

St. Paul's Missions & Outreach



**Make A Difference:
Be Part Of Our Outreach
In 2025**

We Are

The Missions & Outreach Committee

St. Paul's Mission Statement

To live out a full expression of the Christian faith.

To call all people to the new life of discipleship in Christ.

Our Current Slogan

The World With Its Needs Is Our Parish

Our Purpose

We are the outreach arm of the congregation. We respond to pressing human needs globally, nationally/regionally, and locally. We actively seek to help with projects and people who meet human needs. *And* we seek to mobilize members of our congregation by inviting, training and supporting them.

What are the marks of a full expression of the faith?

Here are some markers we use to describe our ideal parish life.

Our outreach is part of many of these:

- Faithful Prayer
- Joyful Worship
- Lifelong Learning
- Significant Small Groups
- Cheerful and Sacrificial Giving
- Proclamation in Word and Deed
- Loving God, Loving Others

More Specifically

We use our resources to meet needs internationally, nationally, regionally, and locally.

We build collaborative relationships.

We train and deploy people—creating both leaders and servants in outreach.

We educate the congregation about our mission and how to serve as part of basic discipleship.

We make the congregation aware of specific needs and what we are doing.

We Stay Focused

Naming these chief activities keeps us focused. We do not try to do everything. We say *No* to some things so we can say *Yes* to other things. With God's help we seek wise discernment in what we choose to do.

Our Major Projects: 2025 and Going Forward

We consider these our major projects:

The Community Assistance Program (CAP) – Helps local people in immediate financial need

The Community Meal – Wednesday meal which offers physical and spiritual nourishment to members of the community

Habitat for Humanity – A partnership with St. Paul's and other area congregations to provide volunteers and support for Habitat's homeownership ministry

Barnabas Employment Ministry – A partnership with St. Paul's and South Street Ministries that helps previously incarcerated people and others find jobs and integrate into the Akron community

Haiti – A partnership with St. Paul’s, St. John’s in Reisterstown MD, and the congregation of St. Etienne’s in Haiti for over 30 years

Africa Educational Partnership (AEP) – A partnership with St. Paul’s and congregations in Connecticut to support several schools in Nigeria

Our Local Neighborhood – We foster ongoing partnerships with Case Elementary School and South Street Missions.

Our Seasonal Projects

- Nan’s Giving Tree
- Mitzvah Day
- Open-M
- Youth & Samaritan Mission Trips

Some Key Relationships

- Akron Leadership Foundation
- Common Mission Coalition and other churches
- Diocesan Outreach
- Episcopal Relief and Development
- South Street Ministry

Our Missions & Outreach Team

We meet ten times a year. Each committee member has a role, each role has a job description: Chair Person(s); Secretary; Communications Officer; Overseers for local outreach, international outreach, our community meal, mission trips, and the community assistance program.

Our Annual Retreat

Every year, a Sunday afternoon is set aside for a meal, relaxed discussion, and planning, usually in September. The agenda has been regularized to be a looking-back-and-then-looking-forward event, an agenda with structure and flexibility.

OUR FUNDING

Four categories of funding fuel our outreach. This gives us a generally stable set of figures for planning.

1) The Christmas and Easter Funds

We make special appeals at Christmas and Easter. Generally, the *Christmas Fund* approaches \$25,000 which funds the Community Assistance Program. The *Easter Fund* approaches \$22,000 and funds primarily the Barnabas Employment Ministry and Habitat for Humanity homes.

2) The Restricted Funds

Four primary restricted funds combine to deliver approximately \$15,000 a year for diverse forms of outreach designated by the original donors. They are the Frank World Mission Fund, the Knight Benevolence Fund, the Field/Frank Fund, and the Charles Booth Fund. Additionally, we have the Baird Fund for projects in Haiti.

3) Diocesan Grants

We regularly apply for grants from the diocese to support local and international outreach. In the past, yearly combined amounts have ranged from \$3,000 to \$6,000.

4) Other Sources

The fourth stream of income comes from Special Appeals and Fundraising (which we try to limit, and which must be approved by the Rector and Vestry), and other grants.

Our Monthly Meetings

We usually meet 10 times a year, on the first Monday of the month at 7:00pm. The monthly meetings follow a set agenda and last from 60-75 minutes.

Missions Sunday

We dedicate one Sunday as Missions Sunday, currently *Christ The King Sunday* at the end of November, as an opportunity to put before the congregation what we do generally and what we hope to do in the coming year. Adult Forums often feature missions presentations.

We also advertise our work on Sundays during the Announcements.

Educating the Congregation & Outreach Participants

In addition to getting people involved, we see the need for deepening our understanding of mission. We schedule programs for education.

Our Reporting

We report regularly to the Rector and to the Vestry, in person and in writing, 2-3 times a year.

We hope this short guide to our outreach is informative. Our other church publications show the fruits of our work week by week, year by year.

We work to keep a spirit of joy alive in all that we do. God loves cheerful givers and gives us the resources to give, and to stay joyful even in the midst of a world with deep, widespread, and lasting needs.

Current 2025 Missions & Outreach members are:

Angela DiMezza

Julie McFarland

Jan Burns-Nowicki

Tim Nowicki

Jan Rice

Marcheta Scott

Mary Shepherd

Doug Zook

We invite you to become involved in Missions & Outreach at St. Paul's.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

1361 W. Market St. • Akron, Ohio 44313

330-836-9327 • StPaulsAkron.org