



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

Parish Notes

February 2025 • Vol. 67 No. 6

Tell Me About Yourself...

By The Rev. Dr. Stephen Applegate



It's one of the most common interview questions from admission officers, employers, and therapists. The respondent can go in a variety of different directions, most of them telling in one way or another!

Twenty years ago I was working for an international outplacement consulting firm—one of the firms that teaches “out-placed” employees the skills and strategies they need to conduct an effective job search. We taught candidates never to answer that question by starting with, “I was born....”

I know better than to begin my introduction how David Copperfield introduced himself, “To begin my life with the beginning of my life...”

Instead, I'll work backwards. I've been an Episcopal priest for 44 years. Since 2017, I've served six congregations as an intentional interim, usually for a year or two. I've served parishes in the Dioceses of Indianapolis, Chicago, Southern Ohio (twice), and most recently in the Diocese of Ohio (now twice). I've come to St. Paul's from Trinity Episcopal Church in Toledo, where I served for more than 15 months. Prior to interim work, I was rector of St. Luke's in Granville, Ohio for 14 years.

My wife, Terry, and I have made our home in Granville for the past 20 years. Our two younger children grew up there. Terry taught first grade in the Granville School District and retired at the end of May after 43 years. Some interim assignments have allowed me to live at home. Otherwise, I've lived in apartments or a rectory. My pied-à-terre in Cleveland is in Medley, the brand-new building on Cedar, next to the Cleveland Clinic's main campus. Fairfax Market is on the ground floor.

All our kids are grown and out of the house. Three of the four are married; the fourth is partnered. All of them made great choices of mates; we love them all. We've been blessed by four grandchildren—three boys, ages 11, 10, and eight, and one girl who's eight. Another grandchild—a baby girl—is due in April.

In retrospect, my vocation as a priest seems inevitable. I was baptized in the Episcopal Church by my godfather, our parish priest. His wife was my godmother. My dad, a physician, served on the Vestry. My mother served in the kitchen. I became an acolyte at age eight and began singing as a treble. We had an organ in our home, and I was awakened most mornings to the sound of some hymn my father was playing. Several Applegate ancestors were Episcopal priests—Thomas Pliny Applegate, who came from England, and his son and grandson, Sr. and Jr. who shared the name Octavius Pliny Applegate.

My black Labrador retriever, Bernie, has been my companion and “pastoral associate” for years. Although my skills are a little rusty, I've played guitar and harmonica in a couple of alt-country bands and have filled in on mandolin and keyboards. I need to re-establish a routine with regular exercise. I spend too much time on my phone and not enough time reading novels.

When I say my prayers, I never fail to give thanks for God's grace and the love I've experienced in my relationship with Jesus. It's both a privilege and a humbling experience to serve as a priest—to be able to share in the administration of the sacraments and preach the Good News. Perhaps the greatest privilege is to have other people share their stories with me, to walk with them during the significant events of their lives, and to share in their sorrows and joys. I believe life is better in a community of faith, so I thank you for inviting me into yours during this time of transition.

~Stephen Applegate

Worship

The Feast of the Presentation Sunday, February 2, at all services



Once every six or seven years, the Feast of the Presentation of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple falls on a Sunday, and it makes that given Sunday different from all others in this season after the Epiphany. The Feast of the

Presentation commemorates the customary presentation of Jesus by his parents in the temple. Upon seeing Jesus presented, Simeon, a man in the temple, exclaims, “these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, whom you have prepared for all the world to see: a Light to enlighten the nations...” In this season after the Epiphany, the Light of God is revealed to Simeon and all of us.

Historically, on this day, pointing to the Light of God revealed, the Church blessed all candles to be used throughout the coming year, leading to a name commonly used for the occasion: “Candlemas.” We will celebrate the Feast of the Presentation at all services on February 2.

Scout Sunday

Sunday, February, 2, at the 9 a.m. service

We will recognize Scout Sunday to honor all current and former scouts of St.



Paul’s, including our parish-sponsored Troop 22. All scouts are invited to wear their uniforms and be recognized. Troop 22 will provide some special treats during coffee hour and be available for any questions.

Parish Events

Winter Family Gathering Thursday, February 6, 6 p.m

All families are invited to our second Winter Family Gathering! This year, the all-ages potluck will feature a sneak-preview of songs from the cast of Firebringer!, our winter musical!



Head to the Dining Room for an opportunity to slow down, connect, and enjoy a meal with other families. We encourage you to bring your favorite dish to share.

Email Susan Armstrong with questions: SArmstrong@StPauls-Church.org.

Sign up online: TinyURL.com/2025wfg



Heights Middle School Shorts Film Screenings

Sunday, February 23, 4 p.m.

Back in a September forum, many St. Paul’s folks were delighted to see a five-minute film produced by a Heights middle schooler.

As promised, the Middle School Shorts program will return to show more middle schooler-produced short films, again followed by Q and A with the young producers. It is necessary to RSVP to attend this event, so please email Rev. Patricia at PRose@StPauls-Church.org.

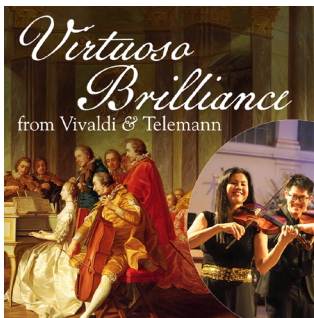


Also, please note: all middle school students in any school in Cleveland Heights or University Heights are invited to participate in the camp that brings about these annual productions! More information at HeightsMiddleSchoolShorts.org.

Music & Art

Apollo's Fire presents: Virtuoso Brilliance from Vivaldi & Telemann
Saturday, February 8, 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, February 9, 4 p.m. at St. Paul's

Apollo's Fire revels in fiery orchestral suites and concertos. Recorder virtuoso Daphna Mor



performs Telemann's famous Suite in A Minor for the first time on the Apollo's Fire stage. Violinists Alan Choo, Emi Tanabe, and Chloe Fedor take the spotlight in thrilling double and triple concertos by Vivaldi.

Tickets & information: ApollosFire.org



Saturdays, February 15 and 22, 5:30 p.m.

This twelve-voice ensemble of collegiate and experienced singers is dedicated to delving more deeply into the Anglican tradition of Choral Evensong and passing it on to the next generation.

The February 15 service will include:

Gabriel Jackson *Responses*, Leighton *Magdalen College Service*, and Purcell *Miserere mei*.

The February 22 service features:

Jackson *Responses*, David Hurd *'Norfolk' Service*, and Hurd *Come, thou Holy Paraclete*.

TrebleFest 2025
Sunday, February 16
9 a.m. service and 4 p.m. Evensong

On February 15-16, St. Paul's is honored to host TrebleFest, the annual Treble Festival made possible by the generosity of the Petrey Family Foundation. Traditionally held as a one-day clinic at Trinity Cathedral, this cherished event has brought together choristers from the Dioceses of Ohio, Indianapolis, and Erie.

This year, we are thrilled to expand the festival to a two-day gathering of music and fellowship. The St. Cecilia & St. David and Youth Choirs of St. Paul's will join forces with choristers from Christ Church, Hudson, for a weekend of rehearsals and worship.

On Saturday, February 15, choristers will immerse themselves in a day of rehearsals and camaraderie. Then, on Sunday, February 16, the combined choirs will offer their voices in the 9 a.m. service and again at Choral Evensong at 4 p.m., a moving celebration of treble voices in sacred music.



Leading this year's festival is Katie Webb, Canon for Cathedral Music at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Portland, Oregon. A distinguished conductor, organist, and educator, she directs the Cathedral Choir and Choir School, oversees Trinity Music's dynamic concert series, and performs on the cathedral's renowned Rosales pipe organ.

We warmly invite you to join us for these special services as we celebrate the beauty and power of treble voices in our diocese.

Formation

The Forum

Wrestling with God: Hearing God's Voice in the Struggle

Sunday, February 9, 10:10 a.m.



Rev. Gabriel will share some personal insights about the process of discernment which he gained in wrestling with his stutter while discerning a call to ordained ministry.

Can You Hear Me Now?

Sunday, February 16, 10:10 a.m.



Do you remember Verizon's ads back in 2002, with a guy in thick black glasses asking repeatedly, "Can you hear me now?" That actor, Paul Marcarelli, asked the question over and over for nine years!

What are we listening for as St. Paul's moves through this time of transition? And what is the work of an intentional interim priest during the space between rectors? Rev. Stephen Applegate will lead a conversation about these questions.

Everyday Discernment

Sunday, February 23, 10:10 a.m.

How do we lead lives that are guided by God? Is Higher Wisdom even a real thing? How can we tell the difference between guidance and our own strong opinions? Rev. Patricia will engage us in discussion about opening our lives to far more than what we can envision or do alone.



Children & Youth

Youth Pilgrimage Parent Information Meeting

Sunday, February 2, 10 a.m., Brooks Room

This year's pilgrimage will be held June 8 – 13, to the Boys Home of Virginia. If your teenager is interested, please join us to learn more. Email Lauren Dockery with questions: LDockery@StPauls-Church.org.



C.A.S.T. Spring Musical: FIREBRINGER!

Friday, February 28, at 7 p.m., Saturday, March 1, at 7 p.m., Sunday, March 2, at 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! Come out and support the cast and crew. Email Susan Armstrong with questions: SArmstrong@StPauls-Church.org.



Solemn First Communion Instruction

Thursdays in March, 6 - 7:30 p.m.

Though in the Episcopal Church, baptism grants full inclusion in the Body of Christ, some parents do wait to allow their children to receive Holy Communion until after some instruction.

These communion instruction classes will include a meal followed by a hands-on lesson about the Eucharist. We'll even bake some communion bread! This class is both for children who have already received the Sacrament or who are waiting to receive the Sacrament. To sign up, email Lauren at LDockery@StPauls-Church.org.



Newcomers

St. Paul's 101

Sunday, February 16 and 23
12:30 - 2:30 p.m., Brooks Room



All newcomers (those who have joined the parish in the past two years or so) are invited to two interactive lunches in February. These gatherings are specifically designed for those new to St. Paul's and wanting to learn more about its ministries and operations.

Please RSVP to Rev. Rose Anne

Lonsway: RLonsway@StPauls-Church.org

February 16 | Outreach and Building Tour

February 23 | Worship, Music, and Formation

Fellowship

Sages: The Spirituality of Fly Fishing

Monday, February 24, 11 a.m.

Sages, our group for active retirees, will host John Orlock, parishioner, professor of theater at CWRU, award-winning playwright and dramaturge, to speak on "The Spirituality of Fly Fishing."



To more deeply engage the topic, consider reading *A River Runs Through It* by

Norman Maclean or watch the

movie (streaming on Netflix, Amazon Prime and other services). The presentation will be followed by a fellowship lunch.

Please register and indicate any dietary restrictions by February 20 to Rev. Gabriel Lawrence:

GLawrence@StPauls-Church.org.

For transportation needs, email Denise Wells:

WellsDenise7@gmail.com.

Around the Diocese

Celebration of the Commemoration of the Rev. Absalom Jones & Consecration of the Rt. Rev. Barbara C. Harris

Saturday, February 15, 11 a.m.
Trinity Cathedral

The Wilma Ruth Combs Northeast Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians, in collaboration with the Diocese of Ohio and Trinity Cathedral, will host the annual Festal Eucharist celebrating the Rev. Absalom Jones and the Rt. Rev. Barbara Clementine Harris.



Jones was the first African American ordained as a priest in the Episcopal Church, and Harris was the first woman consecrated as a bishop in the Anglican Communion. The Rt. Rev. Anne B. Jolly will be the celebrant, and the Rev. Charles Graves will be the preacher.

Interested in participating in the choir? Email Shiloh Roby (Trinity Cathedral's Director of Music) at SRoby@TrinityCleveland.org. All are welcome to join in the celebration of these inspirational clergy, whose lives and ministries have left a profound impact on the church's communal life and ministry.

Stewardship Campaign Report

The Stewardship Committee and Vestry are enormously grateful to those who have offered their pledges and gifts to support the ministry of St. Paul's in the coming year. The commitment to the Annual Fund each year is essential for enabling all the many programs and ministries of our church. Without our collective generosity, there could be no St. Paul's. *If you have not yet submitted a pledge for 2025, we hope you will consider doing so soon.*

2025 Annual Campaign by the Numbers

As of January 23, 292 households have offered their pledge or gift commitments to support the programs and ministries of St. Paul's in 2025. We are confident that we will surpass commitments for 2024 but likely remain behind 2023 numbers. A significant portion of the decline in pledged income between 2023 and 2024 is due to the loss of several of our older members who had been making large annual gifts.

	2025 (1/27/25)	2024 (1/27/2024)	2023 (1/27/23)
Total amount pledged	\$1,227,900	\$1,233,947	\$1,505,933
Total pledges/gifts	294	286	332
Average pledge/gift	\$4,200	\$4,314	\$4,536
#Increased pledges/gifts	140	97	128
#Decreased pledges	16	27	28
# New pledges	13	12	14
#Known non-renewed pledges	12	21	18

Campaign Notes

- We are enormously grateful for the many newer members of St. Paul's who have begun offering their generous support of our parish programs. St. Paul's continues to actively welcome and engage newcomers into the life of the parish.
- Currently, 33 parishioner households who pledged or gave to the 2024 campaign have not responded to the 2025 pledge campaign invitation. We anticipate many of these members will continue to give or submit a pledge later in the year.
- Church stewardship campaigns are traditionally challenging during an interim period between rectors. We are encouraged by the number of pledges received to date and are ahead of where we were last year at this time.
- We are confident that we will receive additional pledges, enabling the parish to meet its budgetary needs and maintain the strength of all programs in 2025.

We Extend our Gratitude

We thank our dedicated Stewardship Committee for their work on this successful campaign during a difficult year: Lael Carter, Chair; Committee members: Adam Blackman, Julia Dye, Muffy Kaesberg, Maureen Kilroy, Brian Murphy, Joel Slamkowski, Tom Wenz, and SeungWon Wenz.

Please join us in thanking those who have made a gift or pledge to the 2025 Annual Fund!

Did we miss your name? Please contact Pam O'Halloran, Director of Operations: POhalloran@StPauls-Church.org

Anonymous (8) • Mary Adams • Cathy Albers • Denny & Mary Anderson • Chace & Josie Anderson • Barbara Andrews • Stephen Applegate • Tim & Susan Armstrong • Tom Austin • Chip & Janet AuWerter • Pat & Jenny Azouri • Tony & Michelle Bandy-Zalatoris • Dave & Diane Banyard • Jane Barber • Jim & Margie Bashaw • Cynthia Bassett • Bill & Carolyn Batcheller • Eileen Beal • Lloyd & Betsey Bell • Lois Bell • Lloyd Bell Jr. • Cliff Bennett • Gwen Bennett • Jim & Jean Bingay • John & Susan Blackwell • Edgar & Beth Boles • Bonnie Bolton • Becca Bowes & Matt Gunter • Emily Braman • Eugene Brand • Stephen & Lesley Brown • Bob Brown & Catherine Scallen • Don & Terri Burck • Kristen Busa • Dick & Diane Bush • Bill & Laurie Buss • Bill & Gail Calfee • Dot Campbell • Michael Carlstrom • Ian & Barbara Carlstrom • Charlie Carr • Bill & Lael Carter • Karen & Carl Carter • Helmut Cascorbi • Molly Castillo Keefe • Brett Barkley & Emily Cernoia-Barkley • Jason Chance • Mark & Chris Chance • Elizabeth Chandler & Carl Greppin • John & Josie Chapman • Homer & Gert Chisholm • Emil Chuck • Beth Clough • Kari Collier • Kirby Colwell • Bill Conway • Charlie Cooley • Jonathan Cooper & Rebecca Hartman • Dennis & Beverly Coughlin • Ensign & Lana Cowell • Rosie & Ben Craig • David & Jackie Crouch • Sara Cutting • Nell Davidson • Glenn & Kathleen DeBoer • Rick & Lee Deininger • Julie DeJager & Rob Guerin • Mike & Katherine Dell • Candace & Richard DiLello • Lynne Distelhorst • Paul Dobrea & Jim Johnson • Greg & EB Donley • David & Julie Dornback • Barbara Driscoll • Julia & Keith Dye • James Eller & Eric Baud • Eva Ellis • Katie Emerson • Gail Emmet • Carol Engler • Ben & Cynthia Eppes • Andy & Leigh Fabens • Katie Fedor • Paula Feher • Lynne Feighan • John & Betsy Feighan • Michelle Felger & Louise Rodebush • Dagmar & Ted Fellowes • Paul & Leslie Flowers • Bob & Kathy Fox • David & Claudia Fulton • Bill Ganger • Jenifer Garfield • Jim & Cynthia Gascoigne • Amber & Vince Gerace • Tom & Amy Gilchrist • Ted & Nancy Goble • Kevin & Tracy Goodman • Charles & Linda Goodwill • Brian Gran & Mary Beth McCormick • Scott & Susan Gray • James Gray & Julie Micheletti • Jason & Emily Grimes • Bonnie Gunzenhauser • Mark Hammond & Evelyn Adkins • Martha Harding • Sam Hartwell • Barb Hauck • Edward Hemmelgarn & Jan Hammond • Chuck Herbruck • David & Dozie Herbruck • Ann Herbruck • Polly Hermann • John & Laura Herrick • Peter & Nancy Hildebrand • Hermine Hinds • Stan & Betsy Hockey • Barbara Hoekstra • Jamie & Kathy Hogg • Dick & Sarah Hollington • Norma Horswell • Edith Howell • Mike & Kendra Howley • Eva & Geoff Johnson • Ben Johnson • David Jolly • Peter & Jan Jones • Charlie & Lindsay Jones • Trevor & Jennie Jones • Rob & Margie Josey • David & Kristin Kaelber • Jim & Muffy Kaesberg • Jonathan & Jennie Kaffen • Iain & Holly Kalfas • Carla & Johnny Kaufman • Ben & Jocelyn Keck • Maureen Kilroy • Hilary & Greg King • Ann Kitchen • Marianne Kloboves • Lisa & Jed Koops • Julia Koops • John Krogness • Donald & Dorothy Kuhn • Dennis & Camille LaBarre • Gretchen Larson • Gabriel Lawrence • John Leibert & Cricket Karson • John LeMay • Cathy Lewis • Tracey Lind & Emily Ingalls • Bill & Margery Lindsey • Karen Ling • Dave & Dori Loomis • Michael Lyford & Sonja Rajki • Bill & Susie MacDonald • David & Katerina MacGregor • Simon Mack • Jim & Wendy Malgieri • Elizabeth Mann • Jay & Arlene Mann • Chris & Susan Maurer • Steven & Carolyn Mawhorter • Charlie & Lynda Mayer • Linda McCorkle • Karen McKeegan & Jim Nicks • Mary McLeod • Don & Sandy McPherson • Bill Merrick • Jason & Sarah Mersek • Jane Meyer • Bob & Jane Meyer • Peter Meyer & Luis Tollinche • Michael & Eppie Miller • David & Debra Mitchell • Dan & Marge Moore • Mike & Petra Moran • Jane & Tom Morris • Kylie & Dan Moss • Bill & Hattie Mulligan • Sarah-Theresa Murakami • Brian & Cindy Murphy • Dale & Jim Naylor • Kirk & Lori Neiswander • Barry & Heather Nelson • Eustacia Netzel-Hatcher • Eric Nilsen • Tom Nobbe • Ed & Kathleen Nowicki • David & Pam O'Halloran • Lydia Oppman • David & Mary Osburn • Sarah Ott-Hansen • Henry Ott-Hansen • Jon & Robin Outcalt • Jon & Jane Outcalt • Judy Pace • Allison Paetz • Eric & Cathy Paetz • Randy & Amy Paine • Charles & Hilary Parkhurst • Ted Parran • Kim Parry • Charles Parsons & Heidi Dressler • Brendan & Liz Patterson • John & Anne Payne • Ernie & Terrilee Petrey • Bill & Pat Phillips • Jim & Kay Phillips • John & Rosemary Pierce • Jim Pintner • Joyce Pope • Bill & Sandra Powell • Jim Ptacek • Bob Quartell & Flo D'Emilia • Jeffrey & Susan Quill • Lamar & Ginger Ratcliffe • Tom & Laura Rayburn • Richard & Eloise Reiersen • Cindy Resch • Suzette Reynolds • Pete & Judy Richards • Rick & Liz Rodems • David Rodney • Laurie Rodney • Lou & Savory Rorimer • Howard & Laurel Rowen • Bill & Louise Sansom • Pete & Laurie Scriven • Bob Seaman & Amanda Matthews • Matt & Ellie Secrist • Ruth Severiens • Zelma Sharp • Scott & Carrie Shelfer • Nancy Sherwin • John Shields • Jeffrey Shook • Ellen Shook • April Siegel-Green • Reed & Sandra Simon • Celia & Jeff Sinclair • John Sindelar • Brian & Ann Skerry • David & Peggy Sloan • James Small & Joe Sasak • Art Smialek • Michele Smolin • Chris & Suzanne Smythe • Mark & Stacey Souther • Brit Stenson • Reed & Laura Stith • Mary Stone • Suzanne & Tom Stratton-Crooke • Mike & Sally Struk • Walt & Judy Stuelpe • James Stumpf • Sonja Tausch • Bruce & Virginia Taylor • George & Janice Thompson • Andrea Turner • David & Molly Urban • Beth Vitale • Nancy & Jonathan Vitale • William & Susan Vodrey • John & Erin Wagner • Carl & Jo Walter • Calvin & Sarah Warner • Russell & Doris Warren • Greg & Sharon Watts • Robin & Val Weaver • Fred & Chris Weed • Sam & Meg Weingart • Denise & Chris Wells • Bill & Lisa Welsh • Tom & SeungWon Wenz • Andy & Katie Wheaton • Marty & Nancy Wiczorek • Chuck & Pat Williams • Loyal & Margaret Wilson • Valerie Wilson • Beth Wilson • Sally Wilson & Aaron Ballonoff • Jan Wolf • Timothy Wutrich • Dudley Yost • Nancy Zambie • Tom & Amy Zipp

Lent Preview

Ash Wednesday Services

Wednesday, March 5



Join us for the service that best fits your schedule. Imposition of ashes at all services. All are welcome!

7:30 a.m. | Ash Wednesday Liturgy *St. Martin's Chapel*

10:30 a.m. | Ash Wednesday at Judson Park *Auditorium*

Noon | Ash Wednesday Liturgy *Nave*

5:30 p.m. | Ash Wednesday Liturgy for Children and Families *Tucker Hall*

7:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Liturgy with Holy Eucharist *Nave* (Livestreamed)

EDWINS Fish Fry

Friday, March 7, 5 - 7 p.m., Dining Room

Save the date for the return of the EDWINS Fish Fry at St. Paul's! EDWINS serves the best fish fry in Cleveland and should not be missed! Join fellow parishioners and Cleveland Heights neighbors

for the first Friday fish fry of the

Lenten season. Dinners can be ordered for either eat-in or take-out. Beer, wine, and non-alcoholic beverages will be available for purchase. Please look for links in the E-News to reserve your fish fry dinner.



Lenten Services for Children, Youth and Families

Even the youngest members of our congregation wrestle with big questions about life, death, and the challenges of being human. At St. Paul's, we believe those questions deserve thoughtful, age-appropriate responses, rooted in the promise of God's love and hope in Jesus. That's why we offer a series of Lenten Family Services for children and youth to experience the journey of Lent in ways that are honest, meaningful, and comforting.

Our family services create a space where the themes of Lent—like suffering, love, and renewal—are gently explored through storytelling, prayer, and reflection. These services help our children and youth see that even in life's hardest moments, God is with us, and life continues beyond death.

Schedule of Family Services:

Ash Wednesday - March 5, 5:30 p.m.

Begin Lent with an approachable service, including the imposition of ashes.

Maundy Thursday - April 17, 5:30 p.m.

Remember that Christ washed the feet of his friends in a special foot-washing service, followed by reflection on Jesus' Last Supper and an Agape Dinner catered by Aladdin's. (We will request a small donation toward the cost of food.)



Good Friday - April 18, 5:30 p.m.

A gentle retelling of the Passion story, creating space for grief, wonder, and comfort.

New! Family Easter Vigil - April 19, 5:30 p.m.

Celebrate the light of Easter through storytelling, music, and joyful connection.

Please look for invitations to serve as lectors and intercessors for any of these services.

Save the Dates: Lenten Wednesday Evening Series

"For just such a time as this..." ~Esther 4:14

An old Chinese curse says, "May you live in interesting times." To say that these times are "interesting" is an understatement! During Lent, we're going to talk about how we might live and grow in the fullness of Christ in these times. Join us Wednesday evenings in Lent for dinner and conversation. Led by St. Paul's clergy.