

Merriment at the Christmas Carnival

Final build day for Habitat House

Advent Wreath Making

The Mini-Messenger

News and Highlights

St. Paul's Episcopal Church • Akron, Ohio

January 2026

The Mini-Messenger is a brief news update sent out in months between our regular full-sized newsletter.

From the Rector

Beginning the New Year Right

Some important things in the works for the coming year....

The Adult Forum will resume on Sunday, Jan. 11th at 9:00 am with a five-week series on Christian Basics, especially good for newcomers to St. Paul's, for those plugging back into the faith, or those wanting – or in need of – a refresher. (Who doesn't need a refresher?)

A Prayer and Praise session, lasting less than one hour, will take place in the Chapel at 6:00 pm on January 25th. We will include prayers for our Lenten offerings for growth and service which we, with all humility, think are enriching and worth wider participation.

Be Renewed...For the Sake of the Gospel will begin on Sunday, Feb. 1st at 6:00 pm and every first Sunday evening thereafter (except for Easter Sunday) with teaching on evangelism and small group discussion (with light refreshments) for five sessions. 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.

On Tuesday, Jan. 6th, the **C.S. Lewis/Scriptural Imagination Discussion Group** led by Dave Scavuzzo resumes at 7:00 pm in Room G-4. All are welcome!

Gratefully,

Mark⁺

Congregational Care

Reaching Out to Others during Advent

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me
because the Lord has anointed me;
He has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives
and release to the prisoners. ~Isaiah 61:1

As we prepared ourselves for the Advent season and the coming of the Christ child, we were blessed to be able to provide hope, comfort, and a short visit to some parishioners.

For the fourth year, parishioners have provided their talents and time to provide an Advent package to other parishioners. The package provided instruction on how to connect online with St. Paul's 10am Sunday services and the special Advent compline Zoom sessions. There was an Advent calendar and devotional booklet as well as a Christmas Services flier. And Marcia Giordano handmade 50 beautiful fabric star ornaments! Also included was a box of delicious cookies and candies made by talented parishioners: Pam Feltner, Carol Ficken, Beth Guenther, Karen Knowles, Joyce Mancini, Julie McFarland, Jan Burns-Nowicki, Becky Pruitt, Bonnie Severt and Gail Vechik.

These packages were put together and delivered the first week of Advent to 50 families. A short visit let them know that they are a part of the St. Paul's family and Jesus' light continues to shine in all of our hearts to bring joy and hope of what is still to come.

More Special Offerings

Men's Weekend Retreat – Sign up now!

March 13–15, 2026

Our 2026 St. Paul's Men's Retreat will take place at the Jesuit Retreat Center in Parma, Ohio. Plan now, registration opens soon. Our guest speaker, Hollis Haff, former chaplain to the Pittsburgh Steelers and Pittsburgh Pirates, and founder of the New Community Church in Wexford, PA. Hollis, along with Dave Scavuzzo and Mark Pruitt, will facilitate learning and discussion about discipleship in our current world. Sign up at the Front Desk by Monday, Feb. 16th.

Who is Jesus? Book Study Seeks Answers

Starting Monday, Feb. 2 at 10am, Parlor

The women's book group starts a new study on Feb. 2nd, discussing chapters 1-3 of NT Wright's "Simply Jesus: A New Vision of Who He was, What He Did, and Why He Matters."

Healing Service

Thursday, Feb. 5 at noon, Chapel

Healing prayer offered at St. Paul's quarterly Healing Service brings peace to us and others. Join us on Feb. 5th at noon in the Chapel for the healing service and Eucharist.

Bible Study

Tuesdays from noon–1pm, G-4

Our Tuesday lunchtime Bible Study continues. It's open to all. You may bring a lunch. And no experience is needed. The Gospel of Luke is our focus – one chapter at a time. Please join us!

THANK YOU to all who participated in Nan's Giving Tree to benefit the children of Lydia's Home residents.

THANK YOU to all who brought gifts on Christmas Eve for children at the Access Woman's Shelter.

See the Class of 2029 Vestry Nominees on page 2

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present the nominees to the Vestry 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 President of Sta-

Warm Electric and he and his family have attended St. Paul's since 2007.



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.



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.



Ben Vail

Ben Vail is President of the Massillon Container Co. and has attended St. Paul's for 10 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.

The election of new Vestry members will be held at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 8th, 2026.

Join Us for these Upcoming Events

Thu, Jan 1	Church offices closed
Mon, Jan 5	Women's Book Study, 10am, Parlor. Weekly Monday Crafters Group, 1pm, Family Room. Weekly
Tue, Jan 6	Bible Study resumes, noon, G-4. Weekly Needlework Guild, 6:30pm, Family Room. 1st & 3rd Tuesdays C.S. Lewis Study with The Rev. Dave Scavuzzo, 7pm, G-4
Wed, Jan 7	Community Meal resumes, 6pm, Assembly Hall. Weekly
Thu, Jan 8	Needlework Guild, 1pm, Parish Hall. 2nd & 4th Thursdays
Fri, Jan 9	Serious Fun resumes for Grades 5-12, 6-8pm, Youth Space. Weekly
Sun, Jan 11	Adult Forum resumes, 9am, Parish Hall Church School & Youth/Confirmation resume, 10am, Education Wing Blood Pressure Checks, 8:30-11:30am, Family Room. Monthly
Sun, Jan 18	Wrapped in Prayer Group, 11:15am, Family Room. 3rd Sundays
Mon, Jan 19	Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Church offices closed
Sun, Jan 25	A Prayer and Praise, 6pm, Chapel
Sun, Feb 1	Be Renewed...For the Sake of the Gospel, 6pm, Parish Hall. Monthly
Thu, Feb 5	Healing Service, noon, Chapel
Sun, Feb 8	Annual Meeting, 11:30am, Assembly Hall
Sun, Feb 15	Evensong, 4pm, Church
Mon, Feb 16	President's Day - Church offices closed
Wed, Feb 18	Ash Wednesday, services at 7am, noon, 5:30pm and 7pm
Mar 13-15	Men's Weekend Retreat, Jesuit Retreat Center, Parma



ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, February 8
11:30 am
Assembly Hall

Offering Envelopes for 2026 are here! Be sure to pick up yours in the East Commons. *Thank you!*

St. Paul's Nursery School will begin enrolling soon for the 2026/2027 School Year. Please contact Rebecca Bussey at 330-836-9327 ext 160 for details or a tour of the school.

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