



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Seeking. Serving. Loving. Together.

Parish Notes

January 2025 • Vol. 67 No. 5



Worship

The Feast of the Epiphany

Monday, January 6, 6 p.m.



We'll mark the arrival of the magi with the ancient Epiphany custom of "chalking of the doors" and a service of the Holy Eucharist. The service will be followed by a reception with

King's Cake and champagne/sparkling grape juice toast. "Chalking the doors" is a ritual to ask God's blessing on our homes and lives. Everyone will receive chalk and special prayers to observe this custom at home.

Call for Baptisms

Sunday, January 12



The next baptisms will be on the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord. This feast day celebrates the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by John the Baptist. If you are interested in being baptized or having your child baptized, email Rev. Gabriel Lawrence: glawrence@stpauls-church.org.

Combined Worship Service

Sunday, January 26, 10 a.m.

We will hold one combined worship service at 10 a.m. on Sunday, January 26 to celebrate the Third Sunday after the Epiphany. The service will be followed by the Annual Meeting.



Give a New Hymnal or a Prayer Book

Many of the copies of both The Hymnal 1982 and the Book of Common Prayer in the pew racks in the Nave and St. Martin's Chapel are showing their age. The Hymnal 1982 was released in 1986, and, although it is likely that some of these oldest copies have been replaced over the years, that was still almost 40 years ago! The prayer book is a few years older than that. Some of our copies need to be placed into well-deserved retirement.



Here is an opportunity to gift a new hymnal and/or a new prayer book for usage in the church. For every book given, we will place a dedicatory calligraphed nameplate on the inside cover of each copy. You can dedicate as many copies as you like. This is a great chance to memorialize a loved one, express gratitude to someone, or even give "To the glory of God!"

Hymnals and prayer books are available for \$30 per copy. Hymnals will be purchased in red to match our existing ones. Likewise, prayer books will be black.

To give and memorialize a hymnal and/or a prayer book, please visit: stpauls-church.org/books and fill out the form. After filling out the form with your information and dedication, you can pay online or by check.

Thank you for helping to refresh these well-used resources for common worship!



Hymnals & prayer books

Photos on the front cover are from St. Paul's Chorister Christmas and the 1:30 and 4 p.m. Christmas Eve services. Photos on the back cover are from the 4 and 10:30 p.m. Christmas Eve services.

Music & Art

An Invitation to Join the Parish Choir Sunday, January 19, 10:15 a.m.



Our Parish Choir will lead the music for liturgy at the 11:15 a.m. service on January 19. This is a great opportunity for all adults and children who can read to sing without the commitment required by the Senior Choir.

Rehearsal is at 10:15 a.m. in the Choir Room. Contact Kevin Jones, Director of Music, to indicate your interest and/or if you have any questions: kjones@stpauls-church.org

Senior and Youth Choirs Evensong Sunday, January 19, 4 p.m.



The Youth and Senior Choirs offer a joint Choral Evensong on Sunday, January 19 at 4 p.m. Music by Tomkins, Herbert Brewer, and the festival anthem *Hear my prayer* by Felix Mendelssohn.

Treblefest Choral Evensong Sunday, February 16, 4 p.m.

Choristers from St. Paul's and Christ Church in Hudson will present a service of Choral Evensong at St. Paul's on Sunday, February 16 at 4 p.m. Led by guest director Katie Webb, Canon for Cathedral Music at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Portland, Oregon, the service will include works by Archer, MacDonald, and Forbes-L'Estrange. Bishop Anne Jolly will officiate.



In addition, Webb will lead the choristers at our 9 a.m. service on Sunday, February 16.

Music & Art

Winter Gallery Show Until February 23, 2025

If you haven't already, be sure to see the works on display by four local artists: Jules Briggs, J.W. Cooper, Mike Nathal, and DeAnne Smith. Some pieces will go to new homes when the show ends!



Unlike many gallery hosts, St. Paul's does not take a commission on gallery sales. Contact the artist directly if you are interested in purchasing a piece (information available in the gallery booklet).

Children & Youth

C.A.S.T. Musical Auditions: FIREBRINGER Sunday, January 5, 12 - 2 p.m.

Get ready for the C.A.S.T. spring musical production of Firebringer, a prehistoric comedy about the timeless human spirit and our ability to adapt and evolve. The fun includes woolly mammoths, saber-toothed tigers, and, of course, fire! All youth third grade and up are invited to join the cast and crew. Cast auditions are Sunday, January 5, 12 - 2 p.m.



Email Lauren Dockery, Director of Children and Youth Ministries, with questions and to sign up: ldockery@stpauls-church.org

Show Dates: February 28, March 1 & 2

Formation

Interested in Contemplative Prayer?

Tuesdays, January 14 or 21, 5 p.m.



The practice of Contemplative Prayer offers an antidote to anxiety and a lifeline in these stressful and overstimulating times. To learn more about this practice, join us on Tuesday, January 14 or 21, from 5 - 5:30 p.m., when Rev. Patricia will offer

introductory information and instructions. The regularly scheduled Contemplative Prayer time will then commence at 5:30 p.m. All ages and experience levels are welcome!

The Forum

We continue our 2024-25 Forum focus on Discernment During Transition - reflecting on where we've been, where we are now, and where God might be inviting us to as we move forward.

Discernment: Deep Questions, Deep Listening

Sunday, January 5, 10:10 a.m.

Author Jack Ricchiuto has spent decades working with local and global communities to envision and bring about new possibilities. “In

spiritual discernment,” he says, “we listen deeply for emergent wisdom through our deepest questions.” Join us for an engaging exploration into the art of forming questions and listening. *Led by Jack Ricchiuto, FlawlessPlanning.org.*



Learn About Our Deaf Congregation and Interpreters

Sunday, January 12, 10:10 a.m.

Join St. Paul's deaf community and our ASL interpreters as they share their history through the lens of cultural identity, language, and the changing landscape of the St. Paul's community.



What is Transforming Us?

Sunday, January 19, 10:10 a.m.

Join a panel of clergy members and parishioner Reed Stith as we use the Congregational Development model called “Gather, Transform, Send” as a launching pad to explore where you may be experiencing transformation.

These places of transformation are key. They are like lighthouses in the sea of discernment, guiding us to notice where God's grace is active and enlivening.



Fellowship

Sages New Year's Party Thursday, January 23, 11:30 a.m.



Join Sages, St. Paul's group of active retirees, to celebrate the new year! Hear the story of "Mr. Showmanship," Liberace, with our own hospitality pianist, Rev. "Liberace" Lawrence, playing music from the 50's and 60's.

Come as you are or wear glitz. Singing and dancing are possible! A catered luncheon will be served. The cost is \$8 per person. Drop off a check (memo: Sages) in advance or bring it to the event. RSVP by January 17 to Rev. Gabriel at glawrence@stpauls-church.org. Please include any special diet requirements or financial assistance requests. If you need transportation, please contact Denise Wells at wellsdenise7@gmail.com.

Fourth Annual Chili Cook-Off Friday, January 24, 6 p.m.



If you have a favorite chili recipe, enjoy chili, or just like a warm gathering on a cold winter night, please join us for our fourth annual chili cook-off, sponsored by the Parish Fellowship Committee. This is a fun event with good food, great people, and friendly competition. Prizes will be awarded!

All are welcome—bring your friends and neighbors and help us choose St. Paul's Best Chili of 2025!



Scan to register

Registration is free for chili chefs and \$25 for all others. Chefs will supply the chili, and the Parish Fellowship Committee will provide appetizers, corn bread, salad, desserts, and beverages

(beer, wine, and non-alcoholic options).

Register online: TinyUrl.com/chili-2025

Parish Updates

Memorial Service and Reception for the Rev. Reid Isaac Saturday, January 18, 2 p.m.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, January 18, at 2 p.m. for the Rev. Reid Isaac. Rev. Isaac served as Associate Rector of St. Paul's from 1984 to 1990. He died on November 13, 2024. He was 98.



Bishop Anne Jolly will preside at the service and Bishop Alan Gates will preach. A reception will follow in Tucker Hall.

The Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 26, 11:15 a.m. Tucker Hall

Please join us for the St. Paul's Annual Meeting following a combined worship service at 10 a.m. If you think you'd rather have a root canal than attend a church annual meeting, here are the top five reasons why you shouldn't miss it this year!

5. The 2025 budget presentation by our treasurer, Lloyd Bell. Only Lloyd could turn a budget presentation into a comedy routine.

4. The opportunity to meet and elect our 5 new vestry members—your representatives in parish leadership.

3. A report from the chairs of the Rector Search Committee including a summary of the congregational survey, completed by over 250 parishioners, and a preview of the parish profile (the "marketing" tool used in the search process to describe St. Paul's).

2. An introduction to our new Interim Rector, the Rev. Dr. Stephen Applegate, who will be with us for the first time.

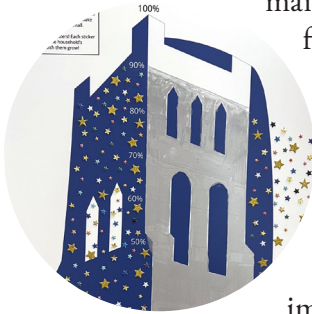
1. Donuts! (And others delicious treats to keep you from worrying about your lunch).



Parish Updates

Stewardship Updates

While we have received many generous pledges to the 2025 Annual Fund, as of December 31, we have received 270 pledges totaling \$1,193,400, still short of our campaign goals of 333 pledges, totaling \$1.3 million. These goals were established based on budgetary needs. St. Paul's cannot



maintain the many worship, formation, music, children's, and outreach ministries without the financial support of all participants. The participation of all parishioners (at whatever level they are comfortable) is important and valued.

This year our pledges are especially important as we search for our next rector. By achieving our goal, we send an important message of strength and resilience to potential candidates during this interim time.

If you have not yet pledged to the 2025 Annual Fund, we invite you to join your fellow members in doing so. Thank you for your participation in the life and mission of St. Paul's!

Pledge online: stpauls-church.org/2025pledge

Help Wanted: Must be Friendly & Welcoming

By Pam O'Halloran



Though I am on the staff of St. Paul's, when you see me ushering on a Sunday morning, I am wearing my parishioner hat. Ushering is my favorite volunteer role at St.

Paul's because of the opportunity to greet and connect with other members as they arrive for worship. On Sunday mornings, our ushers are our "greeting committee." I have enjoyed meeting visitors and newcomers over the years and helping them feel welcome. And ushering enables me to be an active participant in the service.

David and I first volunteered to usher when our

children were young, and we enjoyed that we could participate as a family. For our kids, handing out bulletins became a competition. Their enthusiasm was contagious and brought a smile to parishioners faces, despite the tough decision as to which outstretched bulletin to accept!

More ushers are needed at all three morning services. The tasks are easy and greatly appreciated by all. You are scheduled just one Sunday a month. We hope you'll join us! If interested, please reach out to learn more about the role: pohalloran@stpauls-church.org

Greetings from The Rev. Dr. Stephen H. Applegate

Dear Friends,

I'm sending New Year's greetings from Trinity Toledo where I'm wrapping up my work as their interim rector. My last Sunday here will be January 12. After moving a few things to Cleveland and catching my breath, I'll join you on Sunday, January 26. I can't think of a more auspicious day to begin serving as your interim. It's the day of your Annual Meeting and, with Bishop Anne's permission, the Sunday when we'll celebrate the Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle.

St. Paul's will be my sixth interim appointment in a row since 2017 and my seventh overall. It's been a privilege to join congregations in transition and help them as they prepare to welcome new leadership. Rector transitions are rich times of exploration and discovery. I'm especially grateful to be following Bishop Jeff. He and I have known one another since I served in as the interim at All Saints' in Chicago while he was still the diocesan bishop. We've already been working together to make sure that the "passing of the baton" at St. Paul's goes smoothly.

I'm eager to start and look forward to our time together!

Faithfully,
Stephen



Parish Updates

Vestry Nominating Committee Report

At the regular meeting of St. Paul's Vestry on Tuesday, December 17, 2024, the following slate of Vestry members for terms commencing in 2025 was voted and approved.

For three-year terms:

Adam Blackman
Jason Grimes
Bonnie Gunzenhauser
Betsy Hockey

For a one-year term:

Cathy Albers

Youth Delegate:

Celia Doherty

Vestry Members who will continue in 2025 are:

Lloyd Bell (Treasurer), Karen Carter, Bob Fox, Ben Keck, Brian Murphy, Bob Quartell, Susan Quill, Michele Smolin (Chancellor), Andrea C. Turner, and Nancy Vitale (Clerk).

The Vestry thanks members of the Nominating Committee for their work:

Andrea C. Turner (Chair), Charlie Jones, Amia Wheatley, Jason Chance, and Carla Williams Kaufman.

Per St. Paul's bylaws, additional vestry nominations must be submitted in writing with signatures of at least 15 qualified voters by Tuesday, January 14 (12 days before the Annual Meeting). Please email nominations to Sam Hartwell, Senior Warden: sam.hartwell.personal@gmail.com

2025 Vestry Nominees



Adam Blackman



Jason Grimes



Bonnie Gunzenhauser



Betsy Hockey



Cathy Albers
One-year term



Celia Doherty
Youth Delegate

Diocese of Ohio Winter Convocation 2025

January 31, 5:30 p.m. - February 1, 3:45 p.m. at Sawmill Creek Huron, OH



Lay and clergy people of all ages from across the diocese are invited to Winter Convocation to learn tangible skills for how to live out our vision in our faith communities and across the Diocese. We'll be joined by two visiting trainers from The College for Congregational Development (CCD) who will lead us to deepen our faith and build our practical skills for being the church in the world today. Childcare and interactive activities for youth will be available.

The cost to register is \$50.00 for adults and \$15.00 for children/youth. Learn more on the Diocese website: TinyUrl.com/dohio-winter2025



