



1: Youth Pilgrimage participants shared their experience during The Forum. **2:** All Things Advent. **3:** Christmas Pageant leads rehearsing. **4:** An Advent Procession of Lessons and Carols. **5:** Women's group baking casseroles for Loaves and Fishes Christmas Dinner. **6:** Loaves and Fishes Christmas Dinner. **7:** Greens Workshop. **8:** A St. Paul's Chorister Christmas. **8:** Kids help retell the Nativity story during the 2 p.m. Christmas Eve Service. (more pics throughout)

A Letter from the Rector

Dear ones,

I want to share my hopes and intentions for the calling of the next priest to serve at Saint Paul's. It has become quite clear to me that the recent frequency in clerical transition is not sustainable.

With this in mind, it is *not* my intention to call an interim associate, though there may be moments or liturgies where we seek additional support. Instead, we will begin (and may have begun by the time you read this) an Episcopal Church- and Anglican Communion-wide search for a Senior Associate Rector. The priest we search for will be someone with experience in the Church and who feels a call to be a priest here for at least five to eight years.

Our vocation to call, form, prepare, and send out young clergy for service in the wider Church will continue. However, at this time, it is my desire to provide stability and consistency for our community. It is nearly impossible to pastor to our current members, welcome new members, or grow our parish when we are experiencing constant turnover in our clerical staff.

In his *Great High Priestly Prayer*, our Lord prays, "that they will be one just as we are one." Growing to be *one* takes times, work, and steadiness. In a world that can be so unsettled and ever-changing, the Church should be a place where there is solid ground and familiar faces. As we move into the next stage of common life, I am striving to offer that reality.

As always, I am very happy to speak further about this and answer any questions that you might have. Please do not hesitate to reach out for conversation.

With a brother's love,

The Rev'd T.J. Freeman *SMMS*
Seventeenth Rector, Saint Paul's Episcopal Church



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T.J. +". The signature is stylized and appears to be written on a light-colored surface.

Please Note

Church Closure

If you need pastoral care when the church office is closed, call the Pastoral Care Line: (216) 238-4001.

Monday, January 19 | Parish office and church building are closed on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Combined Service of Holy Eucharist

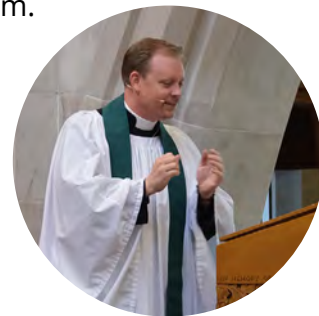
Sunday, January 25, 10 a.m., *Nave*

There will be one combined service at 10 a.m. on Sunday, January 25. *ASL interpreted; livestreamed at StPaulsCLE.org/Live*

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

Saturday, January 24, 11 a.m.

All are invited to the Installation of the Rev'd T.J. Freeman as the seventeenth Rector of Saint Paul's Episcopal Church. The Rt. Rev'd Anne B. Jolly, Bishop of the Diocese of Ohio, will preside. The Rt. Rev'd Matthew D. Cowden, Bishop of the Diocese of West Virginia, will preach. Esteemed guests and friends from across the wider church will be in attendance. *A reception will follow.*



Outreach

Celebrating 15 Years of GCC

Sunday, January 25, 3 – 4:30 p.m., *Olivet Baptist Church, 8712 Quincy Ave. Cleveland*

This joyful event will celebrate, honor, and hear wisdom from Greater Cleveland Congregations' founding clergy: Pastor Jawanza Colvin, Rabbi Josh Caruso, and Dean Tracey Lind. These leaders will share what sparked their interest in GCC's organizing model, why built GCC, highlights and insights, and their vision for GCC's future.

RSVP by January 16: TinyURL.com/jan25-gcc.

Formation

The Forum: Belonging to Christ's Church January 18, 10:10 a.m., Dining Room



Led by Dr. Edward Habnenberg, Ph.D., Department of Theology and Religious Studies, John Carroll University.

Join us for a lively, interactive presentation on the deep connection between the Roman Catholic and Anglican communions. We will focus on dialogue over the past 60+ years, especially modern-day contexts from Popes Leo and Francis to present-day local collaboration. Part of “belonging” is knowing that we are part of a long history of a church that only relatively recently has sprouted many branches.

Parish Life

Archives Tour and Work Session Saturday, January 10, 10 a.m., Dining Room



Join the fun at the next work session of the Archives Team. Learn how and where the artifacts of our parish history are archived. Help to sort, review, and verify the contents of our archival boxes or help categorize items submitted for storage. For more

information and to RSVP, contact David Sloan at 216-408-5498 or Sloan.David@Yahoo.com.

Annual Meeting Sunday, January 25, 11:15 a.m., Tucker Hall

Please join us for the St. Paul's Annual Meeting following a combined worship service. This is a great opportunity for the congregation to gather and reflect on the past year and look toward the year ahead. There will be special activities for the children during the meeting to enable parents to attend. We hope to see you there!

Parish Life

Sages January Gathering Wednesday, January 28, 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Brooks Room

Sages, St. Paul's group for “seasoned citizens,” is excited to present a presentation from Bill Rudman, director of the Musical Theater Project and producer and host of the syndicated radio show, Sounds of the American Musical, for a program on the beauty and wisdom of musical theater. Discussion and lunch follow. Please bring a salad or side dish as you are able. Guests are welcome if space is available. Please RSVP to JThomas@StPaulsCLE.org by Friday, January 23.



Gatherings: Meet the Rector Through May 2026, various locations

All meaningful relationships are built on trust, a trust that is slowly nurtured over time. With this in mind, the Rev'd T.J. Freeman invites you to join him for a series of Gatherings. These 90-minute gatherings will be in the homes of church members. After a time for socializing, we will focus on one primary question “What does your new Rector need to know?” Your questions are welcome.

There are four gatherings scheduled in January:

- **Wednesday, January 7, 6 p.m.** | Shaker Heights
- **Tuesday, January 13, 7 p.m.** | Cleveland Heights
- **Monday, January 19, 6 p.m.** | Gates Mills
- **Thursday, January 29, 7 p.m.**
Cleveland Heights

There will be two reserved gatherings at St. Paul's:

- **Saturday, February 7, 3 p.m.**
For parishioners with young children; childcare provided.
- **Monday, March 9, 3 p.m.**
For those who need a daytime or handicap-accessible gathering.

Learn more: TinyURL.com/gatherings25-26



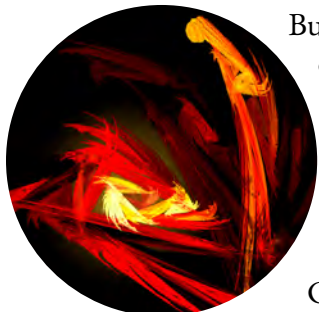
Learn More
& Sign Up

Music & Art

Kevin Jones plays Messiaen's

La Nativité du Seigneur

Sunday, January 11, 4 p.m.



Building on the legacy and life of the late Karel Paukert, St. Paul's own Kevin Jones brings this score to life on the Holtkamp organ. Experience Messiaen's depiction of the birth of Christ in nine movements.

Each of the meditations brims with complex theological concepts, paradoxically anchored in the simplicity of belief. From "A boy is born" until "God among us," listeners will embark on a dynamic exploration of faith and prayer.

Senior and Youth Choirs Choral Evensong

Sunday, January 18, 4 p.m.



Join us for our annual combined choral evensong. Works will include: **Herbert Sumsion** *Preces and Responses*, **T. Tertius Noble** *Canticles in B Minor*, and **Noble Grieve** *not the Holy Spirit*. This service will be livestreamed.

Treblefest Choral Evensong

Sunday, February 15, 4 p.m.



Choristers from St. Paul's and Christ Church in Hudson will present a service of Choral Evensong at St. Paul's on Sunday, February 15 at 4 p.m. The service will be led by guest director Scott Hanoian. Bishop Anne Jolly will officiate.

In addition, Hanoian will lead the choristers at our 9 a.m. service on Sunday, February 15.

The Choir of Westminster Abbey

Wednesday, April 29, 7:30 p.m.

The Choir of Westminster Abbey is renowned worldwide as one of the finest choirs of its type. Comprising up to 30 boys (all of whom attend the Abbey's unique Choir School) and 12 professional adult singers (known as Lay Vicars), its wide-ranging performing activities are rooted in centuries-old tradition. The repertoire ranges from plainsong and Tudor polyphony, to 20th century masterpieces and new commissions. The choir is led by Master of the Choristers Andrew Nethsingha with organist Matthew Jorysz.



Tickets required, \$25 general admission. Advance tickets available starting January 1:

StPaulsCLE.org/westminster-concert



Purchase
Tickets

Winter Gallery Show

On display until February 22

The Nicholson B. White Gallery Committee is proud to host the work of 34 students from the Cleveland Institute of Art. Peruse the exhibition of paintings, drawings, metalwork, glass, fabric and more! Most of the work is for sale. Be sure to stop by to appreciate the talent and commitment of these emerging artists!



Stewardship



Thank you to the many households who have pledged their financial support to St. Paul's for 2026. St. Paul's depends on all of us to support worship, outreach ministries, children's programs, music excellence, and care for each other. Together,

we share our gifts to ensure that St. Paul's is here for us, for our children, for those we serve, and for future generations. Your commitment to this vital work is an important demonstration of belonging.

As of December 29, we have received **281** pledges (**91%** of our pledge goal) totaling **\$1,260,000** (**97%** of our fundraising goal). While we are enormously grateful for all gifts, we are still short of our goal. If you have not yet made a pledge to the 2026 Annual Fund, we encourage you to do so now. With your gifts, St. Paul's will continue to do all that it does. Thank you!



St. Paul's Vestry

Vestry Nominating Committee Report

At the regular meeting of St. Paul's Vestry on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, the following slate of Vestry members for terms commencing in 2026 was voted and approved.

For three-year terms:

Cathy Albers, Diane Banyard, Brett Barkley, and Anne Rowland. **Youth Delegate:** Ella Wheaton.

Vestry Members continuing in 2026 are:

Adam Blackman, Karen Carter, Bonnie Gunzenhauser, Jason Grimes, Betsy Hockey, Ben Keck, Bob Meyer, and Susan Quill (Senior Warden). Michele Smolin will continue as Chancellor and Lloyd Bell as Treasurer.

The Vestry thanks members of the Nominating Committee for their work: Jason Grimes (chair), Susan Quill, Liz Rodems, Chris Smythe, and Andrea Turner.

Per St. Paul's bylaws, additional vestry nominations must be submitted in writing with signatures of at least 15 qualified voters by Tuesday, January 13 (12 days before the Annual Meeting). Please email nominations to the Rector:

TJFreeman@StPaulsCLE.org



Visiting with Nativity Animals on Christmas Eve

Children & Youth

Church School Resumes

Sunday, January 11

Time to hang up the sleds and ice skates- we missed you during winter break! We hope to see you on Sunday, January 11, for Church School at 10 a.m. (*room assignments in Sunday Notes*) and Youth Group at 5:30 p.m.!

C.A.S.T. Spring Play Auditions

Saturday, January 10, noon - 2 p.m.
O'Hear Room



Children in third grade and up are invited to participate in CAST (Christian Action through Student Theater) for the 2026 Spring Play! This is a fantastic opportunity to explore creativity, build confidence, and make lifelong memories

through theater.

No need to prepare anything—just come ready to move, play theater games, and read from the script with other actors.

Tech Week:

Monday, March 9 - Thursday, March 12

For more information, contact Susan Armstrong at SArmstrong@StPaulsCLE.org.

Show Dates:

Friday, March 13, 7 p.m.

Saturday, March 14, 7 p.m.

The Village Meet Up

Saturday, January 31, 10 - 11:30 a.m. *Tucker Hall*



Families with young children (babies through third grade) are invited!

Hang out with other families and children. Meet ups are unstructured times for fellowship and connection.

Please email Susan with any questions: SArmstrong@StPaulsCLE.org

TotalChaosinthenameof theLord,Amen!

Saturday, January 31,
12:30 - 2:30 p.m.
Benihana in Beachwood

TotalChaos (students in fourth to sixth grade) will meet for lunch at Benihana in Beachwood.

Sign up here:

TinyURL.com/25-26youth

Youth Group

Sundays, 5:30 - 8 p.m.

Youth Group returns on Sunday, January 11 and will meet every Sunday evening. Youth Group is for students in seventh grade and up. If your child will attend, please let us know by Friday afternoon each week so Lauren can plan appropriately.



Parenting as a Spiritual Practice

Sundays, February 1 - March 8, during the Formation Hour, *Brooks Room*

Raising children can be joyful, exhausting, ordinary, and holy—all at the same time.

Parenting as a Spiritual Practice is a five-week Sunday morning offering for parents and caregivers raising young children.

These gatherings are not classes, but gently facilitated conversations. There is no preparation required, so come as you are. Each week includes a short scripture meditation and a brief reading, followed by shared reflection and conversation.



Children & Youth

Our themes are loosely shaped by the church's spiritual rhythm of the liturgical seasons. Together, we'll draw from Christian parenting books, scripture, and other thoughtful resources as a way to reflect on parenting as a daily discipline—one that can draw us closer to God and strengthen our relationships with our children.

This group meets during the formation hour and is open to all parents and caregivers, wherever you find yourself on the journey.

Themes:

- February 1 | *The Sacred Ordinary*
- February 8 | *Finding Joy in Waiting*
- **February 15** | Fellowship time at "Meet in the Middle Coffee Hour"
- February 22 | *Being Present and Seeing Clearly*
- March 1 | *Costly Love and the Work of Restoration*
- March 8 | *Community: The Gift of Not Doing This Alone*

Save the Dates

The Fifth Annual Chili Cook-Off

Friday, February 6, 6 – 8:30 p.m., *Tucker Hall*

If you have a favorite chili recipe, enjoy eating other people's favorite chili recipes, or are just looking for an evening of warm food and fellowship on a cold winter evening, join us for the Fifth Annual St. Paul's Chili Cook-Off.



This is a very fun event where parishioners get to show off their culinary talents and all participants are judges. Prizes will be awarded including: "People's Choice Award," "Most Creative," "Best Vegetarian," and more!

Chefs are free; all guests and other registrants are \$15. The fee covers all chili toppings, appetizers,

Save the Dates

salad, corn bread, beverages (beer, wine, & non-alcoholic options), and PRIZES! Please register online or look for the sign-up in the foyer beginning Sunday, January 18.



Chili Cook-Off

Women's Retreat

Friday, April 17, 5 p.m. –
Saturday, April 18, 2:30 p.m.
Bellwether Farm

The Parish Fellowship Committee is once again hosting a Women's Fellowship Retreat at Bellwether Farm. This retreat is envisioned as an opportunity to connect with fellow women of the parish in a relaxed and inspiring atmosphere and to strengthen the bonds of friendship and support. We will begin with an icebreaker gathering on Friday and end with a service of Compline on Saturday. In between, there will be many opportunities to get to know an intergenerational group of amazing St. Paul's women as well as time for some much-needed rest and relaxation. Space is reserved for up to 30 women. The fee is \$145 for a double room and \$175 for a single room, which includes three meals and all activities. Questions? Contact Pam: POhalloran@StPaulsCLE.org



Women's Retreat

Register online: TinyURL.com/womens-retreat26

*Financial assistance can be provided upon request.
Contact Rev. Patricia: PRose@StPaulsCLE.org*

Upcoming Programs:

Sunday, February 1: Scout Sunday; Parenting as a Spiritual Practice; The Forum

Friday, February 6: Chili Cook-Off

Sunday, February 8: Parenting as a Spiritual Practice; The Forum

Sunday, February 15: "Meet in the Middle" Coffee Hour; TrebleFest Choral Evensong

Wednesday, February 18: Ash Wednesday services: 7:30 a.m.; Judson service at 10:30 a.m.; Noon; Family service at 5:30 p.m.; 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, February 21: The Village Meet Up; TotalChaos Gathering

Sunday, February 22: Parenting as a Spiritual Practice; The Forum

Wednesday, February 25: Lenten Evening Series starts

1: Angels and shepherds before the 4 p.m. Pageant Service. 2: Jesus, Mary, and Joseph in the Christmas Pageant. 3: Baby's first Christmas! 4: Sacred Music Intern, Carolyn Hoff, conducting the Senior Choir. 5: Choristers opening the 4 p.m. service. 6: Full cast of our Christmas Pageant.

