

Completed HFH house
in North Akron



We thank our live musicians!

Much merriment was
had at this year's
Christmas Carnival



January 2025

The Mini-Messenger

News and Highlights
St. Paul's Episcopal Church • Akron, Ohio

The Mini-Messenger is a brief news update sent out in months between our regular full-sized newsletter.

From the Rector

Men Getting Together to Get it Together

The push is on for sign-ups for our Men's Lenten Retreat, March 14–16th at the Jesuit Retreat Center in Parma. Brochures are placed around the church, plus a mailing will go out around January 1, and information will soon be available on our website. The theme is *"More Confidence, Not More Religiosity."* Co-led by Mark Pruitt and Dave Scavuzzo the retreat promises individual renewal *and* the galvanizing of our men into a key, core leadership group. Sign up this month!

Wise Words: Keep At It...With Steady Resolve

In Jesus' well-known parable of the Sower (Luke 8:1-15), he first warns of threats to the flourishing of God's word, compared to a seed, in our lives—evil forces, lack of roots, cares and excessive pleasures. But he then speaks of good soil in which the planted seed will bear fruit. What is the good soil? It those who *"hold fast to the Word with an honest and good heart."* But Jesus, importantly, adds something. He says that our flourishing and our effectiveness in displaying our new life in Christ requires patient waiting and steady effort. There are no magic short-cuts. Honesty and purity of heart are a start. But in this new life we *bear fruit with patience*" (v. 15). So in 2025, keep at it, brothers and sisters, loving others and loving God through obedience and sanctified desire with that steady resolve called patience.

Gratefully,
Mark⁺

Stephen Ministry

Accepting God's Help

In our Dec./Jan. Messenger, Father Pruitt mentioned that Advent is a time for us to acknowledge our need for help, God's help. When we are facing challenges that seem overwhelming or we are overcome with fear, anxiety or depression that is when we need God's grace. In those times, that's when we could use a helping hand as we search for the path that God wants us to travel.

We have Stephen Ministers who are trained to listen as you process and work through your difficult times and pray for God's guidance.

Whether your situation is because of grief, employment loss, retirement, sickness, overwhelmed with care giving, or any other type of difficulty, know that Stephen Ministers are available for you. Knowing you have someone who can listen in a non-judgmental, confidential environment as you work to understand, grow and heal is one of the many blessings St. Paul's has to offer.

If you want more information on Stephen Ministry, please contact Bonnie Severt at 330-328-2453.

Sunday Adult Forum • 9:00am in the Parish Hall

Jan 5	No meeting
Jan 12	The Rev. Rosalind Hughes (<i>see below</i>)
Jan 19	The Rev. Dr. Paul Gaston
Jan 26	The Rev. Susan Tiffany

Special Offerings

Women's Bible Study resumes in January

Following Christmas break, the women's weekly Bible study resumes on **Monday, Jan. 6 at 10:00am in G-4**. This is a video series with accompanying workbook titled: **The Bible Timeline: The Story of Salvation**. Workbooks can be ordered from AscensionPress.com.

Lunchtime Bible Study

On **Tuesday, Jan. 7 at noon in G-4**, we continue the discussions of Acts, led by a member of the clergy will focus on one chapter each week, with brief pauses for the Christmas season and for Holy Week. No preparation is required or expected. Participants are welcome to bring a brown bag lunch.

Dave Scavuzzo on C.S. Lewis

On **Tuesday, Jan. 7 at 7:00pm in G-4**, The Rev. Dave Scavuzzo will lead explorations in developing a scriptural imagination through C.S. Lewis' **The Chronicles of Narnia** and selected Scriptures. Please sign up at the Front Desk for materials. Monthly through April 2025.

Adult Forum resumes Sunday, Jan. 12 with special guest speaker

The scheduled speaker for the Adult Forum on **Sunday, Jan. 12 at 9:00am in the Parish Hall** will be The Rev. Rosalind Hughes. The topic is **gun violence in America**. Rosalind is a member of the Diocesan Staff and Rector of Church of the Epiphany in Euclid. She authored **Whom Shall I Fear? Urgent Questions for Christians In an Age of Violence**. Come, listen, learn and interact, as we kick off the forum in 2025.

Healing Service scheduled for February

Take time away from the busyness and anxieties of daily life by retreating to the beauty and peace of **St. Paul's Chapel** for a healing service and Eucharist at **noon on Thursday, February 6**. Offer your petitions to the Lord for yourself and others then receive healing through His body and blood.



Join Us for these January Events

- Wed, Jan 1 Church offices closed
- Mon, Jan 6 Women's Bible Study begins, 10:00am, G-4. Weekly
Monday Crafters Group, 1:00pm, Family Room. Weekly
- Tue, Jan 7 Lunchtime Bible Study resumes, noon, G-4. Weekly
The Rev. Dave Scavuzzo on C.S. Lewis, 7:00pm, G-4. Monthly
- Wed, Jan 8 Community Meal resumes, 6:00pm, Assembly Hall. Weekly
Evening Compline resumes, 7:45pm, Zoom. Weekly
- Thu, Jan 9 Needlework Guild, 1:00pm, Parish Hall. 2nd & 4th Thursday
Choir Rehearsal resumes, 6:45-8:15pm, Choir Room. Weekly
- Fri, Jan 10 Serious Fun for Grades 5-12, 6:00-8:00pm, Youth Space/Gym. Weekly
- Sun, Jan 12 Adult Forum resumes w/ The Rev. Rosalind Hughes, 9:00am, Parish Hall
Church School & Confirmation resume, 10:00am
Blood Pressure Checks, 8:30-10:00am, Family Room. Monthly
- Sun, Jan 19 Wrapped in Prayer Group, 11:15am, Family Room. Every Third Sunday
- Mon, Jan 20 Church offices closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

ANNUAL MEETING
Sunday, February 9



After the 10am service
Assembly Hall

**A GREAT BIG THANK YOU
to all who participated in
Nan's Giving Tree in 2024!**



Giving Tree Committee

Julie McFarland	Len & Jan Duello
Joyce Powell	Carol Ficken
Marcheta Scott	Brian Good
Bonnie Severt	Brad & Becky Hilty

Giving Tree "Helpers"

Tana Alexander	Deanne Johnston
Chip Billow	Isabel Kiko
Sam Borthwick	Kate Leininger
Carolyn Bousfield	Tim Nowicki
Kara Buckler	Sherrie Petrochuk
Karen Chadwick	Virginia Robison
Kathy Cockfield	Devin Sheeks
Carolynn Coleman	Mary Shepherd
Brandi Cribbet	Pat Silver
Grace Cribbet	Jim Slater
JoAnne Dawson	Nicole Vickerman
Angela DiMezza	Elise Vollman
	Victoria Vozar

Gratitude for a Lifetime of Blessings

With the beginning of the new year, many of us pause to reflect on God's blessings. In the past several months, St. Paul's was blessed to receive bequests from two faithful parishioners. These faithful, foresighted individuals made the decision to become "Tower Builders" by including the church in their wills or estate plans. Now those bequests have been put to work supporting our mission and ministry. As part of our General Endowment, they will continue to provide this support in perpetuity.

Deciding to make a *future* gift to St. Paul's is a wonderful way to give thanks for a lifetime of blessings. Of course, it costs you nothing now. Here are some simple ways to make that decision and join the ranks of our "Tower Builders."

- Retirement Plan beneficiary designation (often as a %)
- Life Insurance beneficiary designation (often as a %)
- Will or trust

To learn more about how you can provide for the future generations at St. Paul's, please contact Todd Rosenberg at 330-805-0542, email to trosenberg@stpaulsakron.org or speak to any member of the clergy.

Habitat For Humanity

The latest house we worked on (pictured on front) was dedicated on Saturday, Dec. 7th. The Freeman family will be moving in shortly!

