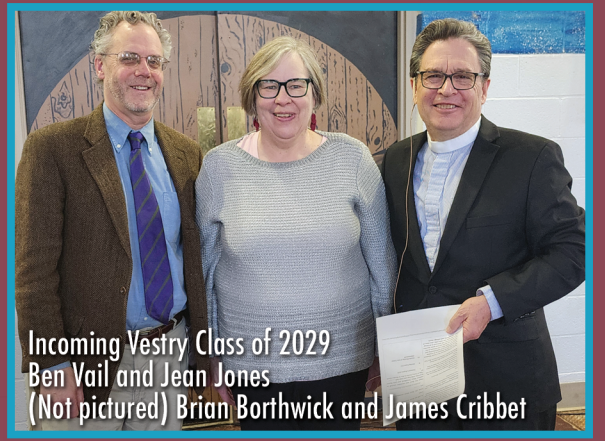


Jan Burns-Nowicki
Spirit of St. Paul's Award



Incoming Vestry Class of 2029
Ben Vail and Jean Jones
(Not pictured) Brian Borthwick and James Cribbet

The Mini-Messenger

News and Highlights

St. Paul's Episcopal Church • Akron, Ohio

March 2026

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

From the Rector

A Focused Season

One night in the last week of our cold January, when the night sky knew no clouds and the moon and the north star stood out with stunning clarity (maybe you remember that luminous night), I thought to myself *first* "To think that ancient people, and people just a few centuries ago, sailed through frigid waters guided only by the moon and the stars" and then *second* "I would have rather stayed warm in the ship's hold or stayed at home, under the warm covers!"

Would I have been a coward if I had lived in those days? I wonder. Cowardice, and laziness, can be accused of putting the love of comfort before the love of God and the love of others. I think Thomas Merton said that or something similar. But I have given away my copies of his books. So, put him down as the likely source. More importantly, ask if that doesn't ring true. It does to me.

As I write this, we are on the verge of the Lenten season, the forty days (not counting the Sundays) that lead up to Easter, which remind us of Jesus' (uncomfortable) forty days in the wilderness and Israel's (very uncomfortable) forty years in the desert. When you read this, we will be well into our close study of the Farewell Discourses in John's Gospel, already living out some of the disciplines connected with Lent (fasting, other forms of self-denial, almsgiving, prayer) which are meant, among other things, to help us focus—and possibly *regain* our focus—on God's goodness and God's promises. Sunday by Sunday, we will follow Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. It's a journey with a glory, a light, that doesn't hang in the sky but shines forth from Christ himself as he shoulders the burdens of our fallen world, to repair the relationship between God and creature.

In the peace of Christ,

Mark+



Lenten Sermon Series

8am in the Chapel and 10am in the Church

Mar. 1 – His Love *The Rev. Mark Pruitt*

Mar. 8 – I Am He – The Savior of the World *The Rev. Susan Tiffany*

Mar. 15 – One Thing I Do Know *The Rev. Paul Gaston*

Mar. 22 – Learning from Lazarus (*TBD*)

Mar. 29 – Palm Sunday: Who is this? *The Rev. Mark Pruitt*

Apr. 5 – Easter Sunday: Rejoice! And Do Not Fear *The Rev. Mark Pruitt*

Stephen Ministry

A Good Stephen Ministry Resource

For many of us, we know a friend, relative, neighbor, or colleague facing a diagnosis of cancer. This can be a difficult time not just for the patient but also for their loved ones and friends. Stephen Ministry offers help and hope to those facing cancer through the book, Cancer – Now What?



This book is a comprehensive how-to guide that helps cancer patients and their loved ones navigate the medical, emotional, relational, and spiritual challenges of cancer. Contact one of our Stephen Leaders if you would like to borrow a copy of this book or if you would like more information about how Stephen Ministry can help you. Bonnie Severt (330-328-2453), Jan Burns-Nowicki (330-715-8557) or Carrie Searle (330-836-9327 ext. 121).

Lenten Adult Forums

Sundays at 9am in the Parish Hall

Mar. 1 – John 14: Divine Comfort, Divine Promises

Mar. 8 – John 15: Abiding in Jesus

Mar. 15 – John 16: The Spirit will Deliver

Mar. 22 – John 17: A Prayer for All Times

Mar. 29 & Apr. 5 *No Forum on Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday*

Lenten Luncheons

Tuesdays at noon in the Parish Hall

We will repeat the theme of **Adult Forum** (above) on **Tuesdays**, Mar. 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th. A light lunch is served. Sign up at the Front Desk or call 330-836-9327.

Holy Week at St. Paul's

Palm Sunday – March 29

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

Maunder Thursday – April 2

7:30 pm, Holy Communion – Church

Good Friday – April 3

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

Holy Saturday – April 4

8:30 pm, Easter Vigil – Church

Easter Sunday – April 5

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

Upcoming Events

- Sun, Mar 1** **Be Renewed...for the Sake of The Gospel**, 6pm, Parish Hall. [Monthly thru June](#)
- Mon, Mar 2** **Women's Book Study**, 10am, Parlor. [Weekly thru March](#)
Prayer Walk To Bless Our City, noon, meet at the Front Desk
Monday Crafters Group, 1pm, Family Room. [Weekly](#)
- Tue, Mar 3** **Lenten Luncheon**, noon, Parish Hall. [Weekly thru March 24](#)
Needlework Guild, 6:30pm, Family Room. [1st & 3rd Tuesdays](#)
C.S. Lewis Discussion Group with Dave Scavuzzo, 7pm, G-4. [1st Tuesdays thru June](#)
- Wed, Mar 4** **Community Meal**, 6pm, Assembly Hall. [Weekly](#)
Evening Compline, 7:45pm, Zoom. [Weekly](#)
- Thu, Mar 5** **Apollo's Fire's Palace of Versailles**, 7:30pm, Church
- Fri, Mar 6** **Serious Fun for Grades 5-12**, 6-8pm, Youth Space. [Weekly](#)
- Sat, Mar 7** **Lenten Taizé Service**, 10am, Chapel
- Sun, Mar 8** **Blood Pressure Checks**, 8:30-11:30am, Family Room. [Monthly](#)
- Thu, Mar 12** **Needlework Guild**, 1pm, Parish Hall. [2nd & 4th Thursdays](#)
- Mar 13-15** **Men's Weekend Retreat**, Jesuit Retreat Center, Parma
- Sun, Mar 15** **Wrapped in Prayer Group**, 11:15am, Family Room. [3rd Sundays](#)
- Sat, Mar 28** **Children's Bread Baking for Palm Sunday with Beth Guenther**, 11am-noon, Kitchen
3/29-4/5 **PALM SUNDAY, HOLY WEEK, and EASTER SUNDAY - Full schedule on page 1**
3/30,31 & 4/1,2 **Music, Reflection & Prayers**, noon, Church. [Monday thru Thursday of Holy Week](#)

Attend a Tuesday Lenten Luncheon

The Gospel of John will be our topic on Tuesdays during Lent at noon in the Parish Hall on **Mar. 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th**. Sign up now at the Front Desk.

St. Paul's Nursery School-Now Enrolling 2026/2027

Spots open for 3, 4, and 5 year olds, potty-trained, half or full days available! Contact Rebecca at rbussey@stpaulsakron.org or 330-836-9327 ext. 160 for more information.

Who is Jesus? Women's Book Study Seeks Answers

Mondays at 10am in the Parlor

To His disciples, Jesus asked: "Who do *you* say that I am?" Out of this question flows many more which form the basis for the women's book group and our current study of NT Wright's "*Simply Jesus: A New Vision of Who He was, What He Did, and Why He Matters*." The study runs through March.

Prayer Walk to Bless Our City

Monday, Mar. 2 at noon, gather at Front Desk

Please join St. Paul's new prayer ministry to make prayer for our city part of a joy-filled life of faith on quarterly prayer walks. The first walk will be Monday, March 2nd, when we will walk down Kenilworth Drive, asking God to bless our neighbors. Led by Rev. Susan Tiffany and Jean Jones.

Dave Scavuzzo on C.S. Lewis

Tuesday, Mar. 4 at 7pm, G-4

The Rev. Dave Scavuzzo will lead explorations in developing a scriptural imagination through C.S. Lewis' writings.

Taizé Service During Lent

Saturday, Mar. 7 at 10am in the Chapel

Rejoice in the ancient monastic disciplines of prayer, song and Scripture readings at a special Taizé service with soloist Ruth Webb, guitarist Adam Keeler. The Rev. Susan Tiffany will lead worship in the candlelit chapel.

Lenten Holy Hike

Saturday, Mar. 28 at 10am, Towpath

Read, reflect and pray about the events of Holy Week on a mile-long hike on the Towpath Trail, meeting point: Big Bend Trailhead parking lot, 1337 Merriman Rd, Akron.

Flowers to the Glory of God

March 1

In loving memory of Florence Maloney; given by the family

March 8

In loving memory of Wayne Rice; given by Jan, Eddie and Laura Rice

March 22

In loving memory of husband and father, Don Wise; given by Marlene Wise, Jason, Tracy, and Jacob Hamilton

March 29

In loving memory of Patty Graves; given by the Buckler family

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