



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

# Parish Notes

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Picture descriptions on page 4

# A Letter from The Rev'd T.J. Freeman

Dearest St. Paul's Episcopal Church,

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!



It is a great joy to introduce myself as your next Rector—and introduce my family, Annie, the Chief Financial Officer of a medical physics company and my wife of fifteen years, and our two children Ellie, a rising sixth grader, and Jack, a rising third grader. It is the

honor of a lifetime to be called to such a wonderful, inclusive, and vibrant parish. I cannot wait to begin our pilgrimage together.

Earlier this year, a friend texted to ask if I would prayerfully consider the opportunity to become the next Rector of St. Paul's. From the moment I began to read your parish profile, something was stirring in my heart. Over the intervening months of prayer, conversation, and discernment I have fallen in love with St. Paul's and with your mission of Seeking. Serving. Loving. Together.

During my 11 years of parish ministry, I have had the pleasure to serve two wonderful parishes, first as a Curate, then Associate Rector, at Calvary Episcopal Church in Pittsburgh, PA, and most recently as the Rector of Trinity Episcopal Church in Fort Wayne, IN. Throughout my ministry, I have served widely within the Episcopal Church, the Dioceses I have been in, and in the local communities where we have lived.

Last year, I began a Doctor of Ministry program at Saint Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary. I am passionate about ecumenical and interreligious relations, and this program was the perfect opportunity to challenge myself academically and personally—and to work towards Jesus' vision that we all may be one.

Beyond the Church, I enjoy hiking, reading, painting, and theatre—recently I was given an old



*The Rev'd T.J. Freeman and family*

film camera, and I am loving taking pictures with it. As a family, we love visiting friends, walking in the woods, cuddling up and reading, travel, and board games. Twelve years ago, I made the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, walking the Camino Francés. In 2022, I walked the Forth to Farne pilgrimage route from just east of Edinburgh, Scotland to Lindisfarne in northeast England.

There is so much more to say, but that will have to wait for now. I will close by reiterating how much of an honor and a privilege it is for me to have been chosen to be your next Rector. My deepest prayer is that our ministry together will be a time of worship, learning, and play, where we fall ever more deeply in love with Jesus, with our neighbors, and with one another.

Be assured of my prayers, and please hold me and my family in yours. My family and I cannot wait to be with you!

With a brother's love.

I am your servant in Christ Jesus,

The Rev'd T.J. Freeman *SMMS*

*Additional information about Rev'd Freeman's arrival is available on our website: [StPaulsCLE.org/17th-rector/](http://StPaulsCLE.org/17th-rector/)*

# Take Note

## Church Office Closed

Monday, September 1, 2025

The parish office and church building will be closed on Monday, September 1, for the Labor 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: 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 on Thursdays in the Chapel of the Cross. Starting on Thursday, September 11, Thursday Morning Prayer will move to 8:30 a.m.

## Weekly Bible Study

### Resumes

Thursday, September 11, 9 a.m., Sanders Room

Join the preacher on deck for our weekly Bible Study, when we will take a closer look at the readings for the following Sunday.



# Parish Events

## Holy Hike with Local Episcopalians

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. On this Holy Hike, we will also be joined by Episcopalians from local congregations. 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@StPaulsCLEorg](mailto:GLawrence@StPaulsCLEorg)



# Children & Youth

## Church School Teacher Gatherings

Choose one that works for you:

Sunday, August 24, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Wednesday, August 27, 5:45 - 7:45 p.m.

Thursday, September 4, 4- 6 p.m.

St. Paul's is incredibly lucky to have such warm, curious, and generous-hearted volunteers leading our Sunday School classrooms. Whether it's your first year teaching or your fifth, these gatherings are a chance to reconnect with the heart of our ministry and pick up a few tools to make the year ahead feel smoother and more joyful.

Each session will offer space to:

- Explore the mission and vision behind our Children & Youth Ministry
- Review the curriculum (and get a peek at what other classes are up to)
- Practice a few classroom management and connection strategies
- Swap ideas and build community with fellow teachers

You only need to attend one gathering, whichever fits best in your schedule. We'd love to see you there. To RSVP, email Lauren Dockery: [LDockery@StPaulsCLE.org](mailto:LDockery@StPaulsCLE.org)

# Children & Youth

## Youth Acolyte Training: Fire, Rituals, and Breakfast

Sunday, August 24, 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.,  
*Meet in the Dining Room*

Calling all young torchbearers, cross carriers, and lovers of ancient ritual. Whether you're a seasoned acolyte or just curious about wearing a robe and carrying a really big stick, this is your moment.



We're gathering youth in **third grade and up** for a special morning of training, refreshers, and hands-on liturgical adventure. We need both our veterans and new acolytes, because the best way to learn is side by side, passing down knowledge like it's been done for centuries (but with fewer incense clouds and more bagels).

**This year, get ready for something new:** acolytes will help set the table each week—yes, the actual altar table! You'll be part of making worship feel grounded, holy, and welcoming for everyone who walks through the doors.

Bagels will be served. Please plan to stay for the full morning. To sign up, email Susan Armstrong: [SArmstrong@StPaulsCLE.org](mailto:SArmstrong@StPaulsCLE.org)

*Pictures on the Front Cover: First row: Ice Cream Social and Jungle Terry; Second row, left: St. Paul's Senior Choir pilgrimage to the UK; Second row, right: fellowship after baptism rehearsal; Third row, left: Four St. Paul's Youth Choristers at the St. Thomas Girl Chorister Course in NYC; Third row, right, and fourth row: Holy Eucharist on the Seventh Sunday after Pentecost, including baptisms and Bluegrass Eucharist featuring the Forest City String Band.*

## Welcome back, kids and parents!

There's fresh energy among the children, youth, and families at St. Paul's this fall—something alive and joyful in the air. The season ahead is full of chances to connect, laugh, and share time together. We hope you'll join us for these warm and welcoming gatherings:

### Village Kick-Off Playground Party!

Saturday, August 23, 10 - 11:30 a.m.  
*St. Paul's Playground*

The Village is our community of families with young children—a place to connect, laugh, share stories, and let the kids play! Whether you're brand new or a longtime friend, we hope you'll join us on the playground to kick off a new year of growing together.



**New this fall!** Starting **Sunday, September 7**, we'll gather *every Sunday from 11 a.m. to noon* for casual conversation and post-church-school wiggles. Come as you are and stay for a few minutes or the whole hour! It's low-key, come-and-go, and all about building community with other parents and caregivers.

### TotalchaosinthenameoftheLordAmen! (Total Chaos) Opening Gathering

Saturday, August 23, 3 to 5 p.m.

For kids 4th – 6th grade, *location TBD*

### Youth Group Kick-Off Party

Sunday, August 31, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

For youth 7th – 12th grade, *location TBD*

### Back-to-School Blessing

Sunday, August 24, at all services

Summer goes so fast. 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. Don't forget to collect a backpack tag, marking you as a beloved member of St. Paul's!

# Parish Photo Directory

by Kirsten Radivoyevitch, *Membership Engagement Coordinator*

School picture day is a cherished, annual tradition that captures a student's journey through their school years. Many of us have held onto this material evidence illustrating the awkwardness or sweetness captured in our own school photos. I, personally, have experienced more than my fair share of school picture days, but from a few different angles, so to speak.

As a mother of four boys, I pledged not to interfere with their outfit or hair styling choices on picture day, but I do remember tucking a comb or an extra shirt in their back backs "just in case you want it later." Having been a preschool teacher for many years, picture day meant that I would spend the morning herding cats (figuratively) and spot cleaning human facades (literally). Once the photo was taken, though, all bets were off.

The time-honored purpose of picture day is to preserve memories and witness a child's growth during their school years. It also fosters a sense of belonging within the school community, whether you are looking at the elementary school class photo or at the high school yearbook. The same is true when it comes to our church directory.

I recently blanked on the name of one of our young parish regulars. When I consulted the most recent St. Paul's photo directory, I discovered that it was from 2017. My goodness! Our parish community has changed considerably since then! Turning to Realm, the database we use at church, was of no help either since very, very few of us (myself included) have uploaded or posted our photos.

According to the Congregation Assessment Tool (CAT survey), St. Paul's has a strong desire to create a culture of togetherness and a sense of belonging. The photos gracing the south wing gallery walls are visual evidence of parishioners enjoying shared experiences centered on church life. They capture moments of connection and foster a sense of identity as the people of St. Paul's.

However, those photographs are not inclusive of our entire church family and can only be viewed when the building is open. Making updates to our photo directory and our database will significantly boost our sense of community. It will also be of substantial help to our new Rector as he joins our church family.

Therefore, we will be scheduling photo shoots for everyone the week of September 14-21. The photos will be taken in the Reception Room\* by our talented staff, who will also help to update the contact information on file for you and your family. Your photo will then be updated in Realm to help Rev'd T.J. learn your faces and names. You will be able to purchase prints of your directory photo or download the high resolution image for your digital archives (or to upload to family members' "smart" photo frames). Finally, all the photos will be compiled with contact information into our new Parish Photo Directory. Since we are producing the directory in-house, it will take a few weeks, but each household will receive a physical directory.

So, now is the time to schedule your haircut, choose your outfit, select your sitting time, and practice your smile. September will be here before you know it, as will our new photo directory and our new Rector and his family!

Sign up for your preferred time here:  
[StPaulsCLE.org/2025directory](https://StPaulsCLE.org/2025directory)

If you are unable to make any of those slots but would like to be included in the photo directory, please email St. Paul's Communications Manager, Laurel Steinetz: [LSteinetz@StPaulsCLE.org](mailto:LSteinetz@StPaulsCLE.org)

*\*Parishioners who live at Judson will have the photography studio brought to them! More information to follow.*



# Music & Arts



**Bluegrass Holy Eucharist**  
Sunday, August 24,  
9 a.m., *Front Lawn*  
(weather permitting)

The Forest City String Band will accompany our 9 a.m. Holy Eucharist service Sunday, August 24. Don't miss

this St. Paul's tradition, which brings together the beautiful, lush melodies of bluegrass with classic gospel tunes!

## St. Paul's Ringers

Are you looking for a meaningful and musical way to get involved? Consider joining our handbell choir, St. Paul's Ringers. Whether you're an experienced musician or a beginner with a good sense of rhythm, playing in the bell choir is an enriching way to contribute to worship services.

No prior experience is necessary—just bring your enthusiasm and willingness to try something new. We also welcome those who would like to learn to play but not commit to the whole schedule, so they can be called upon to substitute when the need arises.

St. Paul's Ringers play at the 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. services once a month during the program year, at the Advent Lessons and Carols service, and sometimes during church concerts. Weekly rehearsals are held during the program year on Mondays from 5:15 - 6:30 p.m. (no practice when the church is closed). We resume after our "summer vacation" on Monday, August 25. On the Saturday before we are scheduled to play during worship services, we meet briefly to set up together. Many hands make light work!

Here's what a couple of our ringers have to say:

"I started ringing when my daughter wanted us to start together while she was in high school. She of course moved on, and I'm still ringing 12



*Betsy, back row, right*

years later! I love the fellowship, the bit of creativity and challenge of ringing, and the beautiful noise we create together to raise up to God!" - Betsy

"I am new to ringing handbells, so I feel fortunate that the group is so helpful and supportive. At practice, I love to try and take a quick look at the other bells while we are playing. To me, the visual movement of the bells is as entrancing and beautiful as the heavenly succession of ringing sounds." -Jeanne



*The upper register of St. Paul's Ringers on Palm Sunday. Jeanne appears adjacent to the director, Lois.*

By serving through music, you're not only offering your time and talents, but also helping to create moments of beauty and reflection for the entire congregation. The handbell choir may be just the calling you've been waiting for. Email Lois Bell, director of St. Paul's Ringers, to learn more or indicate your interest.

[LoisMusic@hotmail.com](mailto:LoisMusic@hotmail.com)

## Save the Date: Fall Gallery Show Opening

Thursday, September 11, 5 – 7 p.m., Artists' Conversation at 6 p.m.

The N.B. White Gallery committee will host its fall show reception on Thursday, September 11, at 5 p.m. Join us to welcome the artists and mingle with parishioners and guests. Refreshments will be served, so come and enjoy.

# Opportunities to Serve

## Open Doors Academy and St. Paul's Volunteers

*This is an excerpt from a longer article.*

Read more: [StPaulsCLE.org/ODA-update](https://StPaulsCLE.org/ODA-update)

Open Doors Academy (ODA) began more than 30 years ago at St. Paul's. This was in response to a group of middle-school children who consistently wandered through the parking lot and the church, looking for something to do after school. Rather than locking the doors and turning the kids away, the church chose to open our doors and welcome them in.

Fast-forward to today: ODA has grown throughout Cuyahoga County and Northern Ohio, having served 28 programs with children in grades K-12 during the school year. ODA also provides summer camps, scholar travel opportunities, and year-round family engagement programs.

The results speak for themselves. ODA Scholars:

- have a 98% high school graduation rate
- have 57% reduction in attrition

Additionally, 93% of scholars have continued to postsecondary education or career options, and 87 cents of every dollar goes toward programming.



*St. Paul's volunteer with ODA scholar,  
Summer 2025 Reading Camp*

In 2017, St. Paul's merged its Reading Day Camp with ODA. Since then, St. Paul's adult volunteers read with ODA scholars for two weeks of the camp programs. This has been positive for both the volunteers and the scholars. St. Paul's also provides a book for each scholar from the donations at our annual book fair.

Funding for this comprehensive program comes from a variety of sources, including federal and state funding, private corporations and foundations, and individual donors. Significant portions of federal and state dollars have recently been cut, and the ODA staff are working hard to minimize the impact on existing programs.

### How can individuals help?

One of ODA's largest fundraising events is the annual Clambake. Opportunities are available for table sponsors and individuals, and it's sure to be a great time!



*Having fun at ODA's 2024 Clambake!*

### This year's clambake will be:

Saturday, October 11, 5:30 – 9 p.m.

Cleveland Rowing Foundation, 1003 British Street

**Reserved tickets:** \$225

**Strolling tickets:** \$150

Learn more or get your tickets at:

**[OpenDoorsAcademy.org/Clambake](https://OpenDoorsAcademy.org/Clambake)**

If you would like more information or to volunteer, please email Betsy Hockey:

**[EHockeyPT@aol.com](mailto:EHockeyPT@aol.com)**

*"I'm honored to be St. Paul's representative to the Board of Directors at ODA—a compassionate, dedicated, and motivated group of local professionals, working together to help children in northeast Ohio to meet their full potential."*

*-Betsy Hockey, St. Paul's parishioner and St. Paul's liaison to the Open Doors Academy Board of Directors*

# Outreach

## Habitat for Humanity Opportunities

Saturdays, September 6 and 27

St. Paul's next work day with Habitat for Humanity will be Saturday, September 6, possibly at the home being built for the Bahati family. If plumbing or electrical construction is scheduled that day, we will work at another site (those are not tasks for volunteers!).



On September 27, there will be a Neighborhood Spruce Up day near the Bahati's future home.

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

If you have questions, please email Kathy Hogg: [KHogg75@gmail.com](mailto:KHogg75@gmail.com)

## Important Dates

## Around Town

**Porch Talks for a Beloved Community**  
Saturday, August 23, 5 p.m. *East View United Church of Christ, 17300 Van Aken Blvd.*



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.

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

The Rev. Dr. Velda Love

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.

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

## August

**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

*If you are interested in joining the Senior Choir, please email the Director of Music, Kevin Jones: [KJones@StPaulsCLE.org](mailto:KJones@StPaulsCLE.org)*

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

**Youth Choir:** Sunday, September 7

*If your child is interested in joining any of the children's choirs, please email the Director of Children and Youth Choirs, Kelsey Ferguson: [KFerguson@StPaulsCLE.org](mailto:KFerguson@StPaulsCLE.org)*

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

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

**Senior Choir Choral Evensong**  
Sunday, September 21, 4 p.m.