



ST. PAUL'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
*Seeking. Serving. Loving. Together.*

# Parish Notes

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# The Merry (Mary) Month of May

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Applegate



*O, the month of May, the merry month of May,  
So frolic, so gay, and so green, so green, so green!*

–Thomas Dekker, 16th-century

May 1 arrives on a Thursday this year. Few days have been so burdened with observances, both sacred and secular.

One of the oldest of all traditional festivals is May Morning, which is celebrated at dawn every year on the first of May in England. Originally a pagan revel, it still celebrates the coming of spring, complete with choirboys and Morris dances celebrating fertility.

Here in Cleveland, it's been a joy (and a relief) to have spring arrive. No, we don't crown a May Queen or wrap Maypoles with ribbons, but we do experience a lightness of being that's more than the result of doffing our winter coats, hats, and gloves.

May Day took on a double meaning in the 1880s. At the time, people all over the world were fighting for fair workplaces, demanding unions and eight-hour workdays among other things. May Day became known as International Workers' Day because it fell on the anniversary of the Haymarket Affair in Chicago. It's no surprise, then, that The Communist International embraced May Day, viewing it as a day to affirm the universal fraternity of workers and promote revolutionary ideals.

So, the meaning of May 1 keeps changing.

In keeping with the Christian practice of "baptizing" pagan festivals, western Catholic tradition has set aside not just May 1, but the entire month of May, to honor Mary, the mother of Jesus. Spring is at the height of its beauty in May – spring, connected with nature renewing itself. In a similar way, Mary gave new life to the world when she gave birth to Jesus.

However, honoring Mary is more than just about the connection to the renewal of life. Mary's song, the Magnificat, bears witness to the revolutionary nature of the reign of God. She sings about God in these words,

"He has scattered the proud in their conceit. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things and the rich he has sent away empty."

How will Mary's Magnificat stir us up to partner in Christ's mission of lifting up the lowly and filling the hungry with good things this May and every month of the year?

I wish you a Merry (Mary) month of May – with all its layers of meaning.

Stephen Applegate

*Photos on front cover are from Easter Day, 9 and 11:15 a.m. services and Egg Hunt.*

# Worship

## Seeking Feedback on the 9 a.m. Service

During Lent, we changed the sermon format at the 9 a.m. service to engage children and youth. We've received some feedback but wanted to provide a last opportunity.

Email your feedback to [Info@StPauls-Church.org](mailto:Info@StPauls-Church.org).

It will be forwarded to Rev. Gabriel, who leads worship planning, and Bonnie Gunzenhauser, Vestry liaison for Worship.



## Mark Your Calendars for Summer Worship

Our summer worship schedule begins on June 15, Trinity Sunday.

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

**9 a.m.** | East lawn (with ASL interpretation)

*In the event of inclement weather, worship will take place in the Nave.*

**10:30 a.m.** | Nave  
(Livestreamed)

*Childcare is not offered in the summer.*



## Call for Baptisms Sunday, June 15

The next baptisms will be on Trinity Sunday. If you are interested in being baptized or having your child baptized, email Rev. Gabriel Lawrence:

[GLawrence@StPauls-Church.org](mailto:GLawrence@StPauls-Church.org).

# Music

## The Sollertinsky Piano Trio in Recital Monday, May 5, 7:30 p.m., Nave

Cleveland Institute of Music students Jack Naglick, Jeremy Foster, and Peter O'Malley will hold a recital at St. Paul's featuring two staples of the piano trio repertoire: Beethoven's "Archduke" Trio and Shostakovich's Piano Trio No. 2. This is presented free of charge with donations accepted at the door.



## An Invitation to Join the Parish Choir Sunday, May 18, 10:15 a.m., Choir Room

For the final time this program year, the Parish Choir will lead the music for liturgy at the 11:15 a.m. service on May 18. This is a great opportunity for any adult (and children who can read music) to sing without the commitment of the Senior Choir. Rehearsal is at 10:15 a.m. in the Choir Room. Contact Kevin Jones, Director of Music, to indicate your interest or if you have any questions:

[KJones@StPauls-Church.org](mailto:KJones@StPauls-Church.org).



## Senior Choir Choral Evensong Sunday, May 18, 4 p.m., Nave

The Senior Choir presents its final Evensong of the program year. Music to be sung on this Fifth Sunday of Easter includes an introit by Adrian Batten, responses by Bernard Rose, Stanford's lush Victorian Evening service in A Major, and Festival *Te Deum* by Benjamin Britten. Todd Wilson is the organist and Kevin Jones conducts.



# Children & Youth

## Children and Youth Sunday is May 4

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'll celebrate our middle schoolers with the Rite 13 ceremony and 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!

### Rite 13

Sunday, May 4, at the 9 a.m. service

In our society, the line between childhood and adulthood is often fuzzy. Unlike other cultures, we don't have formalized rites of passage that define the points along the path to adulthood. We need ways to tell our young people they are making progress; they are growing and learning and becoming adults.

During the 9 a.m. service on Sunday, May 4, we will celebrate an important Rite of Passage with our new teenagers.

This liturgy is formally called "The Celebration of Adulthood" but is more well known as "Rite 13" since it takes place near the candidate's 13th birthday — much like a bar mitzvah or bat mitzvah.



In this liturgy, the congregation acknowledges that the people we have known to be children are now on their way to adulthood. We offer prayers for

the new teenagers and promise to support, love, and honor them. We also pray for their parents, because, let's face it, it's not always easy to live with a teenager!

This service lifts up our teens and reminds us that God will walk with them on their journey. It gives us a way of telling our young people things we have meant to convey all along: "We're here if you need us; we think you're terrific; we love you." We often assume that our teens feel appreciated and accepted as a vital part of our parish, but adolescence is a time of uncertainty, and some things just can't be said often enough.

## Baccalaureate Sunday Sunday, May 18

We love to celebrate our high school seniors. This year we honor the class of 2025 with a baccalaureate breakfast. We will also hear sermons from the seniors at all three services! If you are graduating high school this year, please email Lauren to get all the information about the celebration: [LDockery@StPauls-Church.org](mailto:LDockery@StPauls-Church.org). Congratulations, Class of 2025!



## Parent Connection Coffee

Sunday, May 18, 11 a.m., *Coventry House*

If you have kids in third grade or younger (yes, even babies), join us for coffee & community! This is a chance to meet other parents, connect with Sunday School teachers, and share ideas. Snacks and childcare provided.



# Formation



**This Oughta Be a Piece of Cake!**  
Sunday, May 4, 10:10 a.m., *Dining Room*

For the final forum of this program year, members of the Adult Formation Committee invite you to enjoy some delicious homemade cake with your coffee and engage in conversation with the committee members who plan the forums. We'd love to hear from you about what forums have been most meaningful this year, and even if you haven't attended, we'd love to hear what you're longing for as we move forward in these times.

## Parish Events

**Architecture Tour**  
Sunday, May 25, 12:30 p.m., *Narthex*



Do you know where the four Diocesan seals are in St. Paul's? How about the movie projection booth? Where can you find the image of a German World War II soldier? And just what did Dr. Albert Schweitzer have to say about our organ? Dave Loomis and 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!

**Mark your calendars for Holy Hikes!**  
Saturdays, May 31, June 28, July 26, and August 23, 9:30 a.m., *locations TBA*



Lace up your hiking boots for an exploration of our local parks with our church community. We'll pause midway through our hike to share in a brief service of Holy Eucharist, overlooking God's creation.

For more details or to RSVP, contact Rev. Gabriel:  
[GLawrence@StPauls-Church.org](mailto:GLawrence@StPauls-Church.org).

## PRIDE Month

**Pre-Order St. Paul's PRIDE Shirts**  
Deadline: Monday, May 19

Show your support for our LGBTQIA+ siblings and St. Paul's welcome for all of God's children! Pre-order a PRIDE shirt. They will be rainbow tie-dyed with a white St. Paul's logo. Shirts are \$20 each. Email Jamie by Monday, May 19, with shirt size and quantity:

[JBlair@StPauls-Church.org](mailto:JBlair@StPauls-Church.org).

You can pay through Realm or with cash, or check.



Pay on Realm

**Save the Date for *Pride in the CLE***

Saturday, June 7, 8:30 a.m., *breakfast at Coventry House, travel downtown together*

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 for a breakfast at Coventry House at 8:30 a.m. After breakfast, we'll head to the RTA station and ride downtown together. The march begins at 11 a.m. downtown.



# Summer Camps

## St. Paul's Reading Camp

Reading and Writing Program at  
Bellwether Farm

Sun. June 22 - Fri. June 27

## Open Doors Academy (ODA) day camp:

Mon. July 14 - Thurs. July 17

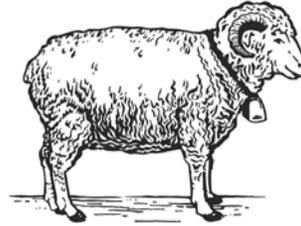
Mon. July 21 - Thurs. July 24



For many years, St. Paul's has provided summer Reading Camps for rising third and fourth graders who need support. This ministry serves as a "bridge" for students to retain or improve reading comprehension skills over the summer, a time when most

students don't receive classroom instruction.

We need volunteers in the mornings to help as reading partners for our Pleasure Reading station, particularly for the ODA camps. Please email Julie Micheletti ([MichelettiJulie@gmail.com](mailto:MichelettiJulie@gmail.com)) for more information or to volunteer.



**Bellwether**  
— FARM —

CAMP • RETREAT • EDUCATION CENTER

## Rev. Gabriel to be Camp Chaplain at Bellwether Farm

Sun. July 6 - Fri. July 11

This summer, Rev. Gabriel will be camp chaplain at Session 4 of camp at Bellwether Farm. Session Four of summer camp will be for children and youth entering grades 3-9. If your child would like to attend this or any other camp session at Bellwether this summer, you can find more information and registration on the Bellwether Farm website.

Summer camp information:

[TinyURL.com/bellwether25](https://TinyURL.com/bellwether25)



Summer  
Camps

# Around the Diocese



The Rev. Dr. Velda Love  
*Minister for Racial Justice*  
*United Church of Christ*

## Join us for the Diocese of Ohio Episcopal Church Women (ECW) Spring Luncheon

Saturday, May 10, 10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m., *St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, 468 Bradley Road, Bay Village*

You're invited to a powerful day of connection, conversation, and community at our annual spring luncheon- **Building Beloved Community: Racial Justice and the Work of Love.**

We are honored to welcome Rev. Dr. Velda Love (Minister for Racial Justice with the United Church of Christ) as our keynote speaker. A prophetic voice in racial justice and womanist theology, Dr. Love will speak on healing, justice, and what it means to live as Beloved Community. Special remarks will also be offered by Lera Doneghy, President of the Union of Black Episcopalians.

All are welcome! Come be inspired and connect with others committed to love in action. Reservations are required – grab your spot now! [TinyURL.com/may2025ecw](https://TinyURL.com/may2025ecw)



Buy Tickets

# Gratitude

## Giving thanks for the ministry of the Rev. Rose Anne Lonsway Sunday, May 18



We will celebrate the ministry of the Reverend Rose Anne Lonsway at a reception in Tucker Hall on Sunday, May 18, between the 9 and 11:15 a.m. services.

The Vestry-approved 2025 budget included funding for Rose Anne's part-time position through the end of May, so her position on St. Paul's staff will come to an end this month.



In April, Rev. Rose Anne observed her one-year anniversary of serving on St. Paul's staff. She was initially invited to join the staff on a limited basis to cover the services of Holy Eucharist on Wednesday evenings and at Judson Park each month.

With the departures of the Rector and the Associate Rector last spring, Rose Anne's responsibilities expanded to provide support and assistance to Rev. Patricia and Rev. Gabriel. What would St. Paul's have done without her steady and caring pastoral presence? Talk about a blessing!

Rose Anne will continue to serve on a volunteer basis as chaplain to the Search Committee. She will also work with Gabriel, Patricia, and others on a College for Congregational Development project here, and she will complete her second year of training with the College for Congregational Development in August.

## From Jennie Kaffen, Volunteer Coordinator for AMIS and St. Paul's parishioner

On behalf of AMIS (Americans Making Immigrants Safe), I want to express our gratitude for the generous diaper donations from St. Paul's over the weeks leading up to Easter. St. Paul's gave over 40 large boxes of diapers, which translates to thousands of diapers.

Two weeks ago, as I was filling my car with boxes of diapers, a young mother from Haiti that we work with texted me to see if we had size One. I was thrilled to say yes and brought them to her right away. She and her husband were so happy to be able to provide for their baby with our help.

It means so much to the families we work with to know there are so many people in our community who support them.

**Thank you again!**

## Rector Search Committee Update

After a six-week open application period, the search committee is now busy reviewing the applications of candidates and beginning the initial interview process. Thank you for your continued prayers and support!

## CALLING A NEW RECTOR



### Photos on back cover:

Row 1, left and middle: Lenten Evening Series

Row 1, right: Spring Gallery Opening

Rows 2 and 3: Palm Sunday

Rows 3 and 4, right: Maundy Thursday foot washing

Row 4: Good Friday Ecumenical Service

Row 5, left: Ecumenical Service clergy and preachers

Row 5, middle: Good Friday Proper Liturgy

Row 6, left and middle: Family Easter Vigil

Row 6, right: Easter Vigil at Trinity Cathedral

