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Book Review The Radical Disciple

Did you know that the followers of Jesus Christ are only called "Christians" three times in the New Testament? This is the (somewhat) provocative question posed at the beginning of The Radical Disciple, a short gem of a book, and the last one to be written by John Stott. Stott, many will know, was an Anglican evangelical, whose influence on the worldwide church in the second half of the 20th century is probably equal to that of any other church leader of his time. He wrote Basic Christianity (translated in to over 60 languages with sales over 2.5 million), so he's not, of course, sidelining the term Christian. Instead, he chooses discipleship to keep our focus on our basic commitment to the Lordship of Christ. Such a commitment is our deepest root, from which we get our word, radical. Thus, the title.

A radical disciple is one who is utterly grounded, rooted, in Jesus Christ. Threatening such a deep grounding is our tendency to avoid the costly requirements of discipleship. We like to pick and choose which teachings of Jesus we will follow!

Stott puts in view eight characteristics of wholehearted discipleship that he feels are neglected – or may be easily neglected. I say "puts in view" because none of them gets an extended treatment. If we think about it, many of Jesus' teachings just "put things in view!" Maybe in both cases—Jesus' teaching and Stott's book—brevity is a virtue in this regard: each characteristic challenges us to embrace it and live it out, not so much to debate it. Yes, there's a time and place for questioning, philosophizing, and reflecting before acting. There's also a time to get on with living by putting into play post haste what is put before us. This book delights in the latter.

Well, the eight features are non-conformity, Christ likeness, maturity, creation-care, simplicity, balance, dependence, and death. Each chapter can be read, I'm guessing, in 30 minutes or less. If you are still looking for summer reading, I commend this book on its own merits and, additionally, as a way to stay away, or to pull away, at least for a time, from the noisy world of a 24-hour news cycle, so that one can work on some soul-shaping.

Warmly, as ever,

In Christ,

Mark+

ADULT EDUCATION

Adult Forum

Sundays at 9:00 am, Parish Hall

August 3 – The Lively Faith of Thomas Cranmer

Cranmer was Henry VIII's archbishop of Canterbury and the driving force behind the development of the Book of Common Prayer, and the Book of Homilies, which the king commanded to be preached in the English Church Sunday by Sunday until the whole book was read then the process was repeated. The first volume, written mainly by Cranmer, contained 12 homilies which focused on the character of God and the doctrine of justification by faith. Our Adult Forum discussion will look at Cranmer's fourth homily, "A Short Declaration of the True, Lively and Christian Faith," a faith that Cranmer described "liveth and stirreth inwardly in the heart." What are the qualities of such a faith? Cranmer told his congregations, "this faith doth not lie dead in the heart," but in a liveliness and fruitfulness that brings about good works. Join us for an in-depth look at Cranmer's legacy that embraces a quick and lively faith. Led by The Rev. Susan Tiffany

August 10 – The enduring influence of Lancelot Andrewes, The Rev. Paul Gaston

August 17 – The Rev. Mark Pruitt

August 24 – The Rev. Dave Wallover

August 31 – No Adult Forum

September 7 – Homecoming, no Adult Forum

September 14 – Adult Forum resumes

Tuesday Bible Study

Tuesdays at 12:00 noon, G-4

Next up —The Gospel of Luke

The Tuesday Bible Study group enjoyed an interesting "summer session" devoted to Psalms and Proverbs. Following a brief August vacation, the group reconvenes on Tuesday, September 2nd, for an introduction to the Gospel of Luke. New members are welcome! As usual, the group will meet **12:00-1:00pm on Tuesdays**. A member of the St. Paul's clergy will lead the discussions.

Although no preparation will be expected of participants, members of the group who participated in discussions of the Book of Acts in 2024-25 will find interesting correspondences between that "volume 2" of the two-part work and the Gospel of Luke, which is essentially "volume 1." But all participants should find of particular interest Luke's emphasis on Jesus' ministry and its relation to God's plan for the world and the church.

Evening Compline

Wednesdays at 7:45 pm, Zoom

Let's quiet our hearts together for "good night" prayers. To connect online go to: **zoom.us/join**

Meeting ID: 844 1828 4802 Passcode: 942011



A Parishioner Extends this Invitation!



Curious about studying the Bible but unsure where to begin? On Tuesdays at noon, we explore the Bible in a relaxed, no-pressure setting. No background knowledge needed—just come as you are. The Rev. Mark Pruitt or The Rev. Paul Gaston thoughtfully guide us each week with warmth and clarity, making space for honest questions and meaningful reflection. You'll also benefit from the insights of fellow participants—wonderful parishioners who generously and humbly share their knowledge. It's a beautifully guided hour that feels like a conversation among friends—engaging, respectful, and deeply encouraging! Join us!

Please Donate on our Website

We are now accepting contributions online, at www.stpaulsakron.org/give-online, or by texting **Givestp** to **73256** to make a secure donation.





The Messenger is the official newsletter of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Akron, Ohio, a congregation in the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio.

www.dohio.org

Clergy

- The Rev. Mark Pruitt Rector
- The Rev. Susan Tiffany Associate Rector for Pastoral Care
- The Rev. Dr. Paul Gaston Assisting Priest
- The Rev. Polly Glanville Deacon

Staff

- Kelsey Berg
 Assistant Organist
- Daniel Fortune Organist/Choirmaster
- Beth Guenther Director, Family Ministries
- Dale Lower Head Sexton
- Laureen McGarry Graphic Designer/Printer
- Beth Rice & Kathi Brittain Welcome Desk Receptionists
- Todd Rosenberg Director of Development & Planned Giving
- Carrie Searle
 Executive Assistant to the Rector
- Bonnie Severt Pastoral Care Coordinator
- David Shahata Youth Assistant/Men's Ministry Special Projects
- Ruth Webb Youth Intern
- Gail Wild Business Manager & Treasurer

QUARTERLY HEALING SERVICE

Healing Service on July 31

St. Paul encourages all believers to "pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people" (Ephesians 6.18). With the truth of



God's words embedded in our hearts, come to the healing service to pray for healing for others and ourselves on **Thursday, July 31**st at noon in the Chapel.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Women's Book Study Begins September 8

Christians are Easter people because we share in Christ's triumph over death, a feat of seismic proportions. But how do we understand our lives, the destiny of the universe, and the past, present and future of human history through Jesus' singular act? **On Monday, Sept. 8**th a new women's book study tackles these questions, using Wesley Hill's book *Easter: The Season of the Resurrection of Jesus* as our guide. The study meets **Mondays at 10:00am in the Parlor.** Books are available from ivpress.com or Amazon.com.

NEW BEGINNINGS PILGRIMAGE

Informational Dinner

St. Paul's has another pilgrimage in the works, and you can learn more about it at an informational dinner to be held **Friday**, **Sept. 12th**, **2025 at 5:30pm**. Pilgrimage leaders Rev. Susan Tiffany and Randy Malick from St. Hilary will share details and answer questions about the New Beginnings pilgrimage, **Nov. 3-6, 2026**, which will take us to southern Ohio and northern Kentucky. As we journey together, we will learn about our God of new beginnings who reveals His love through a covenant with Noah and His new covenant through His Son Jesus. The dinner will be in the parish hall. It is a catered dinner so please RSVP by **Sept. 8, 2025**.

The cost of the pilgrimage is \$875.00 per person/double occupancy. A non-refundable deposit of \$300.00 per person is due Sept. 30, 2025. To see the complete itinerary, and to register, visit www.incrediblejourneystours.com

VESTRY NOMINATIONS

Now is the time to consider serving on the Vestry or nominating someone who would be a good candidate. Regular attendance, involvement in ministry, financial support of the church, and a cooperative spirit are some of the requirements for selection. Joyce Powell is the Nominating Chair this year. Forms are available at the Front Desk and at the church entrances. Please turn in your nominations before **Sunday, Sept. 14th.** *Thank you!*



Men's Quarterly Dinner

The next Men's Quarterly Dinner is **Friday, Sept. 19**th **at 6:30pm**. Dr. Donald Shepson of Grove City College will be speaking on Discipleship. Bring a friend! To sign up call the Church at 330-836-9327, ext 120.

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

Mitzvah Day Project a Big Success

"Dresses with Love" was a big success on Sunday, June 8th with a total of 17 sewers! With such a wonderful turnout, more than 30 dresses were completed that day. Several volunteers took kits home to complete more dresses.



We not only had volunteers from St. Paul's but also had new participants from other local churches. Thank you to all who participated, especially co-leaders JoAnne Dawson and Tana Alexander.

Habitat Update

May was a busy month for St. Paul's Habitat volunteers. On May 15th we set most of the exterior walls, and on May 31st we completed the framing. The house is coming along slow but steady, as the other members of our Common Mission Coalition have been working on the house during June. We worked on site again on Thursday, July 24th.



We still have build dates in Aug. & Sept. to fill: Thursdays: Aug. 14, 21, 28 and Sept. 18, 25 Saturday: Sept. 13

It's not too late to volunteer – we need builders and folks to provide lunch. To join our St. Paul's Habitat team contact our scheduler, Marge DeCastro at 330-605-4758 or margedecastro 76@gmail.com

Too Hot to Knit? No!

Wrapped in Prayer is in high gear this summer, as the heat and humidity soar. Hats, cowls, scarves, blankets, prayer shawls, and chemo caps have all been flying off our needles in preparation for our annual late fall donations. We have welcomed a new member's large donation



and received a lovely donation from friends of a long-time member. For these unexpected blessings we are truly grateful.

Wrapped in Prayer has very informal meetings on the 3rd Sunday of every month, in the Family Room. We meet at about 11:15am, after the 10:00am service. We welcome all to drop off finished items, and visitors are always welcome. For further information or to request a prayer shawl, contact Marcia Giordano at mjgiordano47@gmail.com

Welcome to Tuesday Hike & Pray!

The Summit Mission Area Council continues its weekly Hike & Pray events at a different location each Tuesday for a short hike on paved or easily accessible trails to enjoy the beauty of nature, get to know one another and say Compline together. All are welcome! No need to bring prayer books – we will have copies of Compline. Please bring water, bug spray, sunscreen, umbrella or rain wear. We plan to walk rain or shine but not in severe weather. Approximate walk time: 1.5 hours.

Hikes start at 6:00pm: 8/5 – Towpath Trail, Barberton Trailhead

5 Fairview Ave, Barberton 44203. Parking lot either side of Fairview Ave. Easy terrain.

8/12 – Cuyahoga Valley N.P., Happy Days Visitors Center 500 W. Streetsboro St/SR 303, Peninsula, OH 44264. Park in the lot on the north side of 303, and cross to the Visitor's Center via the tunnel. Ledges Trail to Overlook. Terrain can be uneven.

If you have questions on the day of the hike, please call or text Sally Goodall at 330-608-8085.

Used Bikes Wanted — Got old bikes? South Street Ministries is collecting used bikes. Their Bike Shop is a sweat-equity, earn-a-bike program that relies on donated bikes. Our Mission Committee recently visited the Bike Shop and spoke to Director Chris Usner about his bike ministry. **For more information on donating a bike or attending a Metro Park planned bike ride, contact Chris at 330-696-6123 or email chris@southstreetministries.org**

FAMILY MINISTRY AND EDUCATION

1 Peter 4:10

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

Our God-given gifts can be many and varied. We are truly called to share these gifts with others. There are a few opportunities in which the young people and families of St. Paul's can get involved, share their gifts, and serve their church.

First, any student in 5th grade and up can come to an informational/training session with The Rev. Dave McBee on **Sunday**, **August 31st at 11:30am** in the church to learn about being an acolyte. They will see what the acolyte's role in the service is and get some hands-on training. We are also looking for ADULT acolytes! Attention current acolytes! You are invited to this gathering as well, especially if you would like to take on a new role in your acolyte service. Also, it's been a while and we may have some new protocols. There will be lunch provided so please let us know if you will be attending by contacting Beth Guenther.

Secondly, students might want to get involved in the service of their church *with* their family. Individuals and families with student's 3rd grade and up are invited to meet with Beth Guenther after the 10:00am service on Sunday, August 17th in G-4. This meeting will allow those interested in ushering this year to ask questions and sign up for this rewarding volunteer position. We also welcome ADULT Ushers to come to this meeting. Please RSVP to Beth Guenther.

Confirmation Class

If your child is entering 7th or 8th grade (or older and not yet confirmed) **contact Beth Guenther to get registered for Confirmation Class.**

Confirmation students should be thinking ahead as they are required to participate in ministries within the church. Anyone (or all) of these service opportunities would meet that requirement.

Church school begins Sunday, September 14

Children ages 4–12 (6th Grade) will attend a "one room schoolhouse" type of class. Students will interact with kids of all ages while following a lectionary-based curriculum from Illustrated Ministry. This style of learning allows the older kids to help and nurture their younger classmates and the younger kids love being with the "big kids."

Family Net

Family Net is a group of parents that plans fun activities for the families in the church. We have hosted Trunk or Treat, a Christmas Carnival, a dinner after the Christmas Pageant rehearsal and game nights. If you would like to be part of this committee and help in the planning of fun family activities, please contact Beth Guenther.

Contact Beth Guenther at: PHONE 330-836-9327, ext. 131

EMAIL bguenther@stpaulsakron.org

St. Paul's Nursery School now enrolling PreK students age 4

For details, contact Director, Rebecca Bussey at 330-836-9327, x 160 or rbussey@stpaulsakron.org

WORTH SHARING

Tower Builders Enjoy Gala Reception

By Todd Rosenberg, Director of Development & Planned Giving In June, 44 guests enjoyed a gala reception hosted by St. Paul's Endowment. These "Tower Builders" celebrated in the Parish Hall with food, music and fellowship.

Savory bites and sweet treats were catered by Emily Schurr. Stunning floral centerpieces were arranged by Joyce Healy-Abrams, Peggy Koblenzer, and Sandra Smith of our Flower Guild. Popular local pianist John Perry entertained on the piano.

The event was a "Thank you" to those faithful people, past and present, who have included St. Paul's Church in their will or estate plans. Such gifts have made St. Paul's the vibrant church it is today and are helping to support its future.

You can become a Tower Builder in one of several convenient ways. A popular option is to name the church as a beneficiary



in a retirement plan or insurance policy. Be sure to let us know so that we can thank you! For more information, please contact Todd Rosenberg at trosenberg@stpaulsakron.org or any member of the clergy.

Thank you, Tower Builders.

FLOWERS TO THE GLORY OF GOD

August and September Altar Flowers

August 3

In loving memory of V. Goodwyn Welsh; given by Mr. & Mrs. William Welsh

August 10

In loving memory of Edward Tognetti; given by Michelle & Family In loving memory of David Feltner; given by Pam Feltner

August 17

In loving memory of Patrick Reymann; given by Nancy Reymann Gotfredson

August 24

To the Glory of God in memory of The Rev. Roger Tiffany; given by The Rev. Susan Tiffany

Altar arrangements are given each week in honor, support, memory, or celebration of someone we love. To reserve altar arrangements, contact Julie McFarland at period2380@gmail.com

September 7

In loving memory of LeRoy & Ruth Tunnell; given by Elizabeth Parker

In loving memory of Linda Hardy Lewis; given by Mr. & Mrs. William Welsh

September 14

In loving memory of Retta & Charles Billow; given by the Preston, Long, Grebelsky, and Billow Families

In thanksgiving for my wonderful church family; given by Voni Krell

In loving memory of a great mother Dorothy Martin; given by her son Fred Martin

September 21

In loving memory of Mindy Crabtree; given by Diane & Bill Peabody

September 28

In loving memory of Don & Karen Dempsey; given by Jane Gramlich

FROM THE TREASURER

Operating Budget Results

Summarized here are the St. Paul's operating budget results for the calendar year to date.

The year-to-date as of 6/30/2025 ended with greater than budgeted contribution revenue. Expenses were higher than budgeted overall, contributing to the net deficit.



As of 06/30/2025	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	2025 Annual Budget
Pledge Income	\$ 315,565	\$ 302,500	\$ 605,000
Non-Pledge Income	\$ 56,366	\$ 55,511	\$ 111,022
Other Contributions	\$ 24,163	\$ 16,489	\$ 32,978
Total Contributions	\$ 396,094	\$ 374,500	\$ 749,000
Transfer from Endowment	\$ 264,118	\$ 260,640	\$ 521,280
All Other Income	\$ 69,086	\$ 120,417	\$ 240,834
Total Revenue	\$ 729,298	\$ 755,557	\$ 1,511,114
Total Expense	\$ 783,234	\$ 755,557	\$ 1,511,114
Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (53,936)	\$ -0-	\$ -0-

Please contact Treasurer Gail Wild, at 330-836-9327 ext. 124, or by email at gwild@stpaulsakron.org, for any questions regarding finances or to make contributions. For information about online giving options, please visit our website, www.stpaulsakron.org/give-online

TAKE NOTE

Monday Crafters Group

All are welcome to get crafty on **Mondays at 1:00pm** in the Family Room! Each week we share updates on our ongoing projects or plans for our next projects. We include showand-tell time at each meeting, which can be anything of interest to the group. Tea, conversation and encouragement accompany the individual projects being worked on. Being a member of St. Paul's is not a requirement for participation. Inquiries to mjgiordano47@gmail.com or the Front Desk.

Service Leaflet available to Livestream Watchers

In each Thursday's email blast, we are now including a link to a PDF of the upcoming Sunday's 10:00am service leaflet for those who want to follow it while watching our livestream. If you are not receiving our Thursday email blasts, contact Carrie at (csearle@stpaulsakron.org or 330-836-9327, ext. 121) with your email address so she can add you to the list.

GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

We Give Thanks for all Gifts, and Gifts to...

the Choir Fund from Mr. Thomas Knowles

the Community Garden Fund from Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey S. Moshier

the Community Meals Fund from Mr. & Mrs. Harry Hunt and Yvonne Krell

the Community Meals Fund in memory of Lisa Dietrich, from Mr. & Mrs. John Nouse and Mrs. Alexandra S. Walker

the Disaster Relief Fund from Ms. Geraldine W. Kiefer, Mrs. Margaret Koblenzer, and Mr. & Mrs. Robert Searle

the Easter Fund from Mr. & Mrs. Page Bullock, Jr., The Graves Family Foundation, Dr. Joseph Panzner & Dr. Margaret Panzner, Ms. Beth Rice, Mr. Herbert Swanson, Miss Kacey Wyman, and Miss Lorraine M. Yost

the Flower Guild in memory of Sue Grant, from Mr. & Mrs. Page M. Bullock, Jr.

the Flower Guild in memory of Charles Morgan, from Mrs. Julie E. McFarland

the Flower Guild from Mrs. Sandra Smith

the Memorial Garden in memory of John & Edna Peterson and Stephen Peterson, from Mrs. Stephen J. Peterson

the Memorial Garden in memory of Don Botto, from Mrs. Alexandra S. Walker

the New Initiatives Fund from Mr. Douglas Zook, Jr.

We Give Thanks for Gifts in Memory of...

Lisa Hunt Dietrich, from Mr. & Mrs. Charles R. Chadwick Mary Ellen Roberts, from Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Genetti, Mr. & Mrs. David Halpern, and Mr. Theodore Lehmann

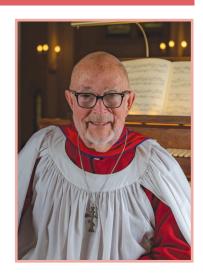


MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS

A memorial service for Dr. Robert M. Quade, former Organist/Choirmaster at St. Paul's, has been set for **Saturday**, **August 16th at 11:00am**. The service will be held in the Church. Call the Church Office at 330-836-9327 ext. 120 for more information.

Concert in September

You are invited to enjoy a musical concert by St. Paul's Choral Scholars on **Sunday**, **September 28**th at **4:00pm** in the Church. This will be a wonderful opportunity to hear a variety of musical styles by our talented scholars. Everyone is welcome!



Are You Ready to Join the Choir Yet?

Have you always loved to sing? Have you thought about giving choir a try? If you answered "yes" to one or both of those questions, you owe it to yourself to try out choir for a few weeks and see if it's something that would be an enjoyable enrichment to your life. Rehearsals are every Thursday evening from 6:45–8:15pm and will begin on Sept. 4th and we meet at 9:00am on Sunday mornings. Not everyone can participate every single week—we all have busy lives—so we endeavor to be flexible and understanding when it comes to people's schedules. For more information contact Dan Fortune at dfortune@stpaulsakron.org



Time for Two — Are you a parent/caregiver looking for a fun, social learning environment for you and a child between the ages of 18 and 36 months? Time for Two is a great introduction to preschool for BOTH parent/caregiver and child! It is a "mini" version of the preschool program at St. Paul's with free play, songs, stories, crafts, and a gentle separation during snack. For more information, please email Brandi Cribbet at bcribbet@icloud.com. Class size is limited!



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Mon, Aug 4

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Tue, Aug 5	Needlework Guild, 6:30pm, Parish Hall. <u>1st & 3rd Tuesdays</u> Summit Mission Area Hike & Pray, 6:00pm, see details on page 4		
Wed, Aug 6	Community Meal, 6:00pm, Assembly Hall. Weekly Evening Compline, 7:45pm, Zoom. Weekly		
Sun, Aug 10	Blood Pressure Checks, 8:30–11:30am, Family Room. Monthly		
Tue, Aug 12	Summit Mission Area Hike & Pray, 6:00pm, see details on page 4		
Thu, Aug 14	Needlework Guild, 1:00pm, Parish Hall. 2nd & 4th Thursdays		
Sat, Aug 16	Robert Quade Memorial Service, 11:00am, Church		
Sun, Aug 17	Wrapped in Prayer Group, 11:15am, Family Room. 3rd Sundays		
Mon, Sept 1	Labor Day, church office closed		
Tue, Sept 2	Tuesday Bible Study resumes, noon, G-4. Weekly		
Thur, Sept 4	Choir rehearsals resume, 6:45–8:15 pm, Choir Room. Weekly		
Sun, Sept 7	Homecoming Sunday & Parish Picnic, 10:00am, Church & Grounds <i>No Adult Forum</i>		
Mon, Sept 8	Women's Book Study begins, 10:00am, Parlor. Weekly		
Fri, Sept 12	Serious Fun for Grades 5–12, 6:00–8:00pm, Youth Space. Weekly		
Sun, Sept 14	Church School & Confirmation resume, 10:00am, Education Wing & Room 211. Weekly Blood Pressure Checks, 8:30–11:30am, Family Room. Monthly		
Fri, Sept 19	Men's Quarterly Dinner, 6:30pm, Parish Hall		
Sun, Sept 21	Wrapped in Prayer Group, 11:15am, Family Room. 3rd Sundays		
Sun, Sept 28	Explore St. Paul's Class I, 11:30am, G-4		

A Musical Celebration at St. Paul's, featuring the Choral

Scholars, 4:00pm, Church

Monday Crafters Group, 1:00pm, Family Room. Weekly

SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:00am Holy Communion, Chapel
9:00am Adult Forum, Parish Hall
10:00am Holy Communion, Church Coffee Hour, Parish Hall

(Note: Church School & Confirmation resume on Sunday, Sept. 14, 10:00am, Education Wing & Room 211)

