



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

Parish Notes

September 2024 • Vol. 67 No. 1

AN INVITATION

A Pilgrimage of Transition and Discernment

The Rev. Patricia Rose



This year, we enter a journey of transition through the unknown toward the destination of a new rector. St. Paul's has a powerful history and continues to be gifted with resources and a large community of diverse gifts, backgrounds, ages, and walks of life.

Where might God be calling us now? How might God be calling us to most faithfully and impactfully use all God has given us to serve the radical Christian call to love and justice—*in this time, in this context, right now?* It is our rich blessing and commission as followers of Christ to prayerfully discern the answers to this.

Our faith calls us to be Spirit-led people, trusting in God, and following God's guidance. The process of doing this is called spiritual discernment. We may say we want to do this; we may believe that our greatest freedom and fulfillment comes from doing this, but it takes courage to change our usual practices to enter a deep intimacy with God: To wait, not know, pay attention, let go, and trust.

Our human inclination is to want to get out of the discomfort of change and uncertainty as quickly as possible. Our impulse to "take control" without waiting on the Lord and listening reveals our undermining belief that we are in this alone and cannot really depend on God when push comes to shove.

Yet over and over again in scripture we are shown that the wilderness of between times—going from an old thing to a new thing—is rich with

the movement and presence of God. There are abundant opportunities to experience for real the journey at the core of our faith and salvation—discerning the will of God and living it.

Our forums this year will offer support, teachings, prayers, and food for thought about this process in specific, practical ways. We will be considering: Where has St. Paul's been? Where are we now? *How* do we discern where God might be leading us? What are the skills and graces needed to do that? How willing are we to be led by the Holy Spirit, and how much do we feel drawn to do it ourselves? How can we grow closer to and support each other in this holy and vulnerable process?

Through our process of discernment, may we experience for ourselves the "love that surpasses all understanding and the fullness of God, whose power now at work in us can do immeasurably more than we alone can ask or imagine." (Eph. 3, 19-20). This is at the heart of faith. It is the gateway to the precious gifts of the promises of Christ for which we hunger always. This sacred opportunity of discernment is not just for a transition or rector search, but for learning to live in the freedom and salvation of divine Love and Truth.

I look forward to traveling on this auspicious pilgrimage together!

In Christ's joy and love,

Patricia +

Find Search Committee information on pages 3 - 4.

Worship Updates

As we transition from the relaxing summer to a buzzy program year, we invite you to notice all the opportunities for worship, music, fellowship, art, and service. We look forward to being with you at some of the many events St. Paul's is hosting this month!

Holy Eucharist

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

9 a.m. | Nave

ASL interpreted

11:15 a.m. | Nave

Livestreamed at www.stpauls-church.org/Live.

Weekly Bible Study

Thursdays, 9 a.m., Sanders Room

Beginning Thursday, September 5, join the preacher on deck for our weekly Bible Study. We will take a closer look at the readings for the following Sunday.

Call for Baptism

All Saints' Day Baptisms
Sunday, November 3, 10 a.m.

We will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on Sunday, November 3, 2024, during a festive, combined worship service for All Saints' Day.

Holy Baptism is a joyful and sacred moment when we welcome new members into Christ's Body, the Church. It's also a time for our entire congregation to pledge their support to the newly baptized as they begin their journey of faith. If you or your child is interested in being baptized, please email Rev. Gabriel: glawrence@stpauls-church.org.

Sacred Beginning: Preparing for Your Child's Baptism

Sunday, September 29, and Sunday, October 20, 2024, 10 - 11 a.m.

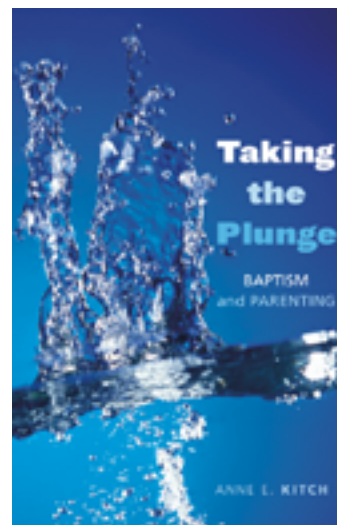
Parents, if your child will be baptized on All Saints' Day (November 3), you are encouraged to attend "Sacred Beginning: Preparing for Your Child's Baptism," a class designed just for you!

This two-part class will meet on Sundays, September 29, and October 20, 10 - 11 a.m. to explore the deep meaning of baptism and how to weave it into your family's life.

Using the book *Taking the Plunge: Baptism and Parenting*, we'll discuss the promises made on behalf of your child and share practical ideas to nurture their spiritual journey. This is also a great opportunity to connect with other parents of young children. Childcare is available during the sessions.

We'll celebrate with a family brunch on Saturday, November 2, 2024.

Email Lauren Dockery to register: ldockery@stpauls-church.org.



Search Committee Update

Dear St. Paul's parishioners,

Consistent with the timeline we laid out last spring, we've been working over the last several weeks to form the Search Committee and begin the process of seeking our next Rector.

We are pleased to announce that the Search Committee has been formed and was approved by the Vestry at its meeting on Tuesday, August 20. The Search Committee was formally commissioned on Sunday, September 8, with a social "meet and greet" at Coffee Hour.

There will be a very important Adult Formation session on September 15 in Tucker Hall, which will focus on discernment, where we are as a Parish in transition, and the search process specifically. It will inaugurate our year's formation theme of discernment and will be led by the Rev. Patricia Rose and Search Committee co-chair Bill Powel (who will serve in that role with co-chair Liz Patterson). There will be plenty of opportunity at that session for Q&A. The Wardens will be present.

The Search Committee's work will begin in earnest in October, with a Search Committee retreat, several small group sessions, other listening opportunities, and the drafting of our Parish Profile.

The Search Committee was formed by the Wardens

working over the summer. We solicited names of candidates from clergy, staff, and lay leaders, and we received nominations and self-nominations from parishioners. Our challenge was to create a committee small enough to be effective, large enough to be representative of who we are – and get the work done, and offering the right mix of skills.

The resulting committee has a good mix of men and women. It is diverse in age, with representatives from every adult decade, from 20's to 70's. It includes parents, musicians, members of the Outreach Committee, new members, and members of long-standing. It includes people fully engaged in the parish and others in the Diocese. We are excited about this group and are grateful to them for agreeing to serve the parish in this important effort.

Meanwhile, we are happy to welcome our new Interim Rector and Bishop-in-Residence Jeffrey Lee to our team – and together with our capable clergy and staff we are moving forward with great plans for the program year. St Paul's is moving forward in faith and fellowship. This is an important time for us all to remain engaged.

Sincerely,

Sam Hartwell, *Senior Warden*

Susan Quill, *Junior Warden*

The Rector Search Committee

Co-Chairs:



Liz Patterson



Bill Powel

Members:

Diane Banyard

Liz Rodems

Brett Barkley

Emma Quill

Kristen Busa

Akua Saunders

Tom Nobbe

Pete Scriven

Amy Zipp

Vestry Liaison:

Andrea Turner

Consultant:

Anne Schmidt, *Saison Consulting*

Transition & Discernment

Adult Formation Session on Transition and Discernment

Sunday, September 15, 10:15 a.m.

On September 15, the Forum will offer timely information about our year of transition and discernment. We'll begin with a brief preview of how our forums will support us during this year, followed by an update from Search Committee co-chair Bill Powel, with time for your questions. We'll close with a creative prayer practice to lift our hearts and feel God with us. The session will be held in Tucker Hall and will be led by the Rev. Patricia Rose.

Upcoming Forums on Transition and Discernment

September 29: Why Does Our History Matter? with the Rev. Dr. Brian Wilbert, Diocesan Archivist

October 6: The Effects of Loneliness, with Dr. Ann W. Nguyen, Associate Professor, CWRU School of Social Sciences

October 13: Reflections About Discernment and Transition with Bishop Jeff Lee

October 27: Courage for Change, with Eric L. Motley, Deputy Director, National Gallery of Art

The Right Reverend Jeffrey Lee: Interim Rector and Bishop-in-Residence



We are pleased to announce that the Right Reverend Jeffrey Lee will join St Paul's on Sunday, September 15, as Interim Rector and Bishop-in-Residence. Bishop Jeff will be with us four days a week until some time in January with full authority as Interim Rector. He brings a wealth of experience to us, as well as dignity, gravitas, and seniority. Plus, he was Bishop Anne's bishop when she served in the Diocese of Chicago.

Early in the new year, we will appoint an equally impressive priest as full-time Interim Rector. This candidate is currently serving another parish in the late stages of its search. While we cannot identify this candidate at this time due to their responsibilities in their current interim position, they are committed to accepting a call to St Paul's.

We are very grateful to Bishop Anne Jolly and the Reverend Canon Jessie Dodson for conceiving of this thoughtful approach to our staffing situation, and to Bishop Jeff for agreeing to step out of retirement.

We feel the spirit!

Please help us welcome Bishop Jeff on September 15, when he will preach at all three services, join the Adult Forum, and share in the festivities of the Parish Picnic!

Sam Hartwell, *Senior Warden*

Susan Quill, *Junior Warden*

Parish Events

Fellowship

Parish Picnic

Sunday, September 15, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Please join us for the annual Parish Picnic, our all-parish fall fellowship event! This is a great opportunity to celebrate the start of the new program year, reconnect with parishioners and staff, meet our newer members. Special Guest this year: The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey Lee, our new Interim Rector. Take a ride on the Euclid Beach Rocket Car or sway to the sounds of the Forest City String Band. The evening will include face painting, a balloon artist, and a beer and wine tent. Lots of fun for all ages! Join us for grilled brats, hot dogs, and “not-dogs” in the Coventry parking area. Everyone is asked to bring an appetizer, salad, or side dish to share. Friends and neighbors are welcome!

Celebration of Ministry

Sunday, September 22, 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.,
Tucker Hall

Our ministry fair is an opportunity to learn about and engage with the many initiatives and groups of our vibrant community. From gardening to pastoral care, outreach to fellowship, join us to celebrate and discover the ways we're Seeking. Serving. Loving. *Together.*

Faith Formation

Practice of Welcoming Prayer

Tuesdays, September 17 & 24, 5:30 p.m.
Chapel of the Cross

The Rev. Patricia Rose will teach about Welcoming Prayer, a Christian practice that builds our capacity to experience both greater awareness and greater peace with what is as it is, whatever we are holding. All are welcome to attend one or both sessions. No previous contemplative prayer experience is necessary.



The Forum

Sunday, September 29, 10:15 a.m.
Dining Room

"Why Does History Matter?" featuring the Rev. Dr. Brian Wilbert, Diocesan Archivist

As we journey through transition and changes in our lives, how does knowing about our past help us in the re-orientation, flexibility, and other graces that are needed in response to change? How does it help us with the natural anxiety that comes in facing the unknown? Join us and find out!

Music & Art

Coventry Camerata Choral Evensong
Saturday, September 21, 5:30 p.m.

This year we are sponsoring an ensemble in residence, the newly formed choral group Coventry Camerata. The twelve-voice ensemble of collegiate and more seasoned singers will delve more deeply into the Anglican tradition of Choral Evensong.

The first service will feature:

Thomas Tallis, *Hear the voice and prayer*

Philip Radcliffe, *Responses*

Tallis Dorian, *Service*

Edward Bairstow, *I sat down under his shadow*

Music & Art (continued)

Annual Organ Recital
Sunday, September 29, 4 p.m., Nave

Please join us for Director of Music Kevin Jones's annual recital.

Works will include:

Dietrich Buxtehude, *Praeludium in D Major*

Samuel Scheidt *Christe, qui lux et Deus*

Johannes Brahms, *Prelude and Fugue in G Minor*

Maurice Duruflé, *Scherzo, Op. 2*

Herbert Howells, *Rhapsody in C-sharp Minor, Op. 17*

César Franck, *Choral in E Major*

CAST (Christian Action Through Student Theater) Auditions

Sunday, September 29, 4 - 5:30 p.m.

Whether your child has acted before or is trying something new, our fall play (*The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*) is a great place to start!

Auditions are Sunday, September 29, 4 - 5:30 p.m. No need to prepare anything—just come ready to move, play theater games, and read from the script with other actors.

Rehearsals:

Mondays and Wednesdays, from 6 to 8 p.m.

Sunday mornings, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.*

**We will make sure there are no conflicts with Youth Choir rehearsals.*

Tech week:

Sunday, November 17, to Thursday, November 21

Rehearsals every evening from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Performances:

Friday, November 22, 7 p.m.

Saturday, November 23, 7 p.m.

If you have any questions or if your child needs the script ahead of time, please email Lauren Dockery: ldockery@stpauls-church.org

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

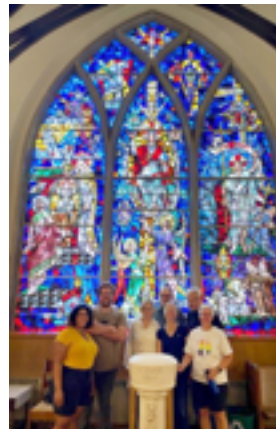
2747 Fairmount Boulevard, Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44106
(216) 932-5815

www.stpauls-church.org
info@stpauls-church.org

Pastoral Care Line: (216) 238-4001

August Highlights

Parish Retreat at Church
of the Redeemer (CotR)



Church of the
Redeemer's Nave

Habitat for Humanity
Faith Build



Rev. Gabriel & youth at
acolyte training



Visit to farmer's market
booth of Solidarity Urban
Farms (ministry of CotR)



Youth Group Bonfire at the Quill's



Save the Date!

Blessing of the Animals
Sunday, October 6, 4 p.m.

From kittens to chickens, guppies to puppies, our clergy will bless all pets, great and small. Join us for a brief service and blessing with a St. Francis Day skit from our Workshop Adventures Class. Service will be on the lawn (rain site Tucker Hall).