



## Advent & Christmas

Here at St. Paul's we're busy planning for the most wondrous time of the year, to bring the glory of Christmas straight to you! Learn about our online offerings for Advent and Christmas on page 6.

## Outreach Guide

During this uncertain time, local community-based organizations require your help to support the needs of individuals and families. Go from ordinary to extraordinary by helping those in need this season. Check out our Outreach and Volunteer Guide on page 8

## WHO WE ARE

### St. Paul's

#### Episcopal Church

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

[www.StPauls-Church.org](http://www.StPauls-Church.org)

Jeanne Leinbach, Rector

[jleinbach@stpauls-church.org](mailto:jleinbach@stpauls-church.org)

Jessie Dodson, Assoc. Rector

[jdodson@stpauls-church.org](mailto:jdodson@stpauls-church.org)

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### Our Mission

St. Paul's is a living, evolving community of Christian people who worship together according to the Anglican/Episcopal tradition. We seek to know God and God's will for us; to care for each other; and to support each other in the exercise of our ministries among our neighbors and in the wider world.

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### Parish Notes Deadline

The next issue of Parish Notes will be dated January 2021. Submissions are due as soon as possible. Items may be edited for space and/or clarity.

Nathaniel Powell

(216) 932-5815 ext. 214

[npowell@stpauls-church.org](mailto:npowell@stpauls-church.org)

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### Newcomers

We continue to welcome digital visitors to St. Paul's. Invite your friends to church by sharing our videos with them. It's an easy way to help spread the word and our story. Visitors can fill out a Welcome Card on our website to get more information about the church by clicking "I'm New."

## FROM THE VESTRY

### Update From Our Wardens

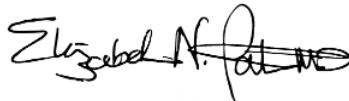
As we move into the winter, COVID-19 remains a concern for the clergy, the vestry, the staff, and all of our parishioners. We sorely wish we could come back together in the church for worship, praise, and song.

As many of you know, Jeanne convened a task force of area experts to formulate our response to the pandemic. It is composed of experts in medicine, epidemiology, construction, business, and law. Originally focused on developing metrics and guidelines, the work of the task force shifted to developing the protocols and procedures we will adopt just as soon as we can begin to regather safely. To reflect this mission, we renamed the task force the Regathering Task Force.

We also want to take this opportunity to thank the clergy and the staff for their continuing hard work in these trying and unprecedented times, and to thank all of you for the support you have provided to them. All have striven to keep us connected, to maintain our outreach, to enhance our virtual worship experiences, and to be church in a new way. We see some of our best qualities come out in times of trial!

Lastly, we expect the holidays will be hard for everyone. We cannot come together as a parish, nor will we be able to share the joys of the season with friends and family as we would under more normal, better circumstances. We pray in this season to seek and find grace, to be grateful, to grow spiritually, and to find hidden joys as Christ brings His light to this winter's darkness.

Yours in Christ,



Elizabeth "Liz" Patterson,  
Senior Warden



Sam Hartwell,  
Junior Warden

## YEAR-END GIVING

Please consider making a tax-deductible contribution. Gifts of any size enable us to fulfill our mission continue our ministries. You can do so by using our online portal accessible through our website or [onrealm.com/StPaulsCle](https://onrealm.com/StPaulsCle)

We thank you for your continued support.

### Gifts of stock:

Increase your gift to St. Paul's by donating appreciated stock or securities. Stock transfer information can be found on the church website, or you can call the parish office to have the information sent to you.

### IRA gifts:

If you are over 70 1/2, you may be able to make a tax-free charitable gift directly from your IRA to St. Paul's and satisfy your annual required minimum distribution. The IRA charitable rollover became permanent in 2015 allowing donors to make direct contributions of up to \$100,000 per year to qualified charities.

All gifts must be postmarked on or before December 31 for your gift to count during this tax year.

Please consult your financial or tax advisor to see if these giving options are right for you. For more information, please contact Pam O'Halloran, Director of Operations, at [pohalloran@stpauls-church.org](mailto:pohalloran@stpauls-church.org) or (216) 932-5815.

## STEWARDSHIP UPDATE



Over the past year we have seen the importance of pledging in ensuring the financial health of the church. Pledge commitments made last year to the 2020 annual fund have enabled St. Paul's to keep staff and adapt to the evolving requirements of continuing to serve the parish and the wider community during this pandemic. We are enormously grateful for that continued and faithful support!

Thank you to all those who have submitted a pledge to the 2021 Annual Fund campaign. It is these annual commitments of support that will sustain the church through the coming year. Like most churches, St. Paul's is almost entirely dependent on the generosity of its members. Without you — and without your support — there would be no St. Paul's.

For those who have not yet responded to the 2021 campaign request, we ask that you please do so. If you are not familiar or comfortable with pledging, we are simply asking for you to share your gift intentions for the coming year. With this information, the Vestry is able to prepare a responsible budget.

To make a pledge, please return the form that was mailed to you, or go to the church website, [www.stpauls-church.org](https://www.stpauls-church.org), and click on **Give** and the **Pledge Now**.

## COMING UP

### Winter One-Act

This year our youth will perform and record *A Wrinkle In Time*. We'll gather online to watch their hard work on January 30th. Be on the look-out for more details in the next *Parish Notes*.

### Spirituality on the Silver Screen

Our popular movie series will return, just slightly modified. We'll be sharing the list of films and how to register for the discussions on Zoom soon.

### Annual Meeting

Each year, on the 4th Sunday in January, we gather as a parish to look ahead to the coming year. On January 24, 2021, we will meet on Zoom to hear updates on current ministries and projects and to learn about new programming. We will provide instructions on how to join and vote in the coming weeks.

### Homeless Stand Down

St. Paul's has participated in the Homeless Stand Down Personal Care Kit project for 18 years. The Homeless Stand Down is a one-day event presented by Hands On Northeast Ohio, which provides resources for individuals and families facing poverty and homelessness. The event has been postponed until February. We'll be sure to let you know more as information becomes available.

## FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Parish Family,

Shortly after my mom died in October, Jessie gave me a wonderful book by Jan Richardson entitled *The Cure for Sorrow: A Book of Blessings for Times of Grief* (2016). I am savoring this book, slowly reading through it, taking in the peace offered through the words. Here is the ending to one of the blessings

But it's true,  
you know.  
You will move along  
in ways you cannot see  
from here,  
cannot envision  
even in the dreams  
that make their way to you  
through your most painful  
nights.  
I don't know how  
to end this blessing.  
I am still finding it  
myself.  
But I am here to tell you  
there is grace—  
my heart,  
is there ever grace.  
So keep your eyes open,  
is all I'm saying.  
Try not to miss it.

While these words are helpful to me in grieving my mom's death, I'm wondering if they might be helpful to all of us during this Advent Season over which bleakness hovers. December will be a holiday season unlike any we have ever known, with limited, subdued gatherings, and heartache from the loss of so many people from COVID in this country and around the world. The beautiful words from the Christmas carol based on a poem by Christina Rossetti seem more apt than ever:

In the bleak midwinter  
Frosty wind made moan  
Earth stood hard as iron  
Water like a stone  
Snow had fallen  
Snow on snow on snow  
In the bleak midwinter  
Long, long ago

But what happened in that bleak midwinter long, long ago? Love, light and hope came into the world. Jesus came so that we might always know that God is present with us and that each season, even each day brings new life. Read Richardson's blessing once again....



There is grace, ever there is grace. So, let us keep our eyes open. Where might we see the grace? In the beauty of the snow falling lightly to the earth, in the festive lights, in the music that moves our souls, in the gift of love, light, and hope...with eyes and hearts open, we will see.

What can I give him?  
Poor as I am  
If I were a shepherd  
I would give a lamb  
If I were a wise man  
I would do my part  
But what I can I give him  
Give him my heart  
Give him my heart

Blessings for this Advent season!

I have a few overdue updates for you over on the next page. I look forward to the next chapter of ministry with Nathaniel, Jessie, and Brandon.

Yours in Christ,

Jeanne+

## STAFF AND CLERGY UPDATES

A long overdue official *Parish Notes* welcome to **Nathaniel Powell**, our Director of Communications! I realized recently that though we announced Nathaniel's hiring, we did not put an announcement in *Parish Notes* – my apologies!

Nathaniel joined us on June 1st. He came to us from the Area Agency on Aging, where he worked in Marketing and Development, and served as organist at Grace Episcopal in Mansfield. He grew up in the Columbus area and graduated from Capital University *Summa Cum Laude* in May, 2015.

The timing of this hire could not have been better for St. Paul's since Nathaniel brought with him the skills to produce quality recordings. In addition, he has expanded our reach through social media and produced effective print materials as shown in this year's Annual Campaign brochure. After the first of the year, Nathaniel will begin working on updating our website.

Along with the Staff, I have enjoyed getting to know Nathaniel. We're so glad he has joined the team!



As promised in the November *Parish Notes*, I want to share more about our new Assistant Rector. **The Rev. Brandon Ashcraft** will be joining us on January 1st. Brandon was raised in the Episcopal Church in Mississippi. He has always loved liturgy. Brandon graduated from Berkeley Divinity School at Yale. Prior to seminary, Brandon was Director of Corporate Communications at Barclays in New York for six years and VP in Media Relations for Bank of America for three years. (Nathaniel is excited about this new hire!) I will let Brandon share with you his compelling story of hearing a call to ordained ministry.

Currently, Brandon is the Curate at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Austin, TX. He is getting valuable experience working on a multi-clergy staff and enjoys the large church environment. During seminary, Brandon did an internship at St. Francis Episcopal Church in Stamford, CT. He loves Cleveland and is looking forward to the move! His partner, Bob, lives in Minneapolis. We look forward to getting to know him, also, when he comes for visits.

My thanks to the Search Committee for all the time they spent preparing for interviews, engaging with the candidates, discussing their impressions with each other, and discerning the right fit for St. Paul's: Susan Armstrong, Beth Clough, Jonathan Hren, Tom Nobbe, Pete Scrivens, and Carla Williams. I'm so grateful for your service.

At this time, I also want to offer my thanks to the **Rev. Jessie Gutsell Dodson** for her tireless commitment to St. Paul's. We have all benefitted from her passion, energy, creativity, love, compassion and deep faith. She is a wonderful colleague. It is my pleasure to promote Jessie to Associate Rector. Please offer her your congratulations!





## Advent Adult Forum Series

Beginning November 29, 10 a.m.

Join us as we explore the spiritual practice of *Visio Divina* (divine seeing), a method of meditation, reflection, and prayer through a process of intentional seeing. We'll engage this spiritual discipline using images provided by [SanctifiedArt.org](https://www.sanctifiedart.org) based on an Advent

theme of "Those Who Dream," and explore accompanying Scripture.

**Do note** that this will be *in place of* our usual Zoom Coffee Hour. The regular Coffee Hour link will not work. Register for this series on our website:

[StPauls-Church.org/advent-adult-forum/](https://StPauls-Church.org/advent-adult-forum/)

## Compline

Wednesdays, 8 p.m.

Every Wednesday through Advent, we're gathering as an online community for a service of prayers. This brief and peaceful service is the last of the four services in the Daily Office (BCP, p. 127). It is descended from the night prayers said before bed at the end of the monastic round of daily prayer. You can register to join on Zoom on our website [StPauls-Church.org/Compline](https://StPauls-Church.org/Compline) or participate live on our Facebook page.



## Advent Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 6, 4 p.m.

Experience the beauty and holiness of the Advent Season at St. Paul's with the annual Service of Lessons and Carols. Traditionally, nine lessons are read, but, due to the pandemic, we will utilize our technology to offer a shorter, pre-recorded, and meaningful service with our virtual choirs, lectors, and, of course, organist. Join us on our YouTube page for the premiere: [youtube.com/c/StPaulsCle](https://youtube.com/c/StPaulsCle)

## Installation of the Tower Wreaths

Saturday, December 12

Thanks to our Men's Council, our two, large, 14-foot wide wreaths will be hoisted to the top of the south and west faces of our bell tower. The wreaths will stay illuminated through Epiphany, so be sure to drive on by while viewing the neighborhood decorations!

## The Longest Night

Sunday, December 21, 7 p.m.

There's an Advent tradition within Western Christianity of inviting people to come together around the time of the winter solstice, when there are more hours of darkness than light. Also known as "Blue Christmas," a Longest Night Gathering is a safe and sacred space to share anguish, to plead with God to remember us, to pray for justice and restoration, even to hope against hope, through our doubts and tears and fears, that "God will set things right all over the earth."

This year, as in years past, St. Paul's will partner with The Church of the Savior to hold this service. We will gather online at [cotsumc.org/live](https://cotsumc.org/live)

## What's a YouTube Premiere?

To be together as a virtual congregation, we will use the YouTube Premiere feature for some of our online services and events this Advent and Christmas. Premieres are like a live stream but for a traditional YouTube video.

We pre-record and upload, as usual, but set a specific time for the first showing. As a viewer, all you have to do is tune in when the video starts. You can even set a reminder to be notified when it does. There will be a two-minute countdown before the video starts, giving everyone a chance to sit down first.

While one of our services is premiering, you'll be to chat, add your own intercession for others to pray with you, and even send an Amen.

If you haven't already, be sure to subscribe to our YouTube page and click the little church bell to get notified at [youtube.com/c/StPaulsCle](https://youtube.com/c/StPaulsCle)

Join us for this most wonderful time of year!



Here at St. Paul's, for all of us, Christmas will look and feel different this year. And while we won't be able to gather together in-person to welcome the Christ child like we normally would, we're honored to offer new ways to celebrate the beauty of the season and to shine a light into the darkness around us.

### **Virtual Christmas Concert**

*Sunday, December 20, 4 p.m.*

Singing carols is a beloved part of Christmas celebrations for many of us, and our young singers are no exception! At the suggestion of our dedicated high school seniors, we are putting together a virtual offering of some of our favorite Christmas anthems, such as *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*, *Gesu Bambino*, and *In the Bleak Midwinter*. Our Youth Choir and St. Cecilia Choir will sing, and senior choristers Faith Shook, Anna Turner, and Bess von der Heydt will be our soloists. Join us for the premiere on our YouTube page.

### **Do Not Be Afraid**

#### **Virtual Christmas Pageant**

*Thursday, December 24, 4 p.m.*

Our Christmas Pageants are a highlight of the season. Centered on the narratives surrounding Jesus' birth from the gospels of Matthew and Luke, *Do Not Be Afraid* is like our traditional Christmas Pageant, but is designed especially for this situation. Our youth will pre-record and share their work with us on YouTube. This is a virtual event you won't want to miss!

### **Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist**

*Thursday, December 24, 8 p.m.*

There's no better way to spend Christmas Eve than with hymns and carols to join the angels in announcing the birth of the Messiah. Join us as we welcome Christ anew into our world and into our hearts.

### **Diocesan-Wide Christmas Service**

*Friday, December 25, 10 a.m.*

Join churches across Episcopal Diocese of Ohio for a service for us all to celebrate Christmas. Our very own organist, Karel, is providing the accompaniment for hymns. Look for details in *This Week @ St. Paul's* and on our website.

### **Christmas Karel-ing**

*Sunday, December 27, 4 p.m.*

Karel Paukert, our Organist-Choirmaster, will play Christmas Noëls and Pastorales for organ, as well as offer virtual collaborations with singers and instrumentalists.



## OUTREACH AND VOLUNTEER GUIDE

During this season of Advent and Christmas, we are acutely aware of the needs of our community, particularly in this year when COVID-19 has altered our landscape and threatened the well-being of so many. Here is a list of organizations seeking help for their individuals during this holiday season. We hope you will include one of these organizations in your giving this season.

If you need a link or more information, head on over to our website ([StPauls-Church.org/Christmas](http://StPauls-Church.org/Christmas)) and click on “Outreach Opportunities.”

### Fairhill Partners

For the past 20 years, St. Paul’s has been an integral part of a gift program with the Fairhill Center for Aging. This ministry provides Christmas gifts to children who are being raised by their grandparents. St. Paul’s parishioners help by providing gifts.



Soon, we will list the names and wishes of the children on our website’s Christmas page for you to sign up. Please purchase, wrap, and deliver the gifts to the vestibule outside the Parish Office. You can also participate by mailing a pre-paid debit card to our office; just be sure to let us know. Poleda Moodie will take it from there.

Be sure to look in *Sunday Notes* and *This Week @ St. Paul’s* for updates.

### St. Luke’s Episcopal Church

For many years, St. Paul’s has partnered with St. Luke’s Episcopal Church to provide Christmas gifts for people in the St. Luke’s community. This year, St. Paul’s will be delivering gift bags to St. Luke’s for 20 girls and 20 boys, ages 8 to 12. Each gift bag will cost \$50. If you would like to support this gift program, please send a check written to St. Paul’s Episcopal Church with St. Luke’s indicated on the memo line.

### Food Drive

Let’s help families in the greater Cleveland area this Christmas by participating in our monthly Food Drive on Saturday, December 19th, from 9 to 11 a.m. All you need to do is drive into the lot behind the church, pop your trunk, and our dedicated team of volunteers will handle the rest.

Do be sure that the food items are non-perishable and unexpired. If you have any questions or would like to participate, reach out to Brian Fitch: [valueunltd@aol.com](mailto:valueunltd@aol.com)

### 1000 DAYS OF LOVE

At the time of writing this, we’ve raised just under \$3,000 toward our goal of \$5,000. If we reach that goal, the Outreach Committee will match it dollar for dollar!



The ONE THOUSAND DAYS OF LOVE campaign supports Episcopal Relief & Development’s integrated programs

and partnerships with local churches and communities in Africa, Asia, and Latin America to bring positive change and to nurture children up to age six so they are learning, growing, and thriving.

Please support Episcopal Relief & Development’s ONE THOUSAND DAYS OF LOVE campaign for CHILDREN by making a donation through our page: [episcopalrelief.org/team/312639](http://episcopalrelief.org/team/312639)

### Did you know...

that a portion of proceeds from ACT II support social service organizations throughout our community? Well, it’s true!

Though we may not be able to do *indoor* shopping, you can still do some *outdoor* shopping by looking at our wonderfully curated window displays. Our windows (just across from the playground) are on par, if not better, than that of Macy’s, Higbee’s, or even Milan. Don’t believe us? Come by and see for yourself. You just may find something you like for yourself or a loved one. All you’ll need to do is call the shop (216) 932-4221 to learn more, or arrange a time to pick items up.



## Loaves and Fishes

COVID-19 made us pivot, but it won't stop us! Loaves and Fishes continued to provide carry-out meals each month this year to our guests at New Life at Calvary. We'll carry on in similar fashion for Christmas Dinner, too. We'll miss the joyful singing, serving, and dining together, for sure, but there are still plenty of ways to participate:

- If you normally donate money, you can still do that. Your donation will go towards the ham. Overflow will be applied to January's meal. Please make your donations directly to the church, earmarked "2020 Loaves & Fishes Christmas Dinner." You can do that on Realm or by mailing a check to the office. Please make your donations by December 10th.
- If you normally serve, please write some Christmas cards for the guests. Make them general enough so they can go in anyone's bag. Tell them how much you will miss celebrating with them, and why. Sign your first name. Write "Happy Holidays from St. Paul's Episcopal Church" on the envelope. We'd like to put a card in each of the 40 bags. Email Julie ([julie@sandvickarchitects.com](mailto:julie@sandvickarchitects.com)) by December 1 with the number of cards you will write. Plan to deliver your cards to the church office or Julie's house (2199 Bellfield Ave.), no later than December 10th.
- You can still bake cookies. Please package in snack size Ziploc baggies and deliver to the church office by noon on December 14th.
- You can also bake macaroni and cheese. Contact Jennie Kaffen ([jennie.kaffen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jennie.kaffen@sbcglobal.net)) for recipe and instructions.
- Donate the actual bags. While we usually use plastic grocery bags, it would be a nice touch to have fabric for Christmas. They should be new bags, reusable grocery size, holiday colors. We need 40. Maybe 2-3 families can pool their resources and do this one. Email Julie by December 1 if you are donating bags. Plan to deliver your bags to the church office no later than December 10th.

Questions? Don't hesitate to email Julie or Jennie.

## Open Doors Academy

Every year for the holidays, Open Doors Academy gives every one of its kids a gift to keep them warm during the winter months. The annual tradition is to give its kids a new, warm piece of ODA swag to wear throughout the winter. This year, ODA will be giving every child a long sleeved, tie-dye t-shirt to bring some joy and brightness into their lives.



We are asking members of the St. Paul's community to support this endeavor so that every child at ODA's nine Remote Learning Centers (including the one at St. Paul's!) will have a gift for the holidays.

[weblink.donorperfect.com/OpenDoorsAcademy/ODAHolidayGiftsforScholars/StPaulsEpiscopalChurch](http://weblink.donorperfect.com/OpenDoorsAcademy/ODAHolidayGiftsforScholars/StPaulsEpiscopalChurch)

## Adopt-a-Family

Some families have identified special needs that go beyond the expectations set for this program. That's why Open Doors Academy assembled an *Adopt-a-Family: Special Requests Fund* to raise money to handle these unique circumstances.

What are some examples? This includes:

- New mattresses, bed frames, pillows, sheets, and comforters for children without beds
- Computer desks for kids who don't have a great place to do homework or learn at home
- Bikes or other big-ticket items (if funds are available) for kids or families who really need or really want something in particular
- Emergency support for families who — for whatever accident or unforeseen reason — have their holidays ruined and need help.

The St. Paul's Community can make gifts to our Adopt-a-Family Special Requests fund here:

[weblink.donorperfect.com/2020aafspecialrequests](http://weblink.donorperfect.com/2020aafspecialrequests)

# YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

## For Our Parishioners and Loved Ones Who Died This Year

If you were unable to join us for our annual Service of Remembrance, we encourage you to watch the recording of it at [tinyurl.com/RemembranceService](http://tinyurl.com/RemembranceService).

Claudia Christine Anderson, Stephanie Callister, Elisabeth Reese Chance, Kevin Cleveland, Paula Coppedge, Linda Crawford, Julia Bourne Cutler, Robert R. Cutler, Richard N. Distelhorst, Alan Donley, John Dyer, Sharon Leah Beal Eley, Lloyd "Sandy" Ellis, Jr., David Essig, Gaetana Seguino Friedman, Elizabeth "Betty" Gaetjens, Mary Malone Gardner, Ann Goens, Munroe Gordon, Dolores Gruen, Gladys Marilyn Haddad, Michael Laptiuk, Sally Lasch, Charlotte Berkowitz Lash, Jacqueline Leinbach, John Francis Lewis, Michelle

Cooper Long, John D. Matyazic, Betsy McKay, Henry Lewis Meyer III, Holden C. Mitchell, William A. Mitchell, Daniel Alan Orlock, Marina Paynter, Mary Ellen Weir Peter, Johnny Reese, James Sims Reid, Jr., Barry Reynolds, Vaughn Rubin, Michael Salzinger, Annie Burgess Sancho, Ramona Edith Sancho, Lynn Schell, Gladys Philippa Smith, Jeffrey Hall Smythe, Lael Anne Stone, Freddie Robert Taylor, Sylvia Han Ting, William Henry West, Amanda Kinney Wheaton, Carmel Whiting, and Connor Wilson-Reichert

*Almighty God, with whom still live the spirits of those who die in the Lord, and with whom the souls of the faithful are in joy and felicity: We give you heartfelt thanks for the good examples of all your servants, who, having finished their course in faith, now find rest and refreshment. May we, with all who have died in the true faith of your holy Name, have perfect fulfillment and bliss in your eternal and everlasting glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (BCP, 503)*

## For the Newly Baptized

Peyton Elizabeth Klingman  
Baptized on September 12, 2020  
Daughter of Shannon Cahill and Sean Klingman  
Great-granddaughter of Don Rosenlund

Everett Paul Kuntz  
son of Michelle Kuntz and Kevin Kuntz,  
along with his father Kevin Paul Kuntz  
Baptized on October 25, 2020

Evelyn Lucia Steinberg  
Baptized on October 18, 2020  
Daughter of Adam and Abbey Steinberg  
Granddaughter of Charlie & Lindsey Jones

Hannah Emilia Repko  
Baptized on November 1, 2020  
Daughter of Megan and Collin Repko

*Heavenly God, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon these your servants the forgiveness of sin, and have raised them to the new life of grace. Sustain them, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give them an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. Amen. (BCP, 308)*

On Saturday morning, the first virtual convention of The Diocese of Ohio began promptly at 9 a.m. on ZOOM. This “location” for a convention provided excellent audio and visual perception. It is a little like watching television, but a bit more interactive. There are a lot of learning curves involved with this type of convention, and today was no exception. I think the experience provided a profound picture of the range of technology experience across the board for everyone involved today. There were a few glitches along the way — but that also happens in person! The level of patience was evident as well. The level of support behind the scenes was, I am certain, extensive, and that resulted in a good experience conducting the business of the people in our Diocese.

**Worship:**

This was the biggest loss in today’s convention. Understandable in the need to move on without it, I really enjoy the union of attendees at the Convention Worship service

each year. The convention began with a virtual choir, of choristers from around the Diocese, with organ music from St. Paul’s Karel Paukert, and, while it was meaningful and very well done, it was not a hymn that says “Episcopalian.”



**Presentations:**

The Most Reverend Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church, gave a welcome address in which he remembered the “profound need for God” during this time, and the reinforcement of our Diocesan message to “Love God, Love Your Neighbor, and Change the World.”

The Rev. Gay Jennings, President of the House of Deputies, shared thoughts about governance in our church, reminding us of the way we all have a voice when we participate in this governance of holy work.

The Right Reverend Mark Hollingworth, Jr, gave his address prior to lunch. His major points were:

- Like all of us, the question “where do we go from here” looms in the focus of our minds.
- There are difficult decisions being made.
- The need to take extreme measures now to prevent extreme consequences later is diocesan wide.
- Seek justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God.
- Love your neighbor as much as you love yourself.
- Live within the context of the present time and place. Here am I, God.

**Voting:**

We used a voting program called TurningPoint, and it was well explained and easy to use. Gone are the long stretches of time waiting for results, as quickly saw the results with beautiful graphs. Most ballots were uncontested, and the only time we needed a second ballot was to break a tie for the ranking order of General Convention Alternate Delegates (that determines the one for whom expenses would be paid). This goes really fast sometimes, and it can be a little intimidating. Amendments to amendments to a motion are undeniably challenging to even the most experienced parliamentarian. We are fortunate to have excellent parliamentary experience leading the way.

A new Regional Disciplinary Board was approved, with one lay and one clergy representative for each of six contiguous Dioceses: Northwestern Pennsylvania, Ohio, Pittsburgh, Southern Ohio, West Virginia and Western New York.

The Commission on Racial Understanding was renamed the Commission for Racial Justice.

**Adjournment:**

The convention adjourned shortly before 1:00 p.m. — a most considerable advantage to virtual conventions!

— Carol Loveless

**Christmas Flower Decorations**

While we may not be able to gather in person, we still decorate the altar and nave for our recordings! If you would like to make a donation in memory or in honor of someone this Christmas, please complete and send in this form to the parish office by December 14. Make checks payable to St. Paul’s with Christmas Altar in the memo.

Alternatively, you can donate online by signing in to Realm via the parish website and clicking on **GIVE**, then choosing **Christmas Flowers**.

In memory of:  In honor of:  In thanksgiving for: (print)

\_\_\_\_\_

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed (circle):      \$25      \$50      \$100      Other \_\_\_\_\_



## PARISH NOTES

St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
2747 Fairmount Boulevard  
Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44106

TIME-VALUED MATERIAL — DO NOT DELAY

StPauls-Church.org  
(216) 932-5815



@StPaulsCle



It's not too late to participate in our Love Lives On stewardship campaign! If you'd like to make your pledge for next year, find out how on page 3.