



Easter Egg Hunt
Easter Sunday, April 20



Join us Rogation Sunday, May 4
for bagpipes and ice cream!

The Messenger

News & Highlights
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Akron, Ohio
StPaulsAkron.org

April/May 2025

FROM THE RECTOR

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Blessed to Be a Blessing: As a Community of Understanding and Praise

If there is an Anglican motto of inclusivity, let it come from Psalm 150 which says, 'Let everything that has breath, Praise Ye the Lord.' That was the gist of what an English Bishop said decades ago, and I believe it! There is a *something* into which we are to include people. Our calling is to make worshipping God made known in Jesus Christ a way of life, and place it at the center of our lives, individually and together—and to offer it to the those who do not know and praise God, or do not do so with full intention, breadth, and understanding.

The *creation* praises God naturally. *The heavens declare the glory of God, day after day* (Psalm 19). And in one way, we do, too. We declare God's glory by virtue *how* we are made, *'fearfully and wonderfully'* (Psalm 139). But additionally, we must *learn* how to *intentionally* praise God for who God is and what God has done. It's a life-long project that involves the whole self (body, mind, heart, soul, habits, and more), and is bound up with growing *understanding*—specifically *'into the full riches of assured understanding in Christ'* (Colossians 2:2-3).

Increasing praise, increasing understanding. They are mutually reinforcing. This is the wondrous *something* that we include people *into*, the knowledge and praise of God in Jesus Christ.

Blessed to Be a Blessing: Internationally

For decades, we've supported education overseas—notably in Haiti and Africa—especially through the building of schools in partnership with other congregations. Recently, last year and this year, we've supported the school we helped to build in St. Etienne's Haiti with assistance for children's lunches, tuition, and teacher's salaries. They made an emergency request because of the great social unrest in Haiti – a mild way of putting it – which cut off their access to Port Au Prince where many of the parents worked, creating a shortfall in revenue.

In Africa, coming up is an opportunity, through the *Africa Education Partnership* (AEP), to sponsor children who will attend one of the two schools we have helped to build in Nigeria. The schools are *Graceland International School* in Kaduna State and

(Continued on page 2)

FROM THE RECTOR (CONTINUED)

four other schools in Zamfira State. A few years ago, we had presentations by Bishop John Danbinta from Kaduna and Mrs. Elaine Chagnon, from AEP. Currently, AEP is launching a plan to sponsor a student by paying for the annual tuition (\$300.00). To get us started, from anonymous donations for outreach, we will sponsor three children as a church. In late April or early May, there will be details on this in the East Commons or for more information you may contact Angela DiMezza at Greenmini03@aol.com

In Christ,
Mark +



Jazz Vespers at St. Paul's

Friday, April 11 at 7:00pm, Church

You are invited to Jazz Vespers with Hubb's Groove featuring the music of Andrae Crouch, presented by The University of Akron JazzWeek on Friday, April 11th at 7:00pm. This FREE community event features a fantastic blend of jazz and gospel music from Hubb's Groove, an award-winning group from Cleveland, and will conclude UA JazzWeek. Donations will be accepted in support of Jazz education at The University of Akron. Doors open at 6:30pm. Program at 7:00pm.

THE ATLAR GUILD

New Purple Paraments

The Altar Guild has purchased a new set of three Purple paraments for Lent from our savings account. We appreciate members of St. Paul's that occasionally include the Altar Guild in their contributions. *Thank You!*



Holy Week at St. Paul's

Palm Sunday – April 13

8:00 am, Holy Communion – Chapel
10:00 am, Holy Communion – Church

Maundy Thursday – April 17

7:30 pm, Holy Communion – Church

Good Friday – April 18

Noon, Stations of the Cross – Church
7:30 pm, Good Friday Liturgy – Church

Holy Saturday – April 19

8:30 pm, Easter Vigil – Church

Easter Sunday – April 20

8:00 am, Holy Communion – Chapel
10:00 am, Holy Communion – Church

Attend a Lenten Luncheon

Tuesdays during Lent at Noon, Parish Hall

Learn about the Serenity Prayer on April 1st and 8th.
Sign up at the Front Desk or call the Church.

Join us for Adult Forum before Communion

Every Sunday at 9:00 am, Parish Hall

4/6 – Living One Day At A Time, The Rev. Susan Tiffany
No Adult Forum on Palm Sunday, April 13 and Easter Sunday, April 20

"A Deeper Dive into the Book of Revelation"

April 27 – The Rev. Susan Tiffany
April 4 – The Rev. Paul Gaston
May 11 – The Rev. Paul Gaston
May 18 – The Rev. Mark Pruitt
May 25 – The Rev. Mark Pruitt

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 email blasts, contact Carrie Searle (csearle@stpaulsakron.org or 330-836-9327, ext. 121) with your email address so she can add you to the list.



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
- Bonnie Severt
Pastoral Care Coordinator
- 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
- David Shahata
Youth Assistant/Men's Ministry Special Projects
- Ruth Webb
Youth Intern
- Gail Wild
Business Manager & Treasurer

FROM THE ASSOCIATE RECTOR

Greece Pilgrims Set Sail in May

Members of St. Paul's will be joined by parishioners from eight other Akron-area congregations on a pilgrimage to Greece, following the journeys of our patron saint. We'll depart from Cleveland on May 3rd, arriving in Athens then shuttle to Thessaloniki, Philippi, Berea, and Corinth. Along the way we'll pray and sing and be blessed by teachings from the letters of the great apostle and our local guide. Our pilgrimage concludes with a three-day cruise on the Aegean Sea which will take us to the isle of Patmos. Once there we'll explore the cave where John the Divine experienced a vision for the Church that remains as vibrant today as when it was written in the spellbinding Book of Revelation. Our return to the States is May 12th. Please pray for our safety, and especially for our openness to the Lord's Spirit as we travel ancient roads and are sustained by the ancient food of Holy Scripture.



Peace in the Name of Christ,

Susan +

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Is God Calling You to Share Your Talents?

Has God been tapping on your shoulder to remind you that you need to use those talents and gifts He's given you? Do you want to help others and share your compassion and empathy? Do you see people hurting and want to be with them to help them see God in their journey? Are you scared that you don't know what to say or how to provide comfort? Stephen Ministry training will provide you the tools you need to be able to be that listening, comforting ear.



Stephen Ministry has been a part of St. Paul's for over 13 years. Stephen Ministry offers high-quality, one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people in the congregation experiencing life difficulties.

The Stephen Ministry of St. Paul's is looking to train a new class of Stephen Ministers. Stephen Ministers share a passion for bringing Christ's love and care to people during a time of need. Stephen Ministers are lay congregation members trained to provide one-to-one care to those experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or relocation.

Are you unsure about taking the first step? The first step is easy – talk to Bonnie Severt, Jan Burns-Nowicki or Carrie Searle to discuss what would be involved in becoming a Stephen Minister and ask all the questions you may have in a very relaxed, informative setting.

You can reach Bonnie Severt at bsevert@aol.com, 330-328-2453, Jan Burns-Nowicki at burjanna@yahoo.com, 330-715-8557, or Carrie Searle at csearle@stpaulsakron.org, 330-836-9327 ext. 121.

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

St. Paul's Community Garden News

Spring is just around the corner, and gardeners are beginning to anticipate the start of a new growing season. The St. Paul's Community Garden is available this spring for those who have an interest in planting and getting to know members of the congregation and neighbors with like interests.



This spring at least two rows of raised beds will be reconfigured and expanded. A minimum of three rows --approximately twelve 4'x8' beds--will be available for gardeners by mid-May on a first-come first-served basis.

We welcome interested gardeners to join us this spring! For more information or to reserve a garden space, contact Mary Shepherd at mshep@ohio.net

Get Ready to Build!

St. Paul's and the Common Mission Coalition are gearing up to build another Habitat house this summer. We will be building in Habitat's Silver Maple Ridge project in Akron's North Hill, where last year we completed a house on Evans St. This time we will be building one of the final houses of the allotment on Hollibaugh St.



More information will be forthcoming in April, as well as the opportunity for you to sign up to build and/or provide lunches for the builders on our Thursday or Saturday build dates. In the meantime, plan to hear more about the 14th Habitat house to be built with St. Paul's support and talent since the year 2000!

Christmas Fund

For several decades we have devoted our Christmas giving to help those with emergency financial needs. This work continued in 2024 as we disbursed \$26,669 to assist, mostly with rent and utility bills, 40 families comprising 45 adults and 48 children, which marks an increase of 3 families over 2023. Please keep in mind, that donations to the Christmas Fund may be made at any time of the year.

Mitzvah Day 2025 – Sunday, June 8

Plan ahead ladies! The date for Mitzvah Day is June 8th. In honor of Nan Bartlett, St. Paul's partners with "Dress a Girl Around The World" to sew sundresses for young girls in underdeveloped countries. Our chapter is called "Dresses with Love."

Bring your sewing machine and tools to the Parish Hall on Sunday, June 8th from 1:00–3:00pm. Kits and personal instruction for constructing a colorful yet simple dress will be provided.



All levels of experience are needed! It's fun and good for the spirit as well. If you have any questions please call: JoAnne Dawson, 330-836-8576 or email: the.flyingchef@neo.rr.com

WORTH SHARING

Our Monday Craft Group

The Monday Craft Group has not reported in a while, so please excuse our update from December! We met for an afternoon of crafting, snacking, and hot beverages at the home of a member. A new craft to all of us, metal embossing, resulted in beautiful ornaments for each of us to take home. Creativity and festivity were the words of the day.



Please note that the craft group is open to all. We meet in the Family Room on Mondays from 1:00-3:00pm. Tea and coffee are always available, as well as pleasant conversation. Just bring a craft you can do on a table or in your lap. Contact: mjgiordano47@gmail.com

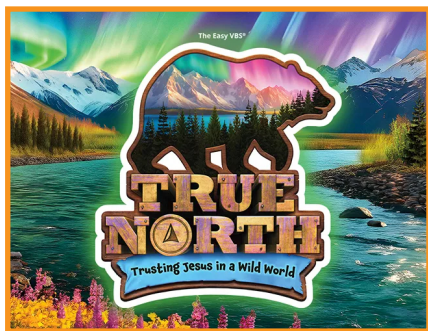


FAMILY MINISTRY AND EDUCATION

Bagpipes & an Ice Cream Social

Sunday, May 4, after the 10:00 am service

Rogation Sunday is May 4th! Come one and all for an Ice Cream Social following the 10:00am service. Follow the bagpipes out to the parking lot outside of the East Entrance and enjoy some ice cream with your church family!



SAVE THE DATE for 'TRUE NORTH' Vacation Bible School 2025

Mon–Wed, June 16–18 from 9:00am – Noon

Save the Date for Vacation Bible School during the week of June 16th - June 18th from 9:00am to noon. Children ages 4 -12 are welcome. This year's VBS is "True North" where kids will learn to find their way in a world gone wild knowing that Jesus is their steadfast and unshakeable friend forever! Sign up early and reserve your spot!

Are you a teen or adult who is interested in being a part of VBS? There are plenty of ways in which you could help, please contact Beth Guenther at 330-836-9327, ext. 131 or bguenther@stpaulsakron.org

VBS 2025 REGISTRATION

Family Name _____

Child(s) Name _____ Age(s) _____

Street Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Specific concerns _____

☐

I am willing to volunteer



**ST. PAUL'S
Nursery School**

St. Paul's Nursery School is now enrolling ages 3, 4, and 5 for the 2025-2026 school year. Please call Director Rebecca Bussey at 330-836-9327, ext. 160 to schedule a tour!

MUSIC MINISTRY

New Ribbons & Recognition for the Choir

When Robert Quade started his 33-year tenure here at St. Paul's in 1967, he began this parish's long association with the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM), an organization in England started in 1927 that focuses on music and education in Christian worship, particularly with the repertoire and traditions of Anglican church music.

A large component of the RSCM is a musical education program for children where, over three major achievement levels, progress is recognized by awarding medals with ribbons (light blue, dark blue, and red, respectively), to be worn by a chorister over their vestments during a church service.

Borrowing from that idea, in the 1990s a system was developed here at St. Paul's to recognize the long tenure of adult singers in the choir. We have now updated and reinvigorated this system, still using medals from the RSCM, but with a unique ribbon scheme. When you see adults wearing ribbons around their neck, it is a sign that they've been singing in our choir for at least a decade. Starting on Sunday, March 23rd, those who have sung:

10–19 years wear purple ribbons

20–29 years wear green ribbons

30–39 years wear gold ribbons

40 or more years wear red ribbons

We have tallied the collective tenure of all our current choir members—that is, how long they've been singing in the choir here, whether as a child or adult—and it totals almost 594 years, or about 18 years per singer on average. We have two singers who both have been singing for a remarkable 58½ years (Gordon Seward and Bret Benson).

We are blessed to have a choir, especially one with so many dedicated, long-serving members, and we thank them for their consistent, dependable, and remarkable service.

Dan Fortune

Organist and Choirmaster



Bob Jenkins, Bret Benson, Gordon Seward, Brian Kline
Choristers with 40+ years!

OPERATING BUDGET RESULTS FROM THE TREASURER

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

The year-to-date as of 2/29/2025 began with greater than budgeted contributed income. While Other Income did not meet expectations, Total Revenue exceeded the year to date budget. Expenses were higher than budgeted but slightly less than revenue, resulting in a small net surplus.

As of 02/28/2025	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	2025 Annual Budget
Pledge Income	\$ 110,358	\$ 90,000	\$ 605,000
Non-Pledge Income	\$ 16,623	\$ 18,300	\$ 111,000
Other Contributions	\$ 17,176	\$ 2,350	\$ 33,000
Transfer from Endowment	\$ 124,101	\$ 124,367	\$ 507,416
All Other Income	\$ 16,242	\$ 29,025	\$ 13,633
Total Revenue	\$ 284,500	\$ 264,042	\$ 1,511,114
Total Expense	\$ 283,699	\$ 243,323	\$ 1,511,114
Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 801	\$ 20,719	\$ -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 online giving options, please visit: StPaulsAkron.org/give-online

GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

We Give Thanks For All Gifts, And Gifts To...

All Saints Sunday in memory of Romaine Chritton from Mr. Michael Chritton

All Saints Sunday in memory of Leland D. Cole from Mrs. Mary Cole

All Saints Sunday from Ms. Dana E. Dickinson

the Altar Guild Fund in memory of Ginny Wojno-Forney from Mrs. Julie E. McFarland

the Altar Guild Fund from The Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Michael Petrochuk

the Choir Fund in memory of Laura Berry from Mr. & Mrs. Kurt W. Gramlich

the Christmas Fund in memory of Albert and Vivian Genetti and Leslie & Lillian Cook from Mr. & Mrs. Ralph A. Genetti

the Christmas Fund in memory of Dale Koblenzer from Mrs. Margaret Koblenzer

the Community Assistance Program from Mrs. Julie E. McFarland

the Community Garden from Mr. Jeffrey S. Moshier
the Community Meals Fund in honor of Virginia Gore from Mr. Robert J. Pech

the Community Meals Fund from the Graves Family Foundation, Ms. Yvonne M. Krell, Mr. Gerald L. Schweigert, and Ms. Mary Shepherd

the Disaster Relief Fund from Mr. & Mrs. Peter DiMezza, Ms. Jean F. Jones, Mrs. Lynne F. Moshier, Ms. Joyce Powell, Mrs. Anita Robb, Ms. Virginia Robison, and Ms. Mary Shepherd

the Easter Fund for Habitat for Humanity, from Mr. & Mrs. Dale G. Freygang

the Endowment Foundation from Rev. Polly Glanville and the Eileen Foley Trust

the Endowment Foundation in memory of Mary Louise Broggini from Mrs. & Mrs. John M. Peterson

the Flower Guild in thanks for St. Paul's from Ms. Yvonne M. Krell

the Flower Guild in memory of Rose Miller from Mrs. Julie E. McFarland

the Flower Guild in memory of Laura Berry from Mr. & Mrs. Walton A. Silver

the Flower Guild from Mrs. Sandra Smith and Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Lee

the Memorial Garden from Mrs. Ruth Barkow

the Memorial Garden in memory of Virginia Wojno-Forney from Mrs. Alice Bergstrom

the Missions Fund in memory of Nan Bartlett from Mr. & Mrs. John M. Peterson

the Quiet Committee in memory of Melissa A. Peterson from Mr. & Mrs. John M. Peterson.

the Rector's Discretionary Fund in memory of Melissa A. Peterson from Mr. & Mrs. John M. Peterson

the Rector's Discretionary Fund from Mr. & Mrs. Dale Freygang, Mr. Roger F. Ream, Mrs. Marcheta Scott, and Mrs. Evelyn F. Young

the Stephen Ministries Fund in memory of Joseph and Dorothy Nagy from Dr. & Mrs. William W. Nagy

We Give Thanks For Gifts In Memory Of...

Virginia Wojno-Forney, from Ms. Sarah Dietrick and Progress thru Preservation

Virginia Wojno-Forney, from The Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Michael Petrochuk

Dan & Dixie Reiss, from Mr. & Mrs. J. William Reid

Frances Fisher Tait, from Ms. Anne E. Tait & Mr. Dan Wood

GIFTS AND MEMORIALS (CONTINUED)

2024 Christmas Memorial Flowers & Greens

Gifts given by:

Ms. Tana Alexander
Mr. & Mrs. Charles M. Billow

Mrs. Mary Cole
Mrs. Dorothy F. Fitzgerald
Mr. & Mrs. William Gibson
Mrs. Polly L. Keener
Ms. Geraldine W. Kiefer
Mrs. Lynne F. Moshier
Mr. & Mrs. Timothy D. Moshier
Mrs. Jane Parish Schwab
Mr. & Mrs. Charles H. Severt
Mrs. Sandra Smith
Mr. Mark Wheeler
Ms. Joyce Powell
Mrs. Marcheta Scott

In Honor or Memory of:

Rob Shanklin
Charles & Retta Billow and
Patrick & Jeanette McQuillen
Leland D. Cole
Frances E. Tait and Daniel Fitzgerald
John & Margo Gibson
June & George Leonard
Virginia Wojno
David Moshier
David Moshier
Jean Parish Smith
Tom Robb
Richey Smith
Marjory & Bob Wheeler



*The Flower Guild gratefully
acknowledges the Anonymous Gifts
and Givers who have contributed to
the Christmas Fund.*

*Thank You ALL for your continued
support of our Ministry!*

FLOWERS TO THE GLORY OF GOD

April and May Altar Flowers

April 13

In loving memory of Charles and Nancy Parker; given by Elizabeth Parker

In loving memory of Ann Dickinson Welsh; given by Mr. and Mrs. William Welsh

In loving memory of Bruce Kiefer; given by Gerry Kiefer

April 20

In loving memory of Robert William Reid; given by The Robin Reid Family

In loving memory of Mary Dure Johnson; given by her loving Family

In loving memory of Charles L Parker; given by Elizabeth Parker

April 27

In loving memory of Jane Good; given by Brian Good

In loving memory of Don and Betty Peabody; given by Bill and Diane Peabody

May 4

In loving memory of Persis Griffin Tiffany; given by Susan Tiffany

May 11

In loving memory of Susan Deveny Pavloff; given by Jon Pavloff, Alexander, Andrew and Tatiana

In loving memory of Ronald and Elsie Consilio; given by Darrell, Caroline, John and Lisa

May 18

In loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Ingram C. Myers Jr.; given by The Blumberg Family

May 25

In loving memory of John and Doris Rowe, Sam and Laura Harvey, Richard and Janie Rowe and Lorine and Reed Schild; given by Janet Schild

Altar arrangements are given each week in honor, support, memory, or celebration of someone we love. To reserve altar arrangements, contact Julie McFarland at jmcfarland1@neo.rr.com or 330-819-8552.



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SUNDAY'S AT ST. PAUL'S — WORSHIP SERVICES & EDUCATION

8:00 am	Holy Communion , Chapel
9:00 am	Adult Forum , Parish Hall
10:00 am	Holy Communion , Church
	Church School (Age 4-Grade 6) , Education Wing
	Confirmation / Youth Forum (Grades 7-12) , Room 211
	Coffee Hour , directly after the service, Parish Hall

UPCOMING EVENTS & HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Tue, Apr 1	Lenten Luncheon, Noon, Parish Hall. <u>Last one is April 8</u> The Rev. Dave Scavuzzo on C.S. Lewis, 7:00pm, G-4. <u>Last class</u> Needlework Guild, 6:30pm, Parish Hall. <u>1st & 3rd Tuesdays</u>
Wed, Apr 2	Community Meal, 6:00pm, Assembly Hall. <u>Weekly</u> Evening Compline, 7:45pm, Zoom. <u>Weekly</u>
Thu, Apr 3	Choir Rehearsal, 6:45–8:15pm, Choir Room. <u>Weekly</u>
Fri, Apr 4	Serious Fun for Grades 5–12, 6:00–8:00pm, Youth Space/Gym. <u>Weekly</u> Apollo's Fire: Bach Mass in B Minor, 7:30pm, Church
Sun, Apr 6	Healing Prayers at the Communion Rail, 10:00am service, Church Blood Pressure Checks, 8:30–10:00am, Family Room. <u>Monthly</u>
Mon, Apr 7	Women's Bible Study, 10:00am, G-4. <u>Weekly</u> Monday Crafters Group, 1:00pm, Family Room. <u>Weekly</u>
Thu, Apr 10	Needlework Guild, 1:00pm, Parish Hall. <u>2nd & 4th Thursdays</u>
Fri, Apr 11	Free Jazz Vespers Concert by Hubb's Groove, 7:00pm, Church
Sat, Apr 12	Bread Baking for Palm Sunday w/ Beth Guenther, 10:00–11:00am, Kitchen
Sun, Apr 13	Palm Sunday, 8:00am—Chapel and 10:00am—Church
M-Th, 4/14-17	Music, Reflection & Prayers, Noon—Church. <u>Mon thru Thurs of Holy Week</u>
Wed, Apr 16	Holy Communion service, 7:00am—Chapel
Thu, Apr 17	Maundy Thursday service, 7:30pm—Church
Fri, Apr 18	Stations of the Cross, Noon—Church Good Friday Liturgy, 7:30pm—Church
Sat, Apr 19	Holy Saturday Easter Vigil service, 8:30pm—Church
Sun, Apr 20	Easter Sunday services, 8:00am—Chapel and 10:00am—Church
M-F, 4/28-5/2	Scholastic Book Fair to benefit Nursery School, 9:30am–4:00pm, Gym
Sun, May 4	Rogation Sunday
Sun, May 18	Wrapped in Prayer Group, 11:15am, Family Room. <u>Every third Sunday</u>
Mon, May 26	Memorial Day, Church office closed



Bagpipes & Ice Cream!
Rogation Sunday
May 4