



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

# Parish Notes

July 2025 • Vol. 67 No. 11



# Summer Playlist / Summer Praylist

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Applegate, *Interim Rector*



My 2019 Honda Fit came equipped with a CD player. Compact discs were still the most popular form of physical media that year, although, by 2011, digital

downloads had surpassed CDs as the most popular music

format. I've lived long enough to have music delivered to me by AM radio, FM Radio, records, 8-tracks, cassettes, CDs, digital downloads, and streaming services. Ask to see my ancient iPod with its 3,400+ songs on it. It still works – a good thing, because that's where most of the music that I own resides!

My collection of CDs is in Granville, but I keep a few with me so I can listen to them as I drive around Cleveland. One of them is *Endless Summer* by the Beach Boys. I listened to it recently in memory of the late Brian Wilson, the creative genius and troubled soul behind the band's more than two dozen Top 40 hits. (Brian died June 11 at the age of 82.) The songs on *Endless Summer* are all about surfing, cars, girls, and sunshine. Listening to the CD got me thinking about what my ideal summer playlist might be and wondering what yours would be, too.

Most of us have a summer playlist of songs that speak to us about this time of the year especially. Here are a few from mine:

- *Summertime* by Porgy & Bess
- *In the Summertime* by Mungo Jerry
- *Hot Fun in the Summertime* by Sly and the Family Stone
- *Dancing in the Street* by Martha and the Vandellas, with its irresistible invitation:

*Calling out around the world  
Are you ready for a brand new beat?  
Summer's here and the time is right  
For dancing in the street.*

The best summer songs are upbeat and happy – music to play when you're driving with the windows rolled down. (And, yes, that still happens, at least in the Fairfax neighborhood. Living five stories above the street has no impact on the volume!)

It's not hard to create a summer playlist, but if you don't want to create one, borrow one. The Today Show has one, even former President Barack Obama finds the time to curate an annual summer playlist. Simply type "Summer Songs 2025" into Spotify and you'll hear Sabrina Carpenter, Rosé, Billie Eilish, and Harry Styles sing you through the upcoming July days and nights.

However, it isn't enough to have a summer playlist; we also should have a summer *praylist*: a list of people, situations, and problems that deserve our attention. In Sunday Notes, St. Paul's publishes a prayer list every week under the heading, "Your Prayers Are Requested." You'll find plenty of items for your list if you watch or listen to the news or read The Plain Dealer. Each of us knows someone or some matter that needs our prayers.

I particularly invite your prayers for the members of the Rector Search Committee in this important discernment phase and for the candidates for St. Paul's next rector. Lastly, pray for your parish staff. A church staff is affected more than any other group by leadership transitions. In most cases, they'll have at least three bosses in a 12–18 month period (and that's a lot!)

So, while you are curating your summer playlist, curate a summer praylist, too. Each will have several love songs on it, and each will open your heart in ways that will surprise you.

Blessings,  
Stephen Applegate

# Take Note

## Church Office Closed

Friday, July 4, 2025

The parish office, church building, and Act II Shop will be closed on Friday, July 4, for the Independence Day holiday. If you need pastoral care while the office is closed, please call the Pastoral Care Line to be connected to one of St. Paul's clergy: (216) 238-4001.

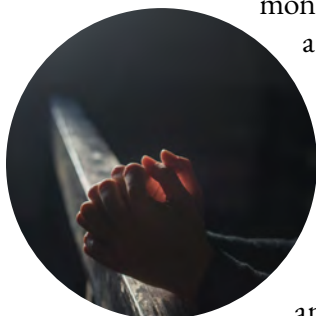
# Worship

## Mid-Week Services

### Wednesday Eucharist, 6 p.m.

Healing Eucharist: July 2, August 6

Our Wednesday evening service of Holy Eucharist continues throughout the summer, featuring a Healing Eucharist on the first Wednesday of the month. This Eucharist will include a Litany for Healing as well as the laying on of hands with anointing for anyone who desires it. Whether you are in need of healing or come offering prayers for a loved one in need, find God's peace and love at this simple service.



### Thursday Morning Prayer, 9 a.m.

Join us for lay-led morning prayer beginning every Thursday in Chapel of the Cross at 9 a.m.

### Call for Baptisms

Sundays, July 13 and 27



The next baptisms will be on July 13 and 27. If you are interested in being baptized or having your child baptized on one of these dates, please email Rev. Gabriel Lawrence at least seven days in advance: [GLawrence@StPaulsCLE.org](mailto:GLawrence@StPaulsCLE.org).

# Parish Events

## Summer Ice Cream Social

Friday, July 18, 6 – 8:30 p.m., *Front Lawn*

The Women's and Men's Councils are thrilled to invite you, your family, friends, and neighbors to one of our favorite summer traditions—the Ice Cream Social!

Come relax and enjoy a summer evening filled with community, laughter, and delicious treats. We'll be serving up frozen desserts along with grilled hot dogs and “not dogs” with all the fixings—something for everyone to enjoy!



### Special Highlights:

- Jungle Terry and his interactive menagerie of exotic animals—always a hit with kids and adults alike!
- Live music from local favorite Opus 216, adding a joyful soundtrack to the evening.

This event is free and open to all. A basket will be available for those who would like to make a free-will offering in support of the event.

Come for the treats, stay for the fun—and bring your neighbors too! We can't wait to see you there.

## Holy Hiking

Saturday, July 26

9:30 a.m., *Station Road Bridge, Brecksville*

Saturday, August 23

9:30 a.m., *Acacia Reservation* (accessible hike)

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@StPaulsCLE.org](mailto:GLawrence@StPaulsCLE.org).



# Outreach

## Great News about the Bahati Family

By Rev. Patricia Rose, *Assistant Rector*

The great news is that the Habitat house we will most likely be working on this year will be the new home for the Bahati Family!

As many of you know, a dedicated St. Paul's Refugee Ministry Team has supported this family in getting adjusted and oriented after they arrived here from the Democratic Republic of Congo in January 2023. The Bahatis are strong and working hard to achieve their goals. Despite various challenges, both parents, Simon and Ansira, and all five children – Penina, Sarah, Rebecca, Esther, and Iracoze – are settling into their new lives with achievements and success.

Simon did what was necessary to apply for a Habitat Home for his family. The whole family is working hard to complete the required Habitat volunteer hours. Each family member received their green cards this past January. All the children are doing well in school and in other summer and extracurricular activities, including various types of volunteer work.

The Refugee Team is to be commended for all they did to support the family's empowerment to establish their footing and move forward autonomously in their new lives!



*It was an honor to view the construction progress and represent St. Paul's on the day of the blessing of the Bahati's future home in mid-June (while torrential rain poured down outside). -Rev. Patricia*

## Habitat for Humanity Opportunities

Saturdays, July 26, September 6 and 27

St. Paul's work days with Habitat for Humanity's Faith Build will be July 26 and September 6, most likely at the home being built for the Bahati family. However, if plumbing or electrical construction is scheduled on those days, we will work at another site (those are not tasks for volunteers!). The Habitat staff and crew are doing everything they can to avoid a conflict.



There will also be a Neighborhood Spruce Up day on September 27 on the street where the Bahati home is being built.

There are lots of different ways to get involved including jobs for those with no building skills, jobs for those with power tools, or making bag lunches for the crew. We hope you can join us!

If you have questions, contact Rev. Patricia ([PRose@StPaulsCLE.org](mailto:PRose@StPaulsCLE.org)) or Kathy Hogg ([KHogg75@gmail.com](mailto:KHogg75@gmail.com)). Email Kathy to be added to the St. Paul's Habitat for Humanity email distribution list.

# Children & Youth

**Save the Date: Back-to-School Blessing**  
Sunday, August 24, during the 9 a.m. service

Summer goes so fast, and soon it will be time to exchange swimsuits for the first day of school outfit! Before that, we invite students and teachers of all ages and stages to join us for a special prayer in honor of the school year's start. On Sunday, August 24, you will be invited to come forward for a blessing during the 9 a.m. service. Don't forget to collect this year's backpack tag, marking you as a beloved member of St. Paul's!

# Children & Youth

## A Trip to Remember...and Repeat!

By Lauren Dockery, *Director of Children & Youth Ministries*

In June, eight St. Paul's teens, ages 13 to 17, piled into a van and headed southeast through the Blue Ridge Mountains. They didn't know exactly what to expect on this pilgrimage to the Boys Home of Virginia—just that they were going to live alongside boys they'd never met, in a place they'd never been.

The Boys Home is both a school and a residence for boys who can't live at home (for all kinds of reasons). The students come from diverse backgrounds and live together in age-based cottages, attending school right on campus.

Boys Home offers a safe, structured, and joyful environment where kids get to do the things all kids should get to do: go to school, pitch in with chores, play sports, and grow up with friends. There's also a work-study program where older boys can earn money and gain hands-on experience with trades like farming, carpentry, and more.

Our teens weren't there to fix anything or teach anything. They were there to share life: live in the cottages, join the routines, and try to build friendships. And that's exactly what happened.

There were 11 Boys Home students on campus during our visit, ranging from middle schoolers to rising seniors. Each morning, St. Paul's kids followed the boys' lead. In the dining hall, they said grace, rang the bell for seconds, and practiced their Southern manners with “yes ma'ams” and “no sirs.” They joined vocational work sessions--helping build the frame of a tiny house, planting vegetables, visiting goats, walking horses—and saw how proud the older Boys Home students were of the animals they raised.

Afternoons were all about water and sunshine: creek stomping, swimming in the campus dam, a visit to the boys' favorite place: the Covington public pool. The turning point in the trip was a glorious adventure paddling down the Jackson River.

Somewhere between navigating the (surprisingly fast!) rapids and roaring with laughter, the kids decided to grab hold of one another's boats, 10 boats linked together, floating like one big, chaotic blob.

In that moment, something shifted. The group stopped being “us and them” and became something new: a single, rowdy, splash-soaked crew of teenagers who couldn't remember who came from where.

Each night ended with songs and reflection. At first, the Boys Home students hung back, unsure what to make of our group (mostly girls!) singing Taylor Swift and diving into deep conversation. But by the last night, they were singing “Shake It Off” and showing off their goofy dances right along with us.

This wasn't a service project. Our teens didn't “help” them. They didn't “teach” us. Everyone just lived together for a few days, raising construction panels, hauling soil, walking to breakfast half-awake, asking big questions, and getting dirt under their fingernails.

What started as something unfamiliar and different came to feel like home. And the boys we went to visit? They came to feel like close friends.

As one teen put it: “It was wonderful making connections with people I never would have met otherwise. I learned a lot about myself and others, and I can't wait to go back.”

We plan to return next summer—and we hope even more youth will come along.

Because some trips are just too good not to repeat.



# Music & Arts

## Senior Choir Pilgrimage to Salisbury Cathedral

Kevin Jones, *Director of Music*



It seems like yesterday that we began planning for the Senior Choir's Pilgrimage to Salisbury Cathedral, but in fact, planning began way back in the fall of 2022. On July 17, our group of singers and non-singing travelers ("groupies") will depart Cleveland for the United Kingdom.

Our troupe of 40 will arrive at London's Heathrow airport on Friday, July 18, to begin a ten-day adventure together. After a stop in Windsor and a tour of Windsor Castle, the group will travel to Bath where they will be in residence at Bath Abbey to sing services on Saturday and Sunday.

From there, we travel slightly south to the city of Salisbury to be the choir in residence at Salisbury Cathedral. Salisbury's Nave and Quire were finished around 1258, and its 404-foot tower was completed in 1330. Salisbury has been a leader in liturgical practices throughout its history and many of our oldest rites come from Salisbury (Sarum, in Latin).

During the week, we will spend our mornings traveling to various historical spots, but our focus is to sing daily services. These trips can be transformative for a choir, and the UK is the only place in the world to be able to undertake such a pilgrimage.

We hope that you will follow our trip in a few ways:

First, tune in to livestreamed services:

- Sunday, July 20, Eucharist and Evensong services at Bath Abbey:  
[YouTube.com/@bath\\_abbey/streams](https://www.youtube.com/@bath_abbey/streams)
- Sunday, July 27, services at Salisbury Cathedral:  
[YouTube.com/@SalisburyCathedral1/streams](https://www.youtube.com/@SalisburyCathedral1/streams)

Second, we have established a daily blog for the trip—Stories from Salisbury. The Rev. Gregory Sammons, father to choir member Liz Rodems, will be our official blogster. Watch for photos, stories, and content about the trip here: [StPaulsCLE.org/2025trip](https://StPaulsCLE.org/2025trip)

## Bon Voyage Choral Evensong

Sunday, July 13, 4 p.m.

To send off the Senior Choir, please come to the Bon Voyage Choral Evensong. You will hear our tour choir and organist Todd Wilson do exactly what we will be doing in England – singing the Office of Evening Prayer: giving thanks for the day that is past, offering sung prayers for a restful and peaceful night ahead, and asking for guidance in a complex and busy world.

We hope you will join us and allow us to thank you for your support for these past three years of preparation.

*Livestream:* [StPaulsCLE.org/Live](https://StPaulsCLE.org/Live)

## Bluegrass Holy Eucharist

Sundays, July 27 and August 24, at the 9 a.m. service, *Front Lawn*

The Forest City String Band will accompany our 9 a.m. Holy Eucharist services on Sundays, July 27 and August 24.

Don't miss this St. Paul's tradition, which brings together the beautiful, lush melodies of bluegrass with classic gospel tunes!



## Summer Art Gallery Exhibit

The Nicholson B. White Gallery pauses its usual displays by local artists for the summer. For your enjoyment, check out photographs of St. Paul's people in action! You will see many of our ministries, worship services, our music program, and more. Photos courtesy of St. Paul's parishioners and staff, Jenni Thomas, and Laurel Steinetz.

# Opportunities to Serve

## St. Paul's Lay Weeders

By Nell Davidson

Spring is a busy time for St. Paul's Lay Weeders: cleaning up after winter, discovering what has survived and can be coaxed back into vibrant growth, and discerning what might need to be replaced. Our biggest spring activity is weeding in preparation for laying down mulch, which our St. Paul's Scout troop helps us with each year (completed June 7th)!

Into the summer, we've been busy dividing perennials (some of which were added to the iris garden), breathing life into parts of the terrace garden that needed attention, growing new crops of herbs for the fall Herb Fair, getting the courtyard garden into shape for celebrations and receptions. And of course, there are roses blooming everywhere around the building—which always need attention and care.

There are lots of opportunities for those wishing to join our group. No special skills or qualifications are required!

Possible roles include:

- Helping out with weeding and watering
- Taking responsibility for a larger garden area
- Special projects (on an as-needed basis)
- Helping with the Herb Fair (no outdoor labor!)

We hope to begin offering short tours of the garden after Sunday services in the summer to familiarize members and visitors with our gardens.

Anyone with an interest can find a way to help us fulfill our mission to the church. Contact Nell Davidson to learn more: [EWD@case.edu](mailto:EWD@case.edu)



## Open Doors Academy (ODA) Reading Camps Need YOU!

Mon. July 14 - Thurs. July 17 and  
Mon. July 21 - Thurs. July 24, 9:30 a.m. - noon

For many years, St. Paul's has supported summer Reading Camps for rising third through fifth graders who need help. 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 are in great need of volunteers** to help as reading partners for our Pleasure Reading station at ODA camps (at Archbishop Lyke School on Harvard Ave. in Cleveland). Please email Julie Micheletti ([MichelettiJulie@Gmail.com](mailto:MichelettiJulie@Gmail.com)) for more information or to volunteer.



## Summer Camps



**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](http://TinyURL.com/bellwether25)



# Ecumenical Connections

## Porch Talks for a Beloved Community

Saturday, August 23, 5 p.m. *East View United Church of Christ, 17300 Van Aken Blvd., Shaker Heights*

In July 1965, The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke to a large crowd from the porch of Heights Christian Church. This summer, “Porch Talks” commemorates the 60th anniversary of his visit.



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

### *In Times Like These... Consult the Ancestors!*

Speaker: The Rev. Dr. Velda R. Love serves the National Ministries of the United Church of Christ (UCC) as the Minister for Racial Justice and Lead for Join the Movement Toward Racial Justice initiative.

Porch Talks will be held outdoors (weather permitting). Bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on. In the event of rain, we will move into the church’s sanctuary.

A reception with light refreshments will follow the program. Free and open to the public.

Presented by: East View United Church of Christ, Heights Christian Church, Plymouth Church UCC.

Music to be provided by The Greater Cleveland Choral Chapter (Youth/Young Adult Choir) along with the combined choir from all three sponsor congregations.

For more information, call the Heights Christian Church office: (216) 561-4800

# Important Dates

## August

### **Bluegrass Holy Eucharist**

Sunday, August 24, at the 9 a.m. service

### **Back-to-School Blessing**

Sunday, August 24, at the 9 a.m. service

### **Youth Group Resumes**

Sunday, August 24

### **St. Paul’s Ringers Rehearsals Resume**

Monday, August 25, 5:15 p.m.

### **Last Outdoor Service**

Sunday, August 31, 9 a.m.

## September

### **Choir Practices Resume**

**Senior Choir:** Thursday, September 4

**St. Catherine Choir:** Thursday, September 4

**St. Cecilia & St. David Choir:** Thursday, September 4

**Youth Choir:** Sunday, September 7

### **Kick-Off Sunday**

Sunday, September 7 (Holy Eucharist at 7:45, 9, and 11:15 a.m.; choirs return)

### **Youth Liturgy Training**

Sunday, September 7, 10 a.m.

### **Parish Picnic**

Sunday, September 14, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

### **Senior Choir Choral Evensong**

Sunday, September 21, 4 p.m.

*Pictures on the Front Cover: First row: St. Paul’s parishioners and friends celebrating and marching in the Pride in the CLE Parade; Second and third rows: Day of Pentecost Combined Worship service and ice cream social; Fourth and fifth rows: St. Paul’s Youth and residents of Boys Home Virginia during the Youth Pilgrimage; Sixth row: Trinity Sunday and the first outdoor service of the summer.*