

Join us Rogation Sunday, May 3
Bagpipes & Ice Cream Social



Women's Potluck speaker
Bonnie Severt in Cuba



The Mini-Messenger

News and Highlights

St. Paul's Episcopal Church • Akron, Ohio

May 2026

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

From the Rector

The Spirit Has Been Given: Worth Repeating, Worth Invoking!

Jesus promised the Holy Spirit as the gift of his own empowering presence – a *new* form of his presence following his Ascension. And Jesus delivered on his promise! The Spirit was given. Pentecost is the day on the church calendar when we call to mind the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the first disciples. It falls on May 24th this year.

But *every* day is a day to call this to mind, and to call upon the Holy Spirit as we live out our discipleship. Not a single one of the many things that make up the Christian life must be undertaken solely on our own strength. Not loving and forgiving others. Not giving generously to meet the world's needs. Not working steadily on the paths of righteousness. Not seeking sources of renewal. Not staying confident, composed, and cheerful. In all these things, and many others, the Spirit is here – really *here* – to help. So, the prayer "*Come Holy Spirit*" is a prayer for all our days, and all our hours.

Warmly, in Christ,
Mark +

Stephen Ministry

Calling on God

I love the LORD, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy. Because he turned his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live. Psalm 116: 1-2

How often do we find ourselves in some sort of trouble? And then, we ask "how did I get into this situation, and how am I going to get out of it?" Whether it's an accident, a health diagnosis, a relationship that is struggling, the loss of a loved one, or facing every day dilemmas, we can find ourselves floundering. When we find ourselves in a crisis, that's the time we need to call on God to help us find the right solution.

Having a spiritual companion that listens and reflects on your thoughts as you work with God is a comfort that is available to our parishioners through Stephen Ministry. No one needs to walk through a crisis on their own; unburdening ourselves to God with a Stephen Minister is a blessing and a relief. A Stephen Minister can be with you for as little or as long as you need them.

To inquire about Stephen Ministry and how they can help you, call one of our Stephen Leaders:

Bonnie Severt (330-328-2453)

Jan Burns-Nowicki (330-715-8557)

Carrie Searle (330-836-9327 x 121).



Discipleship: Reflections on our Men's Lenten Retreat

Our mission statement, printed on our weekly bulletin, has two parts. First, we set our sights on "living out a full expression of the Christian faith." Second, we embrace the Great Commission, saying we will "call all people to the new life of discipleship in Christ." This second element was the focus of the Men's Retreat in March. We learned that there are many ways to speak about discipleship. Here are some of them: the close following of Jesus; keeping company with Jesus; growing into the full stature of Christ; conforming to the image or likeness of Christ; to be in an apprenticeship with Jesus. In all of them, loving obedience is central. Not just belief. That's very important, of course.

But saying Yes to God with our whole life, our attitudes, actions, habits, and affections takes a community – a community in Christ – to help each one of us embrace the call to discipleship and to grow. Christian friendships, that is, are essential. Bubbling up at the retreat and afterwards from many was enthusiasm to promote the call to discipleship, and to develop more connectedness among our men. Building community, creating friendships takes time, and intentionality. The same is true for discipleship. So, some next steps will be shared at our next Men's Quarterly Dinner on Friday, June 5th at 6:30 pm in the Parish Hall. Sign up at the Front Desk or online.

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1361 W. Market St. • Akron, Ohio 44313 • 330-836-9327 • StPaulsAkron.org

Upcoming Events


- May 1-3 Youth/Confirmation Retreat, Bellwether Farm
- Sun, May 3 Rogation Sunday with Bagpipes and an Ice Cream Social, 10am, Church
Be Renewed...for the Sake of The Gospel, 6pm, Parish Hall
- Mon, May 4 Women's Book Study, 10am, Parlor. **Weekly thru May 11**
Monday Crafters Group, 1pm, Family Room. **Weekly**
- Tue, May 5 Bible Study, Noon, G-4. **Weekly**
Needlework Guild, 6:30pm, Family Room. **1st & 3rd Tuesdays**
C.S. Lewis Discussion Group with Dave Scavuzzo, 7pm, G-4
- Wed, May 6 Community Meal, 6pm, Assembly Hall. **Weekly**
Evening Compline, 7:45pm, Zoom. **Weekly**
- Fri, May 8 Serious Fun for Grades 5-12, 6-8pm, Youth Space. **Weekly**
- Sun, May 10 Bishop Jolly's visit with Confirmations, 10am, Church
Blood Pressure Checks, 8:30-11:30am, Family Room. **Monthly**
- Thu, May 14 Quarterly Healing Service, Noon, Chapel
Needlework Guild, 1pm, Parish Hall. **2nd & 4th Thursdays**
- Sun, May 17 Last day of Church School/Youth
Wrapped in Prayer Ministry, 11:15am, Family Room. **3rd Sundays**
- Mon, May 18 Women's Spring Potluck, 11am, Parish Hall
- Sun, May 24 Pentecost
- Mon, May 25 Memorial Day, Church office closed
- Sun, May 31 Trinity Sunday
- Tue, Jun 2 C.S. Lewis Discussion Group with Dave Scavuzzo, 7pm, G-4
- Fri, Jun 5 Men's Quarterly Dinner, 6:30 pm, Parish Hall
- Sun, Jun 7 Mitzvah Day: Sewing sundresses for girls in need, 1-3pm, Parish Hall
Be Renewed...for the Sake of The Gospel, 6pm, Parish Hall
- M-W, Jun 15-17 Vacation Bible School, 9am-Noon, Assembly Hall

Join Us on Sundays

- 8am Holy Eucharist, Chapel
9am Adult Forum, Parish Hall
10am Holy Eucharist, Church
10am Education Hour, 2nd Floor
(until May 17)

Class of 2026

If you have someone in your family who is graduating from high school or college, we would like to know! Please list the graduate's name and their high school or college. Leave details at the Front Desk or call the church by **Monday, May 18th**. *Thank you!*



Vacation Bible School

M-W, June 15-17

Theme: Rainforest Falls

For ages 4-12. Free!

Sign up now!

Quarterly Healing Service Set for May

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 will gather for a noon healing service, **Thursday, May 14th**. We will offer thanks and praise to the Lord, pray for ourselves and others, and receive strength from the Holy Spirit to persevere through the things that trouble us.

Women's Spring Potluck

Celebrate spring with a women's potluck lunch on **Monday, May 18th** at 11am in the Parish Hall. Before lunch, parishioner Bonnie Severt will regale us with captivating tales from a cycling trip to Cuba earlier this year. Sign up at the Front Desk by May 12th.

Back to the Beginning

St. Paul's Tuesday Bible Study has begun its study of Genesis. The group meets as usual on Tuesdays in G-4. The Revs. Mark Pruitt and Paul Gaston are facilitating the discussions. Highlights for May and June are as follows:

May 5 Chs. 1, 2—Creation / Sabbath / Eden / Adam & Eve

May 12 Chs. 3, 4—Adam & Eve fall / Cain & Abel

May 19 Chs. 5, 6, 7—Genealogy / Noah's ark / flood

May 26 Chs. 8, 9—Dry land / Noah's altar / rainbow / Noah drunk

June 2 Chs. 10, 11—Nations / Babel / Abram marries Sarai

June 9 Chs. 12, 13—God's promise to Abram / lie re Sarai / Abram vs Lot

June 16 Chs. 14, 15—Lot's rescue / Melchisedek / God's promise to Abram

June 23 Chs. 16, 17—Hagar, Ishmael / Covenant

June 30 Chs. 18, 19—Promise of son / plea for Sodom / Sodom destroyed

Following a summer recess in July and August, the fall discussions will begin on Tuesday, Sept. 8th. Everyone is welcome. Prior study is neither required nor expected. Those who wish to enjoy a brown bag lunch during the discussion are encouraged to do so.

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