



Homecoming smiles!



Habitat volunteers
Tana, Jacqueline, Phil

The Messenger

News & Highlights
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Akron, Ohio
StPaulsAkron.org

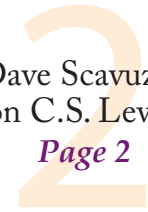
Oct/Nov 2024



FROM THE RECTOR

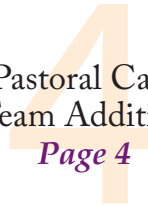
HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

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Baptized Imaginations

We think of baptism as a sacramental rite, which it is. We can and should also think of the baptism of our minds---how we think—and our imaginations—how we see things. Baptism of our bodies takes a short time, baptism of the whole person, especially the understanding and imagination is a lifelong task of *'being renewed by the transformation of our minds'* (Romans 12:2). Such transformation of the mind occurs when, for instance, we don't just *say* "all things come of thee, O Lord" because it's an ideal or the party-line, but because we really have come to *see* that all our gifts and blessings and talents and opportunities are from God. Our imagination, in this example has been baptized or converted.

Tuesday Evenings

The Rev. David Scavuzzo writes about the importance of the imagination: 'Imagination is a gift of God to the human mind and soul, which helps us to see *through* the creation of literature to deeper realities or to see the world as it is. Imagination plays an essential role in reading and "knowing" what is really intended. A good writer or speaker stimulates our imaginations—sensory details of seeing, hearing, feeling and smelling awaken the mind and heart.' Immersing ourselves in Scripture and good literature is a baptism worth undergoing. Dave, so gracious

with his time, is leading monthly explorations in *The Chronicles of Narnia* and scriptures related to them (read more about this on page 2), all as a joyful baptism in living our lives before the face of God.

Sunday Mornings: Keeping Evangelism in Front of Us (Again) In the Adult Forum

We're also doing a deep dive into different modes of evangelism this autumn as a follow up to our efforts last year in this area. By the time you read this, we will have launched the Adult Forum already, summarizing the content of the book *Models of Evangelism*, but it's never too late to join! In this area, one transformation we might hope to undergo is to see the world not just in its conflicts and its secularism, but also, more and more, in its opportunities, to see the world even as a field, as Jesus said, *'ready and ripe for harvest'* (John 4:35). That's a vision worth working for.

Warmly,
Mark+

C.S. LEWIS EVENTS

Starting in October on Tuesday nights at 7:00 pm!

Dave Scavuzzo will lead monthly explorations in developing a scriptural imagination through C.S. Lewis' *The Chronicles of Narnia* and selected Scriptures. No prior knowledge needed. Sign up at the Front Desk. We meet in G-4.

First Tuesdays:

Oct. 1: *The Magician's Nephew* and *Genesis 1-3; John 1*

Nov. 5: *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* and *Romans 1-8; John 18-21*

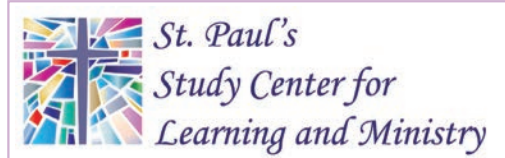
Dec. 3: *Prince Caspian: The Return to Narnia* and *The Book of Job*

Jan. 7: *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* and *Acts 16-28*

Feb. 4: *The Silver Chair* and *Ephesians; Matthew Ch. 8, 9, 12*

Mar. 4: *The Horse and His Boy* and *Galatians 1-6*

Apr. 1: *The Last Battle* and *Revelations; Matthew 24*



ALL PARISH BREAKFAST

Pauline Letters are Focus of Parish Breakfast



Saturday, Oct. 26, 8:45am

All parishioners are invited to enjoy the dynamic teaching of New Testament scholar The Rev. Amy Peeler, Ph.D. at an all parish breakfast, Saturday, Oct. 26th at 8:45am. Peeler will dig deep into the apostle Paul's pastoral concerns for the early church.

Peeler is a professor of New Testament at Wheaton College (Illinois) where her academic research focuses on the letter to the Hebrews, and how the Old Testament influenced the development of the New Testament. She is the author of *Women and the Gender of God*, *"You Are My Son": The Family of God in the Epistle to the Hebrews*, and the recently released *Hebrews: Commentaries for Christian Formation*. Last month Peeler spoke at *The Living Church* and All Souls' Anglican Foundation conference, "The Human Pilgrimage," about how we live fully as creatures created, loved, limited, and liberated by God. RSVP for this catered breakfast at the Front Desk no later than Monday, Oct. 21.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

- 8:00am** Holy Communion, Chapel
9:00am Adult Forum, Parish Hall
10:00am Holy Communion, Church
Church School, Education Wing
Youth Forum/Confirmation, Room 211
Coffee Hour to follow, Parish Hall

Childcare is available for infants to age 4 in the Nursery in the Education Wing until 11:15am

NEWCOMERS CLASS

Explore St. Paul's Class I & II

Sundays, Oct. 6 and 13

Explore St. Paul's is the class for those considering membership or eager to learn more about our mission and vision. We'll meet Sundays, Oct. 6th and 13th in G-4 following the 10:00am service. Lunch is provided. Please register at the Front Desk.

NOVEMBER HEALING SERVICE

Thursday, Nov. 7, noon

St. Paul's next healing service will be Thursday, Nov. 7th at noon in the Chapel. Join us and rejoice in the presence of the Holy Spirit who brings God's power to heal and transform through prayer and the Eucharist.



LESSONS & CAROLS on Advent Sunday

DEC. 1ST
4:00 PM

Reception to follow



Please Donate Online

We are now accepting contributions online, through our website at www.stpaulsakron.org/give-online, or by texting **Givestp** to **73256** to make a secure donation.



ST. PAUL'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Messenger is the official newsletter of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Akron, Ohio, a congregation in the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio.

www.dohio.org

Clergy

- The Rev. Mark Pruitt
Rector
- The Rev. Susan Tiffany
Associate Rector for Pastoral Care
- The Rev. Dr. Paul Gaston
Assisting Priest
- The Rev. Polly Glanville
Deacon

Staff

- Kelsey Berg
Assistant Organist
- Daniel Fortune
Organist/Choirmaster
- Beth Guenther
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- Dale Lower
Head Sexton
- Lauren McGarry
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- Carrie Searle
Executive Assistant to the Rector
- Bonnie Severt
Pastoral Care Coordinator
- David Shahata
Youth Assistant/Men's Ministry Special Projects
- Ruth Webb
Youth Intern
- Gail Wild
Business Manager & Treasurer

WOMEN'S DINNER

Women's Dinner Looks at Adam & Eve, Creation & Fall

Friday, Oct. 25 at 6:00 pm

We've all heard the story of Adam and Eve, of creation and the fall. What does all that have to do with us? Women of St. Paul's come, and bring your friends, to our women's dinner at 6:00pm on Friday, Oct. 25th, for a fascinating presentation about this intriguing and perhaps troubling aspect of our Christian life by The Rev. Amy Peeler, Ph.D., professor of New Testament at Wheaton College (Illinois).

Peeler holds the Kenneth J. Wessner Chair of Biblical Studies at Wheaton where her academic research focuses on the New Testament especially the letter to the Hebrews, the influence of the Old Testament on the New Testament, St. Paul and gender, and the Gospel of Mark. She is the author of *Women and the Gender of God*, and the recently released *Hebrews: Commentaries for Christian Formation*. She is also a regular contributor to *Christianity Today* magazine. Peeler preaches and teaches at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Geneva, Illinois, where she is associate rector. RSVP for this catered dinner at the Front Desk no later than Monday, Oct. 21st.

LUNCHTIME BIBLE STUDY FOR ALL

Tuesdays at noon

The Tuesday noon 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.

WEEKLY COMPLINE

Wednesdays at 7:45 pm

Join us on ZOOM for "good night" prayers. Compline is a time of quieting our hearts together in prayer as the day comes to an end. Online go to: zoom.us/join Meeting ID: 844 1828 4802 Passcode: 942011

ADULT FORUM

Evangelism: What It Means, Why It Matters

Sundays at 9:00am, Parish Hall

Weekly now through Oct. 27th, Adult Forum will focus on evangelism. Discussions will be led by St. Paul's clergy and a guest.

St. Paul's Annual Appeal for 2025

Giving Cheerfully, Giving Sacrificially

In October, we will be sending out the 2025 Annual Appeal. Faithful giving allows us to make disciples, to grow in grace, and make steady progress toward transformation into 'the full stature of Christ.' (*Ephesians 4:13*). Pledge cards will be collected on Harvest Sunday, Nov. 10th.

WORTH SHARING

In the Garden – A Word from the Memorial Garden Committee

Did you know that St. Paul's Memorial Garden has been a lovely, serene space on our church property for over 40 years? The Garden was dedicated on All Saints' Day, Nov. 7th, 1993 with a service that included the following prayer:

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be ever upon this place.

Sanctify and keep it holy, that it may be a fit resting place for the remains of his Saints.

The Garden was designed by local landscape architect John Vittum with a detailed planting scheme. Although there have been updates over the years, the basic design remains as envisioned by Mr. Vittum and the original Memorial Garden committee. It was their hope that the Garden would often be visited by members of St. Paul's, and others, alone or in groups, to pray, to meditate, and to remember loved ones. That remains our hope today.



Members of St. Paul's and their families are eligible to be interred here through purchase of an Interment agreement. The Garden's beauty, convenience and affordability plus the assurance of perpetual care make it an attractive choice for members of the St. Paul's family who are interested in cremation. **For more information on the Memorial Garden, contact the Church Office.**

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Pastoral Care Team Addition

What a wonderful anthem at communion we heard on Homecoming Sunday – “All our meals and all our living make as sacraments of thee, that by caring, helping, giving, we may true disciples be.”

I have been a member of the St. Paul's family for many years. The Holy Spirit moved me years ago to be in the first group of Stephen Ministers that were commissioned at St. Paul's. This past spring I completed my second term on Vestry as Senior Warden and was honored to receive the St. Paul's Award as I was taking photos during the Annual Meeting (boy, was that a surprise!). I love being a part of the St. Paul's family and am blessed as a Stephen Leader to be able to listen to, care for, pray and walk with parishioners who are facing various challenges in their life. Retirement has given me time to hone my baking skills for the community meal and occasionally for coffee hour as well as the ability to attend the Women's Book Study and the Tuesday Bible Study. I love spending time listening to and meeting other parishioners as we learn about each other's lives and find so many things that we have in common.

Our clergy work very hard to create wonderful programs for our spiritual growth and we are blessed that we have such a caring pastoral staff. They are here for us as we experience

all the joys and challenges of our lives. Something I didn't see was that all the things that I “do” came into focus that I can help my fellow parishioners and the clergy as a Pastoral Care Coordinator. As Pastoral Care Coordinator, I will be another person that is actively engaging with parishioners to hear about them or others who may be in need of pastoral care. Also, I'll be coordinating the clergy's efforts, Stephen Ministers, as well as home visits and Eucharistic visits.



Each week as we attend Sunday service, I am reminded of how God provides us with encouragement, direction and strength to “do the work he has given us to do.” At various times in our life, we're thrown curve balls that we don't know how to handle. We need to remember that our clergy and Stephen Ministers are available to help us find our way. **If you need help or just want to talk, give me a call at 330-328-2453, or write me an email at bsevert@aol.com.**

Bonnie Severt

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

A Chill in the Air, the Click of the Needles

The chill in the air turns our minds to warmer clothing, but Wrapped in Prayer has been busy all year stocking up for late fall donations. Three dozen chemo caps are on their way to Stewart's Caring Place, while shopping bags of hats and neck warmers for Wednesday's Child continue to fill up. Many beautiful prayer shawls have been added to the big oak chest in the Family Room, awaiting the needs of parish members.

Wrapped in Prayer operates strictly on donations. We happily accept donations of yarn, and monetary donations (which can be made to Gail Wild) for purchases of yarn and supplies. Thank you so much for recent donations to our cause.

Our ministry can always, always use more help. Members find that knitting/crocheting for others brings them great joy and a feeling of satisfaction in the knowledge that their talents are put to use for a good cause. We welcome all knitters and crocheters to our ministry, and we can supply yarn and patterns.



Most of our projects are small and not very time consuming. There are no deadlines, no pressure. We knit what we enjoy and at our own pace. **If you think this ministry of caring might be of interest to you, inquire at the Front Desk, or email mjgiordano47@gmail.com**

Habitat for Humanity House Update

Our team painted the interior of the house at 576 Evans St., in Akron on Sept. 7th. The house will be completed this fall, with a home dedication to follow.



FAMILY MINISTRY AND EDUCATION

Family Net—Trick or Treat

Sunday, Oct. 13, 4:00-6:00pm

St. Paul's families! Family Net would like to invite you to join us for Trick or Treat! On Sunday, October 13th, 4:00–6:00pm we will host Trick or Treat in the Assembly Hall (Gym). It is a fun filled way to get to know other St. Paul's families. We will need members of the Congregation to sign up to have a table and hand out candy. **Look for a sign up sheet at the Front Desk or contact Beth Guenther 330-836-9327, ext. 131 or bguenther@stpaulsakron.org**



Christmas Carnival

Sunday, December 8, 4:00-6:00pm

Family Net will host a Christmas Carnival on Sunday, December 8th in the Assembly Hall (Gym) 4:00-6:00pm. There will be games, a cookie walk, hot chocolate and Santa!

Acolytes Needed

Come and be part of a growing Acolyte Guild! Those interested in serving as an Acolyte during the 10:00am service, please contact Dave McBee, 330-869-0436 or Beth Guenther 330-836-9327, ext. 131.

Church School has begun!

We would like to welcome our teachers:

Brandi Cribbet

Joyce Mancini

Devin Sheeks

David Shahata

2024/2025 promises to be another wonderful year in Church School. It is a time for children to learn and grow in their faith. Please come and get to know our Church School staff and get involved in your child's faith formation!

Serious Fun (Grades 5-12)

Fridays, 6:00-8:00pm, Youth Space/Gym

Junior High Youth Ministry (aka Serious Fun) is a fun Friday night get together with food, creative programming, and sharing. **Contact Beth Guenther or David Shahata with any questions.**

FLOWERS TO THE GLORY OF GOD

October and November Altar Flowers

Oct 6

In loving memory of William Wetterau Sr. and Billy Wetterau Jr.; given by Mrs. William Wetterau

In loving memory of Daniel P. Fitzgerald; given by Dorothy Fitzgerald

Oct 13

In loving memory of Carl & Jean Miller; given by Bill & Diane Peabody

In loving memory of Frank Harvey; given by Ginny Wojno

Oct 20

In loving memory of LeRoy Tunnell; given by Elizabeth Parker

In loving memory of Katie Maloney; given by Susan Maloney

Oct 27

In loving memory of Richard Silver; given by the Silver Family

In loving memory of Diane Seward; given by Mark & Judy Seward

In loving memory of John Dickinson Welsh; given by Mr. & Mrs. William Welsh

Nov 3

In thanksgiving of our family, past and present; given by Shari Humm

Nov 10

In loving memory of Doug & Sherry Lawrence; given by Joyce Powell

Nov 17

In loving memory of Nancy Tunnell Parker; given by Elizabeth Parker

In honor of the birthday of our parents, the late Jean & Ernie Preston and Retta & Chuck Billow; given by Laura & Chip Preston

Nov 24

In loving memory of James Pruitt; given by The Pruitt Family

In loving memory of Andrew William Reid; given by the Robin Reid Family

In loving memory of Kathryn Harris Hardy; given by Mr. & Mrs. William Welsh

Altar arrangements are given each week in honor, support, memory, or celebration of a loved one.

To reserve altar arrangements, contact Julie McFarland at period2380@gmail.com or 330-819-8552

TAKE NOTE

New Choir Members Needed

Have you always loved to sing? St. Paul's would love to have you be a part of the choir. Rehearsals are every Thursday evening from 6:45–8:15pm. Contact Dan Fortune at dfortune@stpaulsakron.org for more information.

Needlework Guild

The Needlework Guild meets the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month in the Parish Hall at 1:00pm. Please join us and bring your stitching! Learn to needlepoint! We will teach you, supply your initial equipment, and your first painted canvas. Questions? Contact Pam Feltner at 330-608-7783.

Autumn Crafting

The Monday Craft Group is feeling the shift of the seasons and is crafting accordingly. Cozy crafts currently in progress include felted wool ornaments, scarves, hats, needlepoint, and small quilted items.

We meet Mondays at 1:00pm in the Family Room. Coffee and tea are available, as well as great conversation and sharing of crafts and ideas. All crafts that can be done on your lap or on a table are welcome, or you are welcome to just visit and chat. For more information: call or stop at the Front Desk or email Marcia at mjgiordano47@gmail.com



GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

We Give Thanks for all Gifts, and Gifts to...

the Altar Guild from The Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Michael Petrochuk

the Bruggert Memorial Organ Fund from Mr. Ron Karlosky

the Community Assistance Program in memory of Dale Koblenzer and Nan Bartlett from Mrs. Dorothy F. Fitzgerald

the Community Meals Fund from Yvonne M. Krell

the Community Meals Fund in honor of The Rev. David McBee from Mrs. Nadine Stefanacci

the Community Meals Fund in memory of Rose Miller from Mrs. Alexandra S. Walker

the Community Meals Fund in honor of Judy Samuelson's birthday from Mrs. Alexandra S. Walker

the Community Meals Fund from The Graves Family Foundation

the Endowment Foundation in memory of Tracy E. Zook from Douglas Zook, Jr.

the Endowment Foundation from The E. Reginald Adam and Rhea H. Adam Trust

the Flower Guild in memory of Edith Taylor from Ms. Carol B. Ficken

the Gardeners of St. Paul's/Community Garden Fund from Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey S. Moshier

the Needlework Guild Fund from Mr. & Mrs. William E. Welsh

the Rector's Discretionary Fund in memory of Carolyn Chapman from Ms. Suzanne Dalton

the Rowe Acolyte Fund from Janet Schild

the Stephen Ministries Fund in memory of Carolyn Chapman, from Mrs. Janna T. Burns-Nowicki, Dr. & Mrs. Gregory L. Hinson, Ms. Jean F. Jones, and Mrs. Julie E. McFarland

We Give Thanks for Gifts in Memory of...

Carolyn Chapman, from Mr. & Mrs. Steve Uzzell

Dale Koblenzer, from Mr. & Mrs. Charles E. Grisi

Rose Steiger Miller, from Julia E. Bain

Susie Rogers and Linda Wands, from Mrs. Elizabeth B. Sandwick

Invite a Friend to St. Paul's!

At the Front Desk, you will find invitation cards & envelopes to invite a friend or family member to St. Paul's.



All churches face the challenge of inviting people to Sunday worship services and church events. Face-to-face conversations contributed to the spread of Christianity in the earliest days of the church and in every era since.

From the church office, we send invites via postcards, brochures, and newsletters. This practice can be complemented by personal invitations by congregational members. To make it easier, a variety of invitations are at the Front Desk.

FROM THE TREASURER

Operating Budget Results

Summarized here are the St. Paul's operating budget results for the calendar year to date.

The year-to-date as of 8/31/2024 ended with below budget contribution revenue, which was partially offset by receipt of the quarterly endowment distribution and investment income. Expenses were higher than expected overall, the largest in the areas of maintenance, grounds, and utilities – all of which contributed to a net deficit greater than budgeted.

As of 08/31/2024	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	2024 Annual Budget
Pledge Income	\$ 364,228	\$ 403,333	\$ 605,000
Non-Pledge Income	\$ 61,016	\$ 74,015	\$ 111,022
Other Contributions	\$ 15,662	\$ 21,833	\$ 32,750
Transfer from Endowment	\$ 362,840	\$ 368,024	\$ 501,246
All Other Income	\$ 122,856	\$ 94,082	\$ 198,750
Total Revenue	\$ 926,602	\$ 961,287	\$ 1,448,768
Total Expense	\$ 966,166	\$ 969,550	\$ 1,448,768
Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (39,564)	\$ (8,263)	\$ -0-

Please contact Treasurer Gail Wild, at 330-836-9327 ext. 124, or by email at gwild@stpaulsakron.org, for any questions regarding finances or to make contributions. For information about online giving options, please visit our website, www.stpaulsakron.org/give-online



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UPCOMING EVENTS

- Tue, Oct 1** Lunchtime Bible Study, Noon, G-4. [Weekly](#)
The Rev. Dave Scavuzzo on C.S. Lewis, 7:00pm, G-4. [Monthly](#)
- Wed, Oct 2** Community Meal, 6:00pm, Assembly Hall. [Weekly](#)
Evening Compline, 7:45pm, Zoom. [Weekly](#)
- Thu, Oct 3** Choir Rehearsal, 6:45–8:15pm, Choir Room. [Weekly](#)
- Fri, Oct 4** Serious Fun (Grades 5-12), 6:00–8:00pm, Youth Space/Gym. [Weekly](#)
- Sun, Oct 6** Explore St. Paul's Class I, 11:45am, G-4
- Mon, Oct 7** Women's Bible Study, 10:00am, G-4. [Weekly](#)
Monday Crafters Group, 1:00pm, Family Room. [Weekly](#)
- Thu, Oct 10** Needlework Guild, 1:00pm, Parish Hall. [2nd & 4th Thursday](#)
- Sun, Oct 13** Explore St. Paul's Class II, 11:45am, G-4
Blood Pressure Checks, 8:30–10:00am, Family Room. [Monthly](#)
Trick or Treat, 4:00–6:00pm, Assembly Hall/Gym
- Mon, Oct 14** Church office closed for Columbus Day
- T-F, Oct 15-18** St. Paul's Living Waters Pilgrimage
- Sun, Oct 20** Wrapped in Prayer Group, 11:15am, Family Room. [Every third Sunday](#)
- Thu, Oct 24** Needlework Guild, 1:00pm, Parish Hall. [2nd & 4th Thursday](#)
- Fri, Oct 25** Women's Dinner w/ The Rev. Amy Peeler, 6:00pm, Parish Hall
- Sat, Oct 26** All Parish Breakfast w/ The Rev. Amy Peeler, 8:45am, Parish Hall
- Sun, Oct 27** Choral Evensong, 4:00pm, Church
- Sun, Nov 3** All Saints' Day
- Tue, Nov 5** The Rev. Dave Scavuzzo on C.S. Lewis, 7:00pm, G-4. [Monthly](#)
- Sun, Nov 10** Harvest Sunday
- Sun, Nov 17** Choral Evensong at St. Andrew's, Barberton, St. Paul's choir to sing, 4:00pm
- Th-F, Nov 28, 29** Church office closed for Thanksgiving
- Sun, Dec 1** Lessons & Carols on Advent Sunday, reception to follow, 4:00pm, Church



**ALL SAINTS'
DAY**

**Sunday,
Nov. 3, 2024**

Memorial gifts received
at the Church by
Monday, Oct. 28
will be listed in the
All Saints' Day insert