shepherd

Vestry To January 2026: Carolyn Bousfield, Pam Feltner, Mary Hunt, Bill Rinz

Vestry To January 2027: Joyce Healy-Abrams, Russ Guenther, Tony Hunt, Karen Knowles

Vestry To January 2028: Brian Good, Cheryl Kline, Charles Severt, Bruce Taylor

Treasurer: Gail Wild

Number of:**Sunday Volunteers,
including our Choir****54****Volunteers in Caring
Ministries****50****Volunteers in Missions
Work, including
Community Meal****30****Volunteers in Children
and Youth****5****Volunteers in Property,
Finance, Stewardship,
and Endowment****30****Volunteers in CAP
(Community Assistance
Program)****5****Love. Serve. Grow!*****There is almost no hope of getting the numbers just right...***

We have tried to count up all the people who help here, day in and day out, every week, and on big projects. Looking back, we thank them all! Looking forward, all churches are learning the lesson that the recipe for success is to 'involve people first and disciple them as you go.' There truly is joy in service!

Consider these volunteer opportunities:

Acolytes	Needlework Guild
Altar Guild	Office Volunteers
Art Gallery	Property
Community Assistance Program (CAP)	Quiet Committee
Chalice Bearers	Senior Outreach
Community Meal	Stephen Ministry
Eucharistic Visitors	Stewardship
Family Net	Ushers
Flower Delivery	Vergers
Flower Guild	Vestry
Grounds & Gardeners	Vestry Nominating Committee
Health & Wellness	Wrapped in Prayer
Lay Readers	Youth Ministry
Library	
Memorial Garden	
Missions & Outreach	
Music/Choir	



If you would like further details on getting involved in any of these ministries, contact Carrie Searle at 330-836-9327, ext. 121 or csearle@stpaulsakron.org



Something For Everyone In 2026

Men's Weekend Retreat

Our 2026 St. Paul's Men's Retreat will take place March 13–15, 2026 at the Jesuit Retreat Center in Parma, Ohio. Hollis Haff, Mark Pruitt, and Dave Scavuzzo will facilitate learning and discussion about discipleship in our current world. Deadline with full payment is due Sunday, Feb. 15th. Sign up now at the Front Desk

Tuesday Lenten Luncheons

Attend our Lenten Luncheons for a deeper dive into the Farewell Discourses of Jesus; The Gospel of John. Beginning on Tuesday, Feb. 24th through March 24th at noon in the Parish Hall. Sign up at the Front Desk.

Be Renewed...for the Sake of The Gospel

Be Renewed...for the Sake of The Gospel will explore teachings on evangelism with small group discussion (light refreshments served) monthly through June. We will be gently challenging members to take this opportunity to be filled anew with God's life to the end that we each may more readily share the gospel in word and deed. Let us know if you're coming by calling or signing up at the Front Desk. Next one is Sunday, March 1st at 6pm.

Women's Monday Book Study

Currently, the women's book group is studying NT Wright's "Simply Jesus: A New Vision of Who He was, What He Did, and Why He Matters." All are welcome. Meet in the Parlor at 10am.

Tuesday Bible Study

We continue our Tuesday noon discussions led by a member of the clergy, with a pause during Lent and Holy Week. No preparation is required or expected. Participants are welcome to bring a brown bag lunch.

Dave Scavuzzo on C.S. Lewis

Join us as The Rev. Dave Scavuzzo leads explorations in developing a scriptural imagination through C.S. Lewis' writings and selected Scriptures on first Tuesdays through June at 7pm in room G-4.

Wednesday Evening Compline

On Wednesdays, let's quiet our hearts together for "good night" prayers at 7:45pm. To connect online go to: zoom.us/join Meeting ID: 844 1828 4802 Pass code: 942011

Serious Fun for Youth

For youth grades 5-12, meet in the Youth Space/Gym on Fridays, 6-8pm to share food, games and fellowship!

Church School & Youth/Confirmation Class

On Sundays in the Education Wing, we have Church School for children age 4-Grade 6, and Youth Confirmation Class for Grades 7-12. Childcare for infants to age 4 is also available in the Nursery.

Quarterly Healing Services

Sometimes we need a quiet place to go where we know the Lord is present, a place that for decades has been bathed in prayer. That place at St. Paul's is our chapel where we gather quarterly for a noon healing service, to offer thanks and praise to the Lord, and to pray for His touch. We pray for ourselves and others, and we receive strength from the Holy Spirit to persevere through the things that trouble us. Join us Thursday, May 7th at noon.

St. Paul's Community Garden

Under the leadership of Mary Shepherd, the St. Paul's Community Garden has been thriving. Parishioners are offered a plot to plant their own produce while other plots are reserved to grow food for the Community Meal. Some of the vegetables that have been given to our Community Meal guests include, zucchini, radishes, tomatoes, greens, and peppers. Planting usually takes place in late April or early May.

Needlepoint Guild

Meets on the second and fourth Thursdays each month at 1pm plus a new evening meeting on first and third Tuesdays at 6:30pm.

Wrapped in Prayer Group

Calling all knitters and crocheters, we teach beginners too! Come learn about our mission. Meets every third Sunday in the Family Room at 11:15am.

Choir

Choir rehearsal takes place on Thursday evenings from 6:45–8:15pm. New members are always welcome!

Missions Committee

Meets on the first Monday of each month at 6pm.

St. Paul's Nursery School

Our Nursery School is in its 72nd year and thriving! 2026/27 Preschool & Pre-K enrollment has started for 3, 4, and 5 year olds. Contact Director, Rebecca Bussey at 330-836-9327, ext. 160 for a tour.

Baptisms, Weddings, Burials, & New Members

In 2025, we baptized 16 children and two adults, married two couples, and led 21 funerals. We also gained 18 new members.

Leadership In 2025

2025 In Review

In 2025, parishioners' pledge and non-pledge donations exceeded budget, resulting in a net operating income of \$54,856 at year-end. The year 2025 marks the thirteenth year in a row of year-end operating surpluses - a blessing that we never take for granted.

As of Feb. 2, 2026, 133 parishioners submitted pledge cards for the 2026 calendar year, a 15% decrease over the 156 pledges received in 2025. The total pledged for 2026 is \$721,434, an increase of \$12,806, 2% more than the 2025 pledge total. The average 2026 pledge per pledging unit is \$5,424, a 19% increase over the 2025 average pledge. This marks the fifth year in a series of annual pledge increases – another blessing.

Throughout 2025, parishioners continued to contribute generously to our restricted funds - special funds entirely separate from the operating budget that are restricted as to purpose. Restricted funds revenue and expense for the year ending December 31, 2025, was \$691,848 and \$619,533, respectively. Included in these totals, Mission-related activities, programs, and donations accounted for \$124,803 in revenue and \$84,441 in expense.

We are thankful every day for the blessings of generosity, commitment, perseverance, selflessness, and kindness of our members and staff as we work together for the greater good in God's kingdom.

Gail E. Wild

Treasurer / Business Manager

Endowment Foundation

Supporting The Future Of St. Paul's

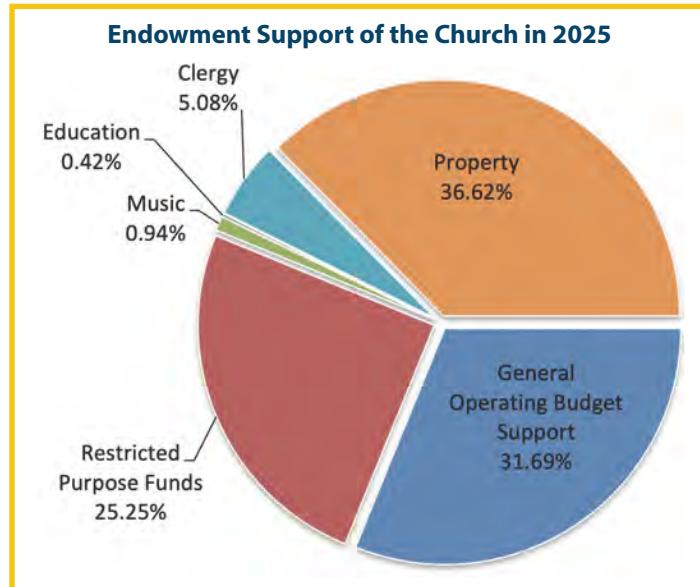
The Endowment Foundation of St. Paul's Episcopal Church is a perpetual fund supporting our church's mission and ministry.

It includes an unrestricted General Endowment as well as funds designated by donors for specific purposes. Each year, in accordance with established procedures, the Endowment distributes funds to the Church. The amount is determined by a set policy and is periodically reviewed and approved by the Vestry. This ensures that the Endowment can provide stable, long term, ongoing support.

2025 Activity

Gifts and bequests totaled \$64,698. Thank you, donors!

The 2025 distribution to the church was \$610,700 which went to the Parish Operating Budget, Property, Clergy, Education, Music, and other Specific Purposes as instructed by donors. The distribution is calculated under a policy formula and is approved by the Endowment's Board and the Vestry. The total draw of the Endowment remains less than 5% in keeping with best practices.



For More Information

Contact Todd Rosenberg at 330-836-9320, ext. 133, or trosenberg@stpaulsakron.org, for more information on how your gift can benefit future generations at our church.

Retirement Note: The Board extends its thanks to Jeff Stenroos who has retired from the Board after more than 10 years' service. We especially recognize his long service on the Boards Finance Committee. Thank you, Jeff.

Endowment Foundation Board of Directors 2025

Michael Hrynick, Chair
E. R. "Chip" Preston III, Vice Chair & Treasurer
Dale Freygang, Secretary
James Cribbet

Bruce Fahey
Diane Genetti
Nancy Gotfredson
Chad Gross
Mark Seward

Todd Rosenberg, Director of Development & Planned Giving
Mark Pruitt, Rector
Gail Wild, Assistant Treasurer

Operating Budget

		AS OF 12/31/2025	
REVENUE		Actual	Budget
Pledge Income		694,948	605,000
Non-Pledge Income		128,754	111,000
Prior Year Pledge Income		30,212	15,000
Other Contributions		15,360	18,000
Trusts, Endowment & Other Income		699,319	762,114
Total Revenue		\$1,568,593	\$1,511,114
EXPENSE			
Clergy		295,494	288,952
Music		121,376	117,661
Education & Youth		79,322	69,932
Property		497,182	443,314
Administration		242,955	246,408
Parish Life		44,965	50,050
Medical Insurance		73,617	76,797
Diocesan Assessment		158,825	218,000
Total Expense		\$1,513,736	\$1,511,114
Net Operating Surplus/ (Deficit)		\$54,856	—

The operating budget reached another new milestone in 2025 - \$1.5 million. Thanks to our faithful contributors and our endowment, we were able to operate in 2025 with all our staff and programming in place - and we ended the year with a net income of \$54,856. Revenue sources followed the budget closely through October,

then increased over budget in November and December, adding an additional \$57,480 over budget by year-end. Operating expenses ran under budget through November, exceeding the year-end budget by only a small margin.

PLEDGES AND GIVING	PLEDGE YEAR 2026		PLEDGE YEAR 2025		PERCENT CHANGE	NOMINAL CHANGE
	As of 2/2/2026		Jan-Dec 2025			
Number of Pledges		133	156		-15%	-23
Total Pledged	\$	721,434	708,628		2%	12,806
Average Pledge	\$	5,424	4,542		19%	882

RESTRICTED FUNDS	ALL FUNDS		MISSION-RELATED	
	Jan-Dec 2025		Jan-Dec 2025	
Revenue	\$	691,848		124,803
Expense	\$	619,533		84,441

Restricted funds include funds designated by donors and the Vestry for non-operating purposes such as mission, outreach, major repairs, and large capital expenses; these

funds are separate from the operating budget. Mission-Related funds, broken out above, are also included in the All Funds totals.



ST. PAUL'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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