

# A Note from The Rector

My dearest Saint Paul's,

I would be in error if I did not begin by expressing my gratitude for the outpouring of love and support that has been shown to me and my family during this difficult season. The cards, flowers, emails, hugs, and prayers have been so very appreciated. We have felt your care and concern for us—thank you. Nothing can fill the void that is left in the wake of Mum's death, but the knowledge that we are in a place with people that love us deeply is a balm to our hurting hearts.

As we near the end of the program year, I want to share an upcoming change to our electronic communications. This edition of Parish Notes will be the final Parish Notes in its current format.

Beginning early in the fall we will be moving to a quarterly communication that functions more like a magazine or journal. There will be longer format essays from staff and parishioners, colorful pictures, and more.

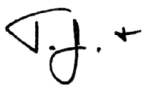
The hope is that this new format will allow us to go a little deeper into topics that we do not necessarily have the chance to cover in other formats.

We will still have the e-news and Sunday Notes for routine communications; as well we will make use of dedicated emails for items that need to be communicated more quickly.

I know that any change can be difficult, but I hope that this will be a relatively smooth transition and that the more in-depth format of the new communication will make it more than worth it.

Paschal blessings,

The Reverend T.J. Freeman *SMMS*  
Seventeenth Rector  
*Saint Paul's Episcopal Church*



*Sample article for the new Parish Notes format on page 6*

# Worship

## The Feast of the Ascension

Thursday, May 14, 6 p.m., *St. Martin's Chapel*

Join us for the celebration of the Holy Eucharist on the Feast of the Ascension. *The Rector, T.J. Freeman, will preach.*



The Feast of the Ascension celebrates Christ's final moments on earth, his ascension into heaven, and the promise of the Holy Spirit. Through scripture we learn of the fulfillment of the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms; everything written about Christ was elucidated to his apostles in his final days. Jesus instructed his disciples to stay in Jerusalem until the arrival of the Spirit, to then proclaim the repentance and forgiveness of sins to all nations in his name.

## Day of Pentecost: Combined Service

Sunday, May 24, 10 a.m.  
*ASL Interpreted, [Livestream](#)*

We will have one liturgy at 10 a.m. on the Day of Pentecost, Sunday, May 24.

In honor of Pentecost, our Workshop Adventures group will offer a brief play in the Nave following the postlude. If you're not able to stay, you're welcome to slip out during the brief postlude. But we hope you'll stay to see how hard our theatrical fourth–sixth graders have been working to learn and share the story of the coming of the Holy Spirit. Children are warmly invited to come forward and sit on the floor so they can see the 10-minute production. The Pentecost Party with the East Coast Custard truck will begin immediately following the play—come celebrate with us!



## Final Bible Study Before Summer Break

Thursday, May 28, 9 a.m., *Sanders Room*

During the program year, Weekly Bible Study offers a chance to take a closer look at the readings for the

# Worship

upcoming Sunday. These sessions are typically led by the preacher who will be covering the readings during their sermon. While we value this time for small-group reflection, after May 28, we will take a break over the summer and resume in the fall.

If you would like to continue the Thursday morning habit of beginning with reflection, consider joining us for Morning Prayer services on Thursdays at 8:30 a.m. in the Chapel of the Cross.

## An Invitation to Holy Baptism

If you are interested in being baptized or having your child baptized, please email the Rector, T.J. Freeman: [TJFreeman@StPaulsCLE.org](mailto:TJFreeman@StPaulsCLE.org). Baptisms are planned for Trinity Sunday, May 31. Baptisms may be planned on other dates if needed.

## Last Sunday of the Program Year: Trinity Sunday, May 31

At St. Paul's, Trinity Sunday marks the final Sunday of our program year. In the Gospel reading for this day, Christ commissions his disciples to "Go." In the same manner, this Sunday gathers us before we are sent into the summer months and the changes brought by a new season.

## Children & Youth Sunday

During the 9 a.m. service



On Sunday, May 31, St. Paul's will celebrate Children & Youth Sunday. The Episcopal Church firmly believes that children and youth of all ages and stages are full participants in weekly worship. Whether it's babies wailing from the pews, toddlers climbing over the altar rail, or acolytes giggling during a

long sermon, all our kids are essential to St. Paul's community as we witness and live out the gospel.

On Children & Youth Sunday, we invite kids to lead nearly every part of the service at 9 a.m. We hope families with children of all ages will show up and represent our vibrant community of young people!

## Popsicle Party

~10:10 a.m., during the Formation Hour, Courtyard

Our children and youth, their adults, and our church school volunteers will gather for a popsicle party! We'll cheer on all the kids who are moving up to new classrooms next year and honor our volunteer church school teachers. We hope you'll join us!

## Last Sunday with St. Paul's Senior Choir

During the 11:15 a.m. service, *Livestream*

The 11:15 a.m. service on Trinity Sunday will be the last Sunday with our Senior Choir before the summer break. Led by our choristers, let us join our voices together for the final time until the choir returns in September.



## Summer Service Schedule Begins - June 7

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

9 a.m. | Front Lawn (weather permitting),  
*ASL interpreted*

10:30 a.m. | Nave, [\*Livestream\*](#)

## Pride Sunday at St. Paul's Sunday, June 7, at all services

We'll celebrate with a Pride Eucharist at each service. This Sunday celebrates the full inclusion of the LGBTQ+ community in the life of our parish, with readings, prayers, and music chosen to highlight the diversity and goodness of all God's creation.



## Front Page Collage

**Maundy Thursday 1:** Family Service. **2:** Agape Meal. **3:** Proper Liturgy. **Good Friday 4:** Community Ecumenical Service. **5:** Crafting at the Family Service. **6:** Holy Saturday Family Vigil. **Easter Day 7:** Scenes from worship services **8:** Easter Egg Hunt! Fish Fry! **9:** Bishop Visit and Confirmations. **10:** Casserole Crew. **11:** Women's Retreat at Bellweather Farm.

# Children & Youth

## The Village Playground Gathering Saturday, May 23, 10 – 11:30 a.m.



Families with young children (babies through third grade) are invited to spend the morning on the playground! Come hang out with other St. Paul's families and children. Please email Susan with any questions: [SArmstrong@StPaulsCLE.org](mailto:SArmstrong@StPaulsCLE.org)

## TotalChaos Gathering Saturday, May 23, 3 – 5:30 p.m.



Students in grades 4-6 are invited to a TotalChaos gathering! Please RSVP so we know to expect you: [TinyURL.com/25-26youth](http://TinyURL.com/25-26youth). Email Susan with any questions: [SArmstrong@StPaulsCLE.org](mailto:SArmstrong@StPaulsCLE.org)

## Youth Group: Grades 7+ Sundays, 5:30 - 8 p.m.



Youth Group meets weekly with time to eat, play games, talk about real things, and be ourselves. Let us know by Friday afternoon if your teen plans to come and if you can help with dinner: [TinyURL.com/25-26youth](http://TinyURL.com/25-26youth).

## Summer Programs at Bellwether Farm

Get some fresh air and connect with others in the Diocese of Ohio! Learn more about summer programs at Bellwether Farms on their website: [BellwetherFarm.com](http://BellwetherFarm.com).

A few highlights include: Youth summer camps, Mothers and Fathers Day events, volunteer cleanup days, weekend or week-long "stay-cations," and more!

# Formation

## The Forum Wraps Up

Join us for our final three Forums before our summer break.

## Belonging & Creation - Bellwether Farm Sunday, May 3, 10:10 a.m., Dining Room

Bellwether Farm, a ministry of the Diocese of Ohio, is a camp, retreat and education center, and working farm. Stratt Byars, Bellwether's Executive Director, will be here to talk about how this beautiful sanctuary deepens our spirituality and sense of the wholeness that affirms our connection to all of creation. (He'll also be sharing some treats made at Bellwether!)



## Reflections on Belonging Sunday, May 10, 10:10 a.m., Tucker Hall

Please join the Rector for a conversation on Belonging through the lens of story, Eucharist, and community.



## Celebrating the Year in Review Sunday, May 17, 10:10 a.m., Dining Room

Our final Forum of the year! We'll look at how we have deepened our sense of Belonging over the past year and where God might be calling us for the future. *Led by the Adult Formation Committee.*



## Episcopal Church Women (ECW): National Day of Prayer (NDP) Thursday, May 7, 7 p.m., online

The Prayer Life team of the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) of the Diocese of Ohio is offering an online prayer session for this year's National Day of Prayer (NDP). Register online for the National Day of Prayer event: [TinyURL.com/2026ecw-ndp](http://TinyURL.com/2026ecw-ndp)

# Outreach & Community

## St. Paul's Flower Ministry

The Flower Ministry delivers our Sunday morning altar flowers to St. Paul's family who can't be with us for services. Each week we have four or five vases of flowers to deliver either on Sundays, after the 11:15 service, or Mondays. There are two ways to support this caring ministry. We need volunteers to:

- Put flowers in vases after the 11:15 a.m. Sunday service.
- Take the vases to assigned recipients on Sunday or Monday

Your help with one or both of these steps is welcome!

We will continue delivering each week until the end of the program year. Can you help extend a sense of belonging in our community? Contact Cathy Albers ([cla2@case.edu](mailto:cla2@case.edu)) or Judy Stevens ([reekieed@aol.com](mailto:reekieed@aol.com)).

## Casserole Crew

Thursday, May 12, 4:30 p.m., *Basement Kitchen*

Volunteer with a great cause! The informal "Casserole Crew" preps, makes, and bakes casseroles for a meal hosted by the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless (NEOCH).



We'll have the recipes, tools, and aprons; just bring yourself. OR, help ahead of time by shopping for ingredients for the casseroles.

There is a job for every experience level and any amount of time you can offer!

Hosted in coordination with the Women's Fellowship Group and Membership Engagement Coordinator; ALL chefs are welcome! Questions? Email Kirsten: [KRadivoy@StPaulsCLE.org](mailto:KRadivoy@StPaulsCLE.org).

## Power in Progress: 15 Years of GCC Growth

Sunday, May 17, 3 - 5 p.m., *Olivet Institutional Baptist Church*

As founding members of Greater Cleveland Congregations (GCC), all St. Paul's parishioners are invited to join in the celebration of GCC's 15 years

of positive impact on Greater Cleveland. GCC's founding leaders will reflect on all that has been and share enthusiastic anticipation for what is to come.

RSVP: [TinyUrl.com/may26-gcc](https://tinyurl.com/may26-gcc)

Questions or need a ride? Contact Julie Micheletti: [MichelettiJulie@gmail.com](mailto:MichelettiJulie@gmail.com)

## ACT II Shop Jumble Sale

Saturday, June 6, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

The ACT II Shop is holding its Jumble Sale on Saturday, June 6. Fill a bag from our sale area for just \$8. Then, after noon, everything (**jumble bags AND shop floor items**) is 50% off! You will find adult clothing and accessories, home decor items, housewares, vintage and modern pieces, and much more. Even the larger furniture is on sale. We look forward to seeing you there! *Cash preferred, credit accepted.*



## Volunteers Needed for Open Doors Academy Summer Reading Camps

Nathan Hale Middle School, 3588 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Cleveland

St. Paul's summer reading program within ODA's summer camp provides an opportunity for parishioners to work directly with children in one-on-one pleasure reading. Join us for this rewarding experience supporting and encouraging third and fourth graders in reading. We need volunteers Monday to Thursday, the weeks of July 6 - 9 and July 13 -16, each day from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. We will be in the school's air-conditioned media center! You can volunteer for both weeks or just a couple days. Contact Julie Micheletti: [MichelettiJulie@gmail.com](mailto:MichelettiJulie@gmail.com)

## Livestream at Judson Park

Every Sunday, ~10:30 a.m., *Judson Park*

Learn more about this opportunity for intergenerational fellowship and sign up to host the livestream with the residents of Judson Park: [StPaulsCLE.org/judson-livestream](https://StPaulsCLE.org/judson-livestream)

# Music & Art

## Senior Choir Choral Evensong Sunday, May 17, 4 p.m.



The Senior Choir presents its final Evensong of the program year. Music to be sung on this Seventh Sunday of Easter includes Gabriel Jackson *Preces and Responses*, Sydney Watson *Evening Service in E Major*, and William Walton *The Twelve*.\*

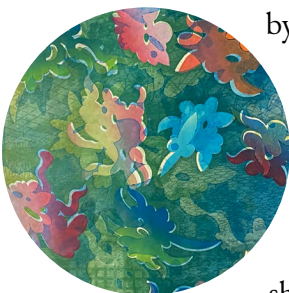
\*The Twelve explores the themes of Belonging, inclusion, exclusion, and celebration of diversity. We explored the inspiration for this piece, the powerful poem by W.H. Auden, in our April 26 Forum. This gorgeous music is sure to enhance your vision of belonging and enrich your appreciation of both works.

## Summer Carillon Concert Series Sundays, June 7, 14, 21, and 28, 6 p.m. *Front Lawn (Rain site Tucker Hall)*



The 2026 Summer Carillon Festival continues on four Sunday evenings in June. These 45-minute concerts take place on the front lawn of St. Paul's. These are informal concerts, and you are encouraged to bring a lawn chair or a blanket to sit on, and, if you like, a picnic.

## The N. B. White Gallery Spring Show *On display through Sunday, June 7*



This show features work inspired by our vast natural world. Gretchen Goss (enamel) and Lisa Schonberg (monoprints) explore themes of plant life, woods, water, sky, and earth. David Fink blends colored porcelain clays into vessel shapes that subtly suggest land, seascapes, and the beauty of earth.

# Parish Notes Preview

The following article is a sample of the kinds of essays and reflections that we will publish in the new, quarterly *Parish Notes*, starting in September.

Have an idea for an article? Want to contribute photographs, graphics, or other visuals? Email Laurel Steinetz, Communication Manager for word count, specifications, and how to submit: [LSteinetz@StPaulsCLE.org](mailto:LSteinetz@StPaulsCLE.org)

## Reflecting on Parenting as a *Spiritual Practice*

by Lauren Dockery, Director of Children & Youth

On Sunday mornings last spring, the hallway outside the children's classrooms filled in a familiar way week after week.

Leaving the 9 a.m. service, there was a brief bustle in the South Wing as parents dropped their children at church school. After goodbyes and a quick joke with teachers, the classroom doors closed and the hallway quieted.

Most parents drifted into Tucker Hall for coffee. Some found their way to the Forum or a conversation with a friend. Others returned to the South Wing. Week after week, while their children heard the Good News, many parents spent the next hour in the window-lined hallway, perched on ledges or leaning against the wall. Most pulled out their phones.

They stood only a few feet from one another, but rarely in conversation.

This is not unusual. Parenting young children can be intensely social and deeply isolating at the same time. Days are full of schedules, decisions, and constant attention, but connection with other adults is often brief. Even in places designed for community, it can be difficult to move beyond surface interaction.

Still, for many parents of younger children at St. Paul's, that connection had not fully taken shape during the formation hour. Many families were new—to the parish, to parenting, or both—and had not yet found their people.

# Reflecting on *Parenting as a Spiritual Practice*

In conversations at *The Village* gatherings over the fall, parents began to name a desire for something less instructional and more reflective. They were also looking for connection with others who understood the particular rhythms of their lives.

## **Out of those conversations, a plan emerged.**

Over five Sunday mornings in February and early March, 10 to 20 parents gathered each week. They represented 17 families with children who ranged in age from a few months old to college students.

The structure was simple. Each week began in silence, followed by a short reading connected to the liturgical season. Then came time for shared reflection, as parents were invited to consider the past week—its joys, its frustrations, its ordinary rhythms.

From the beginning, the group held a clear agreement: what was said in the room would remain there, and no one would give advice. Parents spoke, and others listened. No one was asked to fix, respond, or interpret. The conversation moved at its own pace, sometimes slowly, sometimes with energy.

Within that shared understanding, a wide range of experiences surfaced. Parents spoke about grief and how to talk about it with young children. Others described conflict between siblings, or the strain of keeping up with the daily rhythms of life with little kids. Some named the loneliness of moving and starting over, or the uncertainty of guiding a teenager through major decisions. Again and again, the conversation returned to the ordinary moments—questions children ask before they are ready to understand the answers, and words spoken in frustration that are later repaired.

Over the weeks, parents began to recognize each other's stories. The room grew more familiar. When the formal time ended, people lingered. Conversations continued as parents walked together to pick up their children, and then out toward the playground. What had been an hour of waiting began to look more like an hour shared.

In a brief survey at the end of the five weeks, parents described the experience in a range of ways. Some spoke about the value of having space to reflect. Others named the relief of hearing that their experiences were not unique. Several pointed to the opportunity to be in conversation with other parents in a setting that felt open and un-pressured.

What took place during those weeks was not a class in the traditional sense. There was no curriculum to master, no set of strategies to implement. Instead, it offered something quieter: a space to pay attention.

To the work already being done in their homes.

To the patterns and pressures of daily life.

To the ways that raising children shapes not only schedules and routines, but also patience, perception, and relationship.

As the program came to a close, the conversations did not end so much as extend outward—into hallways, into classrooms, into the small interactions that make up parish life.

On any given Sunday, it is still possible to find parents waiting outside their children's classrooms. But they are no longer waiting alone.

And the question that remains is a simple one:

What might it look like to continue to notice and share the deeper work already unfolding in the midst of ordinary family life and to keep making space for that here at St. Paul's?



# Parish Life

## Gatherings: Meet the Rector

RSVP SOON! *Through May 18*



Gatherings

Only three more chances! Please join fellow parishioners for an informal conversation with St. Paul's Rector, T.J. Freeman. A Gathering on Sunday, May 3, was recently added for those who prefer a weekend gathering. **Children are welcome!**

These gatherings have been a great opportunity for T.J. to get to know us, to hear what's on our minds, and to enjoy some time together outside of church. The groups gather for 30 minutes of social time and then sit down together for conversation. Your questions are welcome.

If you identify as a member of Saint Paul's, you are invited! Learn more and sign up:

[TinyURL.com/gatherings25-26](https://tinyurl.com/gatherings25-26)

Email Pam with any questions:

[POhalloran@StPaulsCLE.org](mailto:POhalloran@StPaulsCLE.org).

**Sunday, May 3, 5 – 6:30 p.m.**

Hosted by Emily & Jason Grimes, *Shaker Heights*

**Wednesday, May 6, 7 – 8:30 p.m.**

St. Paul's, *Coventry House*

**Monday, May 18, 6 - 7:30 p.m.**

Hosted by Erin & John Wagner  
*Cleveland Heights*

**Pentecost Ice Cream Truck**

Sunday, May 24, 11:15 a.m.



Please join us for an East Coast Custard treat following the 10 a.m. combined service on Pentecost. The truck will park in the Coventry parking lot, and all are welcome to enjoy a cone or cup of vanilla, chocolate, or mint chocolate chip. What a great way to kick off summer at St. Paul's!

## Architecture Tour

Sunday, May 17, 12:30 p.m., *Narthex*

Do you know where the four Diocesan seals are in St. Paul's? How about the movie projection booth? William Vodrey will lead an hour-long tour of the church so you can find out! Whether you've been at St. Paul's for many years or just a few months, there's always more to discover about the wonderful space in which we all gather. Learn more about the architecture and art of St. Paul's!



Architecture & Art  
*a guided tour of St. Paul's*

## Pre-Order St. Paul's PRIDE Shirts

Deadline: Monday, May 18

Show your support for our LGBTQIA+ siblings and St. Paul's welcome for all of God's children! Pre-order a St. Paul's PRIDE shirt.



We're ordering the same design as last year: rainbow tie-dyed with a white St. Paul's logo. Shirts are \$20 each and available in Youth sizes S - L and Adult sizes: S - 3XL. Pre-order on Realm: [TinyURL.com/2026pride-shirt](https://tinyurl.com/2026pride-shirt). Update the "Amount" field if needed (\$20/shirt), and put

size(s)/quantity in the "Memo" field. Or pay by cash or check. Email Jamie with size and quantity: [Jlvancic@StPaulsCLE.org](mailto:Jlvancic@StPaulsCLE.org).



Pride Shirts

## Save the Date for Pride in the CLE

Saturday, June 6

Join St. Paul's and other congregations from the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio for Pride in the CLE, Cleveland's annual LGBTQIA+ Pride celebration. St. Paul's parishioners and friends will gather at St. Paul's and then head downtown together. The march steps off from Cleveland's Public Square.