



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

# Parish Notes

August 2024 • Vol. 66 No. 9

## Summer at St. Paul's





# Parish Events

## Worship

### Summer Worship

7:45 a.m. | St. Martin's Chapel

9 a.m. | East lawn (or nave if it's raining)

*ASL interpreted*

10:30 a.m. | Nave

*Livestreamed at [www.stpauls-church.org/Live](http://www.stpauls-church.org/Live).*

We return to our regular service schedule on Sunday, September 8, 2024.

### Bluegrass Holy Eucharist

Sunday, August 11, 9 a.m.

The Forest City String Band will accompany our 9 a.m. Holy Eucharist service on Sunday, August 11. Don't miss this St. Paul's classic, which brings together the beautiful, lush melodies of bluegrass with traditional gospel tunes!

### Youth Acolyte Training and Refresher Day

Saturday, August 24, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

All youth third grade and up are invited to join the acolyte team which serves at our 9 a.m. services. A fun day is planned with Lauren and Rev. Gabriel for all new comers and "old timers." See more information in the article to the right.

## Music & Art

### Summer Art Gallery Exhibit

Check out the beautiful works of art created by parishioners of all ages inspired by our beautiful stained glass windows. The installation will be on display in the Nicholson B. White Gallery all summer long.

### Gallery Fall Show Opening

Thursday, September 5, 5 p.m.

The N.B. White Gallery committee announces its fall show on display from August 30 to November 17. The gallery will feature paintings by Sawsan Alhaddad and Kara Hungate, photography by Brenda Traffis, and ceramics by Mark Yasenchack. The opening reception will be Thursday, September 5, from 5 to 7 p.m. Join us to welcome the artists and mingle with parishioners, and guests. Refreshments will be served, so come and enjoy.

## Outreach

### Habitat for Humanity Neighborhood Spruce-Up Day

Saturday, August 24

Help spruce-up a neighborhood in need on Saturday, August 24 with the great folks from Habitat for Humanity. Please contact Kathy Hogg at [khogg75@gmail.com](mailto:khogg75@gmail.com) for details, or to get on the St. Paul's Habitat email list, or if you have any questions.

## Fellowship

### Youth Group Bonfire

Sunday, August 18, 6 - 8 p.m.

All 7th through 12th graders are invited to kick off the new program year with a cookout and bonfire at the home of the Quills. Please contact Lauren to sign up or for more information.

## Save the date for the Parish Picnic!



# Youth Acolyte Training and Refresher Day

On Saturday, August 24 from 9:30-11:30 a.m., St. Paul's will host a day of fun and learning for youth acolytes. The training and refresher day will help orient new and veteran youth acolytes to the program. Running the training will be the Rev. Gabriel Lawrence and director of children and youth ministries Lauren Dockery.

What are acolytes, exactly? According to the Episcopal dictionary, "acolyte" is a general term which covers not only servers, torchbearers, and lighters of candles but also crucifers (one who carries a cross), thurifers (one who carries a censer burning incense), and banner-bearers. The term acolyte has been around since at least 252 A.D. Basically, an acolyte is anyone who assists in liturgy.

The training will include games and doughnuts as well as a walk-through of the liturgy and an instructed Eucharist. Youth will have an opportunity to participate in the walk-through and try on clerical vestments. Rev. Gabriel stressed that the training is for both new youth acolytes as well as a refresher for those who have served before.

The overall goal is to engage more youth as acolytes and make worship at St. Paul's even more vibrant and meaningful. "I want our youth to enjoy serving when it's their Sunday to acolyte," said Rev. Gabriel. "I want them to find personal meaning in what they do and what they offer in the service to God."

Independently, Rev. Gabriel is also seeking adults to serve as acolyte mentors, who help prepare youth acolytes for Sunday services. Interested parties should contact Rev. Gabriel at [glawrence@stpauls-church.org](mailto:glawrence@stpauls-church.org).

# Transition Update from the Wardens

As everyone knows, we are in a transition period between Rectors. We've made some progress but there is much work ahead.

Two parishioners have agreed to serve as co-chairs and we are actively recruiting other committee members. We are in the process of forming the Search Committee, which will be formally commissioned on Kickoff Sunday, September 8. The Committee's work will kick off in the fall. One of the most important steps in the Committee's work will be to discern our needs in a new Rector. This will be a broad effort that will likely include small groups, large meetings, and surveys. It will be the work of the Committee to ensure that all our Parish voices are heard.

Simultaneously, the Committee will develop our Parish Profile, describing our community in depth to assist in recruiting appropriate candidates. We anticipate being able to begin recruiting candidates early in the new year.

The Committee will be ably assisted by our friend and former Associate Rector, Canon to the Ordinary the Reverend Jessie Dodson, and by Anne Schmidt, the search consultant who helped the Diocese to recruit Bishop Anne.

We had hoped by now to have an Interim Rector in place. That hasn't happened yet, due to a shortage of interim priests at a time when many parishes are in transition. And our calling is special – we are a large and well-resourced Parish, and a calling as our interim is a big job. While we did identify capable candidates, one chose another opportunity and a second chose to leave interim ministry. We are still looking, but we must accept that we may not have an Interim Rector for some time.

That said, we are blessed with a team capable of getting us through this period. Our Assistant Rectors Patricia, Gabriel, and Rose Anne are leading worship, pastoral care, formation, and our other ministries. Kevin's music program is a magnificent gift to us all and to Christ. Lauren is putting together a stimulating year for our youth. Pam keeps the ship running smoothly. Susan and I are regularly plugged into staff meetings and day to day operations.

Your continued and ongoing support is gratefully appreciated – and critically important. We are excited about a new beginning, and we will get there with your help.

*Sam Hartwell*, Senior Warden  
*Susan Quill*, Junior Warden

# Parishioner Spotlight: Celia Doherty

Sixteen-year-old Celia Doherty is so busy one wonders how she finds time to do all the things she's doing, but she shrugs and laughs when asked about it, saying she still manages to find time to spend with her friends.

Celia, who is a rising junior at Laurel School, sings in the Youth Choir at St. Paul's, is on the golf team at school, and plays the oboe and English horn in youth ensembles around town. Additionally, she loves to read and cook, and in her spare time, she's life guarding or running.

She first got involved at St. Paul's 10 years ago, when her family moved from Washington D.C. to Cleveland.

Since joining St. Paul's, she's been featured as a soloist in the choir, served as an acolyte, acted in some CAST (Christian Action Through Student Theatre) plays, and served as a youth representative on the St. Paul's vestry and outreach committee.

St. Paul's has always been a special place for her. "I just really like that I know a lot of people here, and they know me," she said. "They've seen me grow up, and that's been really fun. If I come here, there's always someone I can talk to. It's just a really supportive community."

Being part of the St. Paul's music program has helped her grow both as a musician and as a person. "When I started, I was shy, and this was the first real music I'd done," she said. "The choir director had me start on piano, and then I got into playing the oboe. I got more confident."

As far as participating on the vestry goes, Celia commented, "It's really cool to see how a church

runs." After a few months with the vestry, she joined the outreach committee. She's appreciated the chance to advocate for support to the Virginia Boys Home and hopes to develop a deeper partnership with them over the coming year.

Music is one of her passions, and this summer she went to Oberlin Conservatory to learn to play the baroque oboe. It was like learning a completely new instrument, she said, because it's so different from the modern oboe. She also enjoyed her third trip to New York as part of the St. Paul's delegation to the St. Thomas Girl Chorister course, a program that has welcomed

many St. Paul's girls over the years.

Celia, who was confirmed as a member of the church last year, recently completed an independent study on molecular biology at Laurel. This year, she's taking biology and AP chemistry, and she plans to head into science research or medicine once she graduates and enters college.



## St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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