

PARISH NOTES

JANUARY 2021 • Vol. 62 No. 5

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
CLEVELAND HEIGHTS, OHIO



Our choirs teamed up to present our annual Advent Service of Lessons and Carols. Watch it again on our YouTube page.

You're Invited!

Annual Parish Meeting

Sunday, January 24, 10 a.m.

We'll gather as a parish to reflect on 2020 and look ahead to the coming year. We'll hear updates on current ministries and projects, and learn about programming. In addition, the 2021 Budget will be presented, and we will give thanks to outgoing Vestry members and elect new members. Learn more, including how to participate, on page 2.

Winter One-Act

A Wrinkle in Time

Saturday, January 30, 7 p.m.

Proudly presented by CAST, St. Paul's Youth brings to life this timeless sci-fi classic about a misfit girl who must travel to another planet to save her father and find her courage. Starring Celia Doherty as Meg Murray and directed by Thomas Vodrey. We'll watch together on Zoom, so email Lauren for the link: ldockery@stpauls-church.org

WHO WE ARE

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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

www.StPauls-Church.org

Jeanne Leinbach, Rector
jleinbach@stpauls-church.org

Jessie Dodson, Assoc. Rector
jdodson@stpauls-church.org

Brandon Ashcraft,
Asst. Rector
bashcraft@stpauls-church.org

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.

Parish Notes Deadline

The next issue of Parish Notes will be dated February 2021. Submissions are due 1/18/2021 to:
Nathaniel Powell
(216) 932-5815 ext. 214
npowell@stpauls-church.org

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."

2021 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN REPORT

We are enormously grateful to all those who have made a pledge or gift to the 2021 annual campaign. These gifts enable us to help ease the growing suffering and divisions in our world during this troubled time and ensure the continued health of the church.

But we still need your help!

Your support means everything!

As of December 30, we have received 295 pledges or gifts for the 2021 campaign totaling \$1,427,000. This is well short of our goal of 375 pledges for \$1,520,000. This past year was challenging on countless levels and many members of our congregation have been impacted.

We understand this and know that they are doing what they can. But for those who have not been impacted financially and have not yet offered your pledge for 2021, we ask that you please take a moment to consider your financial support of St. Paul's and how you can help make a difference for the church and the communities we serve. Every pledge is important and valued!

Thank you!



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

On Sunday, January 24th, at 10 a.m., we will gather as a parish to reflect and look ahead to the coming year. We'll hear updates on current ministries and projects, and learn about programming. In addition, the 2021 Budget will be presented, and we will give thanks to outgoing Vestry members and elect new members.

We will be using our Zoom Coffee Hour time and link, so if you're not already registered, you can sign up here: StPauls-Church.org/CoffeeHour

Notice of Vestry Nominations

The following slate has been presented to the Vestry for election at the Annual Meeting: **Mark Souther, Jim Ptacek, Susan Quill, and Cathy Lewis.**

Our thanks to the members of the Nominating Committee for their prayerful consideration of the task they were given: Debra Mitchell, Carl Carter, EB Donley, Bill Povel, and Chris Smythe.

According to the parish by-laws, the Nominating Committee sets forth a slate containing the names of as many candidates as are needed to fill the open Vestry positions. The by-laws further provide that: *other nominations for such vacancies may be made by fifteen qualified voters of the Parish. Any such nominations shall be submitted in writing, signed by the nominators, and shall be delivered to the Rector not later than twelve days prior to the annual meeting. Thereupon, the nominations shall be deemed closed. [Article IV, Section 5]*

CLERGY REFLECTION

Dear Parish Family,

This past September, I saw a post from a Shaker Heights school teacher, Jackie Conway-Scanlon, reflecting on things she's discovered since she began remote-teaching her 5th and 6th grade students. I've thought about her words often and wanted to do a similar exercise for our own ministry setting. So, here are some of the "silver linings" I've seen since we transitioned to "being the church remotely":



- Thanks to the little Zoom boxes, more people are learning each other's names than I've ever seen before. No nametag ministry, no matter how good, could have helped us with this learning! We're out of our Tucker Hall clusters of friends and family and building relationships across the church.
- We see each other in a different context. Normally we leave our homes and enter into the church building to gather. Now we get to see glimpses of each other's homes, and by doing so we get to know each other in a more personal way.
- Families are generally together more. Gone are some of the unceasing pressures of scheduling ourselves and our kids into oblivion. Families are spending more time together (and worshiping and learning together) more than they ever would've otherwise.
- We're connected to the church across the world. We've been able to collaborate with speakers and preachers across the country that we never would've dreamed of being able to a year ago. Tim Wise, Diana Butler Bass, guest preachers, and soon, Austin Channing Brown have all spent time with our community.
- We're all watching each other learn. Kids are watching parents learn and work and parishioners and clergy are watching each other learn. Generations are teaching each other lessons (even if it's how to unmute!) and it is powerful to see.
- The art of conversation is front and center. Normally many of us talk at once, side conversations take place, and people leave and enter the room. Now we're practicing the art of listening and sharing in even more intentional ways.

Ms. Conway-Scanlon ended her reflection by acknowledging what she really misses. I want to do the same. Here's what I really miss:

- The hubbub and excitement of standing in the Narthex as the acolytes, choirs, clergy, and parishioners enter the Sanctuary.
- The sound of our voices blending together in harmony as we sing hymns. The thrill in my chest when Karel starts "going wild" on the organ.
- Hugs.
- Sitting in my "second office" of Luna Bakery, sharing a cup of tea and meaningful conversation about hopes and dreams.
- Looking around the communion rail and seeing all the faces of the children as we begin the Eucharistic Prayer.
- Filling the sanctuary for important events in our community and personal lives.

What about you? What silver linings have you seen? What will you be excited to do again?

May the new year bring us even more learnings, the space to grieve those who won't return to the building with us, and a joyful reunion when we can safely be together again.

God's Peace,

The Rev. Jessie Gutsell Dodson

OUTREACH

College Now

College Now, a local scholarship and educational attainment support network, is seeking a new class of mentors to begin this summer. College Now provides financial aid counseling and scholarships, retention services, and advising to over 29,000 students and adult learners. Many of the students are from low-income families and are first-generation college students.

The time investment is minimal, but the results could be big! You'll be asked to send two emails per month and have a check-in with your mentee three times per year.

If you're interested in becoming a mentor to a student, visit collegenowgc.org/become-a-mentor/. If accepted, a Zoom orientation will be scheduled in the spring and matches will be made this summer.

Homeless Stand Down

Though there will not be a large, in-person gathering this year, The Cleveland Cares Packages will be made and distributed to those experiencing homelessness. These packages will have a variety of items including essentials, clothing, food, and things that make clients feel loved.

If you would like to learn more about the ways to be involved with the 2021 Homeless Stand Down, visit their website: handson.bvuvolunteers.org/homelessstanddown

MEET OUR NEW ASSISTANT RECTOR

Dear People of St. Paul's,

I'm delighted to join the St. Paul's community as one of your priests! The Rev. Jessie Gutsell Dodson and I have been good friends since seminary, so I've been hearing about this wonderful community for some time. I can't wait to get to work, and to share in ministry and fellowship with you all.

A little about me: I am a life-long Episcopalian who grew up in Tupelo, Mississippi. I began to encounter God in the pages of our Prayer Book at a very young age and have a deep and abiding love for the Anglican liturgical tradition. I went on to attend the University of the South, Sewanee, for my undergraduate studies. I spent the next 15 years in New York City working in corporate communications for financial services firms before heading to seminary at the Berkeley Divinity at Yale (where I met Jessie!).

After I graduated seminary, I took a brief summer detour to work at an Anglican cathedral in Madrid before moving to Minneapolis to complete a hospital chaplaincy residency. I enjoyed hospital chaplaincy but felt a strong pull to parish ministry, so I headed south to Austin, Texas, to serve as a curate at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd and to be closer to my parents and sister who all now live in Texas. Now, I'm excited to begin my next chapter in Cleveland. My partner, Bob Vroman, lives in Minneapolis and is eager to visit Cleveland regularly and eventually make this his home as well.

I look forward to working alongside Jeanne and Jessie to lead worship and to share in the sacramental ministry of this community, and am equally excited to begin walking with all of you as we live into our baptismal call to follow Christ and make his love known in the world. As with everything in our lives right now, transitions are more complicated and bring some unique challenges. I know it will be some time before I meet many of you in person. But in the meantime, I am excited to begin getting to know you virtually!

God's peace,

Brandon+



Coco, Bob, and Brandon leaving Texas for the CLE

Young Adult Formation

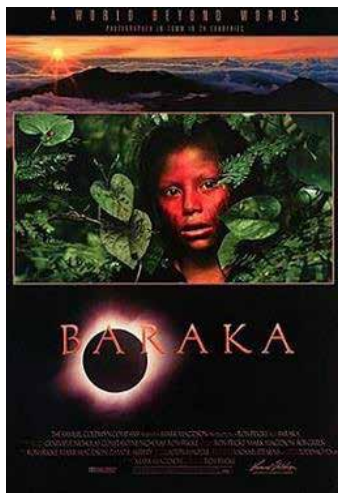
Wednesday, January 20, 6:30 p.m.

Parishioners and friends in their 20s and 30s are invited to gather over Zoom to catch up with each other and meet our new priest Brandon Ashcraft. We'll meet on Wednesday, January 20th from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Register at tinyurl.com/SPCYAG.

SPIRITUALITY ON THE SILVER SCREEN

For 2021, our series will look and feel more like a book club. You'll watch the film on your own and then, for about an hour, we'll talk about the movie, its spiritual themes, and learn why the host selected it on **Thursdays from 7 to 8 p.m.**, we'll gather over Zoom to discuss.

Many of these films are available through your local library for free or to rent or purchase. For direct links, questions, and to register, visit our website: stpauls-church.org/2021silverscreen/



Baraka (1992)

January 7th
Hosted by: Kaneala Nelson
Where to Stream: Amazon Prime, YouTube

Shot in breathtaking 70mm in 24 countries on six continents, *Baraka* is a transcendent global tour that explores the sights and sounds of the human condition like nothing you have ever seen or felt before. These are the wonders of a world without words, viewed through man and nature's own prisms of symmetry,

savagery, harmony, and chaos. From the filmmakers of *Samsara*.



Au Revoir Les Enfants (1987)

January 14th
Hosted by: Tom Brown
Where to Stream: Kanopy, Criterion Channel, HBO Max

This late work (translated as "*Goodbye, Children*") from French writer-director Louis Malle tells a heartbreaking story of friendship and devastating loss concerning two boys living in Nazi-occupied France. At a

provincial Catholic boarding school, the precocious youths enjoy true camaraderie — until a secret is revealed. Based on events from Malle's own childhood, the film is a subtle, precisely observed tale of courage, cowardice, and tragic awakening.

As It Is In Heaven

January 21st
Hosted by: Terry Gutsell
Where to Stream: Hoopla, Kanopy

This 2004 Swedish musical film was a box office hit and nominated for Best Foreign Language Film at the 77th Academy Awards. Daniel, a famous international conductor, returns to his small childhood town in northern Sweden for early retirement. Reluctantly, he agrees to help lead the church choir, and in turn he starts helping the choir grow and develop, rediscovering his own joy in music.



Silence (2016)

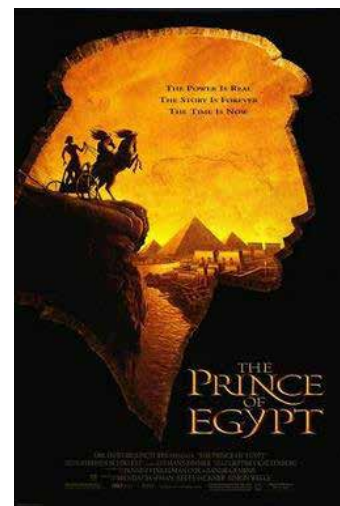
January 28th
Hosted by William Vodrey
Where to Stream: Pluto

In this passion project from director Martin Scorsese (who spent nearly three decades trying to get it made), a 17th-century Portuguese Jesuit priest (Andrew Garfield) receives word that his mentor (Liam Neeson) has renounced his faith while on a mission in Japan. Concerned, he travels to the island nation with another clergyman (Adam Driver) to investigate, only to find that the country's Christian population are being systematically exterminated. Witnessing the inglorious reality of torture and martyrdom committed against Japanese Christians rocks his faith to the core. Based on Shusaku Endo's acclaimed 1966 novel.

The Prince of Egypt (1998)

February 4th
Hosted by Tim Wutrich
Where to Stream: Hulu, Peacock Premium

The film is the Dreamworks Animation adaptation of the Book of Exodus with an extensive voice cast: Val Kilmer, Ralph Fiennes, Michelle Pfeiffer, Sandra Bullock, Jeff Goldblum, Helen Mirren, Steve Martin, and Martin Short



TBD

February 11th
Hosted by The Rev. Brandon Ashcraft

Fairhill Partners



This year's gift program with the Fairhill Center for Aging was a resounding success. But, on the December 16th deadline, it wasn't looking good — only 16 of the 99 kids we adopted were claimed. Luckily at the same time Poleda Moodie came to pick up the gifts, Stacey Souther dropped off her donations, saw the nearly empty drop box, and sprang into action.

Stacey made phone calls to family, friends, and parishioners, and even KeyBank. KeyBank saw to it that the 26 gift cards we needed were taken care of. One friend of Stacey's, who works in the nonprofit space, donated toys from a recent drive.

"This was the most phenomenal thing I've seen in a long time," Poleda wrote. "We took everything [to Fairhill] and they were stunned at what we brought." This truly was a blessing, an example of what we can do when we're apart, and what Christmas is about.

Greens Sale

I'm pleased to report that Brian Thompson, Dennis Coughlin, and I successfully completed the annual Men's Council venture to Target's Steelyard Commons store. (We trace this tradition to at least 2007.)

Following the shopping trip, we delivered over \$3,800 worth of clothing, toys, personal care items, and gift cards to Journey Center for Safety and Healing (formerly Domestic Violence and Child Advocacy Center). I cannot truly reflect the joy and appreciation we received from the directors and staff.

Each year, the Men's Council outreach project is only possible because of our sales of Christmas greens and poinsettias. (We also appreciate the generous support of Target store management each year.)

It is so exciting to read Brian's report of our successful online sale this year, which guarantees that we can return to Target and Journey Center in 2021. Well done! — *Pete Scriven*



Greens Workshop

The Eliza Backus Guild's 2020 Greens Workshop featured contactless curbside pickup and masks, but there was no shortage of holiday spirit! Enthusiastic parishioners and friends took home their fresh greens and decorations and made 26 centerpieces, 21 boxwood tabletop trees, and nine evergreen door swags. Thank you to all who participated!

WINTER CONVOCATION IN (OF COURSE) A NEW FORMAT

Convocation will be held online from February 7th to the 14th with a series of events. Each of the following workshops will be offered once on a weeknight between February 8 and 12. We will use a one-hour (maximum) online format that will begin at 7 p.m. Bishop Hollingsworth will prerecord sermons for Sunday, February 7 and 14, to cap the online event.

Assigned prework will be provided for each workshop (watching a video, reading a chapter or two of something, etc.) so the online time will be spent directly diving into and discussing the content. All events are free, and registration for each particular workshop will be required. You may attend as many or few as you like. Here are the workshops. The schedule and registration information are coming soon.

Looking at God's church now and in the future is a keynote of every Convocation — *The Rev. Sean Steele* is Vicar and founding clergy of St. Isidore Episcopal, a 5-year-old experiment in "Traditioned Innovation" located in Spring TX. St. Isidore is a network of small-batch, sacramental, prayer book rooted missional communities. We will examine aspects of this dispersed church.

Building Relationships is a favorite part of every Convocation — In her new book, *A Family Like Mine: Biblical Stories of Love, Loss, and Longing*, *The Rev. Rosalind C Hughes, Church of the Epiphany, Euclid*, [finds] that regardless of how we define family, the ancient stories of the Bible shape how we claim our place in the household of God today.... Hughes links her personal stories with those of the Bible and offers space for us to do the same." Through prayerful and imaginative engagement, this workshop dances with some of the characters who are our biblical forerunners in faith, members of our faith history, and fellow children of the living God, bringing our spiritual family tree to life. Workshop participants will each receive a copy of Rosalind's excellent book.

Laughter and fun are part of every Convocation — Game Night: *The youth of the Diocese of Ohio* will lead us in a multi-generational, interactive, exciting game night. Followed by Compline. All ages welcome! Games like Pictionary, Hot Seat, Would You Rather, Show and Tell, Trivia, and maybe more!



Spiritual Formation is essential to every Convocation — Building upon a great earlier event at Bellwether, *The Rev. Anna Sutterisch* will lead us in Soultending: Experiential (and experimental) Spirituality. Using our bodies, found objects around our house, and some simple materials, a variety of multi-sensory activities will connect us with ourselves, each other, and God.

Exploring connections between work, faith, and vocation ground every Convocation — *Chef Lonny Gatlin and Farmer Kyle Mitchell* share the ways they experience God and faith in their vocations of hospitality, cooking, farming, and husbandry. Accompanying them on this exploration is *Dr. Kate Giloolly, St. Luke's, Cleveland* who recently finished her Doctor of Ministry degree at Bexley Seabury Seminary.

Worship is an important part of every Convocation — *Bishop Hollingsworth* will offer two prerecorded sermons — one for Sunday, February 7, and one for Sunday, February 14. All parishes are invited to incorporate these sermons into their online offerings for those two Sundays. These sermons, and our shared experiences of them, will kick off and wrap up the Convocation.

More information about scheduling and registration is coming soon. See you at Convocation!

Share Your Stories

As 2021 begins, it's important we share our experiences and mission moments. Have you interacted with someone that resulted in a positive outcome for you or the other individual? Have you heard or seen something that exemplifies our mission? Have you interacted or witnessed another supporting our mission during the pandemic? We want to share your stories! There are just two simple steps:

1. Type a one page (or less), double-spaced narrative describing your mission moment;
2. Mail or email your writing to us at info@stpauls-church.org

If you want us to include your submission for the 2020 Annual Report, send it in *as soon as possible*.



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

TIME-VALUED MATERIAL — DO NOT DELAY

StPauls-Church.org
(216) 932-5815



@StPaulsCle

COFFEE HOUR RE-ZOOMS



Sundays 10 to 10:45 a.m.
Same Link, Same Time:
stpauls-church.org/coffeehour

