



PARISH NOTES

The Newsletter of St. Paul's Episcopal Church

The Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany
February 5, 2012
Vol. 53, No. 21

FEBRUARY 5

A Year in the Life of St. Paul's

*Did you miss the Annual Meeting?
Do you feel "out of the loop" on church news?
Do you wonder what's going on in Tucker Hall?
Do church finances and annual funds puzzle you?
Is your family's life so busy that you have a hard
time keeping up with parish communications?*



If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, we encourage you to join the Rector on Sunday, February 5, at 10 a.m. in the Brooks Room for an informal and abbreviated "State of the Church" presentation. This forum program is designed for those who could not attend this year's Annual Meeting. The Rev. Alan Gates will summarize the Annual Meeting highlights including updates on the "what" of St. Paul's like construction projects, outreach efforts, church finances, and staff changes, as well as on the "why" of St. Paul's—those things that happened in the year that demonstrate the specialness of the parish. There will be plenty of time for questions and comments for the Rector.

Instructed Eucharists Continue

Ever wonder about how the shape of our liturgy developed, or how its flow is meant to reflect our own spiritual lives?

On Sunday, February 5, in all three morning services the Rev. Alan Gates will offer teaching and reflection on the Creed and Prayers. This is part of a three-week series of Instructed Eucharists that began on January 29 and will conclude on February 12.

Book Study: *The Bible Makes Sense*

The action of God in Jesus Christ is God's gift of "power to become the children of God." The point of being a child is to be an heir. What do you think God's last will and testament has in it for you? Walter Brueggemann explains how God acts to incorporate us into a covenantal community in which we are joined with God and others who share in that covenant. Come join Associate Rector Richard Israel in studying what Jesus meant when he came offering life. All are welcome for session seven of this eight-week course on Sunday, February 5, at 10 a.m. in the Dining Room..

Choirs Swap Services

On Sunday, February 5, the Senior Choir will sing at the 9 a.m. service and Youth and Children's choirs will sing at 11:15 a.m. We hope you enjoy this opportunity for a musical change of scenery!

It's Time for the Souper Bowl of Caring

Come prepared on Sunday, February 5, as members of the St. Paul's Youth Group will greet you with soup pots before and after the 9 and 11:15 a.m. services! They are collecting donations for the Cleveland Food Bank and St. Luke's Episcopal Church. Please give generously!

Youth Group Super Bowl Party

All 7th through 12th graders are invited to our annual Super Bowl party from 6 to 8 p.m. at Coventry House! Bring a side dish to share with the group. Come enjoy some chili, football and the company of your friends.

Coffee Sale Time

The Women's Council will hold a Fair Trade coffee sale on Sunday, February 5. Come prepared to stock up on your favorite brew.

WEEK OF FEBRUARY 5



Support Our Choristers! Come to the TrebleFest Evensong February 11 at 3 p.m.

St. Paul's is pleased to sponsor TrebleFest 2012, which is to be held at Trinity Cathedral in Cleveland on Saturday, February 11. Rehearsals will begin at 9 a.m., and the day will conclude with the service of Choral Evensong at 3 p.m.

TrebleFest is a celebration of choirs for treble singers, namely young voices. This year, TrebleFest will be led by choirmasters of participating congregations. We are expecting choirs from Cleveland, Erie, Akron, Cleveland Heights, and Toledo. The Evensong service will feature music of Sumsion, Ridout, Ireland, and Lallouette. The officiant will be the Rt. Rev. Mark Hollingsworth, Jr., Bishop of Ohio.

ST. PAUL'S YEAR OF THE BIBLE

The Next All-Parish Challenge:

Read The Psalms!

This Lent, we challenge all members of St. Paul's to read all 150 psalms in order. Much like our Advent Challenge to Read Mark, Lent will be a time for us all to be "on the same page" by reading (on our own) the same psalms each day.

Beginning on Ash Wednesday,

February 22, and ending on Palm Sunday, April 1, we will read about four psalms per day. This is meant to be more devotional in nature – the psalms lend themselves to individual prayer as well as corporate worship.

The psalms represent some of the most honest and poetic verses of all scripture. They share moments of despair and joy, anger and peace. They portray wide range of emotion and different understandings of our relationship with God. Although they aren't as narrative as the gospels, they do provide much with which we can resonate. We, too, feel despair and joy, anger and peace. We, too, are at times confused and at other times completely awed by our experiences of God. We, too, wonder about issues of justice and fairness, cry out for mercy and forgiveness, sing and shout with delight and hope.

To help us in our reading, 40 parishioners have written brief reflections on the psalms appointed for each day. Your fellow members have had a sneak peek at a few of the psalms and have shared their thoughts upon reading them. We are so grateful to these folks for their willingness to share their thoughts with all of us for our edification.

These reflections will be printed in a booklet and will be available on our parish blog as well (<http://reflectionsfromsp.blogspot.com>). By following on our blog, you'll be able to share your thoughts by commenting on the reflections each day. We hope you will find this challenge to be spiritually uplifting and a wonderful way to connect with both sacred scripture and fellow parishioners.

Perhaps you will want to read the psalms first thing in the morning or last thing at night. Or maybe you will want to follow the format of the Daily Office of monks and other contemplatives, who set aside several times during the day to stop and pray. Four psalms could be read upon rising, at mid-day, early evening and at end of day.

However you chose to read the psalms this Lent, we hope you will rise to the challenge to read them all over the course of the 40 days. It will be wonderful to join with other St. Paul's members in this challenge.

Apply to Vote Early and Support Issue 15

St. Paul's GCC Core Team urges St. Paul's members to vote yes on Issue 15, the renewal levy that funds health and human service programs in Cuyahoga County that will be on the March 6 ballot. We believe the levy renewal is vital to maintaining a "safety net" for our county's most vulnerable residents. *Since the 4.8 mill levy is a renewal levy it will not increase your taxes, but it will provide \$139.7 million per year for four years to meet critical needs in our county.*

Beginning Sunday, January 29, you can get an application for voting by mail in the Old Narthex after the 9 and 11:15 a.m. services. Given the fickle nature of March weather, GCC is encouraging people to vote in this manner. A collection box is available for your completed application or you can mail it to the Board of Elections yourself if you prefer. Your ballot will be mailed to you at the address you put on your application.

Donate Items for Auction

St. Paul's Preschool will host its 16th Annual Silent Auction at the B-Side Lounge on March 2, at 6:30 p.m. We are currently accepting donations to be auctioned at the event. Please consider donating season tickets, professional services, gift cards, bottles of wine, or other specialty items for the auction. Contact Ursula Rossman, ursularossman@att.net, or (216) 280-4482 to make a donation. Thank you!

A February Sale to Suit Men!

The ACT II Shop will be selling its inventory of men's suits and separates at very suitable prices during the month of February. All coordinating men's suits will be \$10; separate jackets \$5; trousers, \$2.50 and shirts \$2. Also, selected women's clothes will be 50% off in February. Come in to see new arrivals and get a sweetheart of a deal on sale items! The ACT II Shop is open Thursday and Friday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

We Exceeded Our Goal!

Homelessness continues to be one of today's most urgent problems. Thanks very much to those of you who got involved with Hands-On Cleveland's most recent outreach to homeless people in our community. The Homeless Stand Down is a fair-like event offering specific items as well as orientation to various local services of interest to the 6-8,000 Cleveland-area homeless. The Stand Down is an important Christian community event and St. Paul's was well-represented by generous donations of 381 personal care kits! All donated items were delivered by Betsey Bell and me on the morning of January 20. Thanks also to Mark Finkenbine for his assistance in loading Betsey's van. The organizers join the homeless individuals and families who attended the Stand Down in thanking everyone who donated or participated.

— Kirby Colwell

Special Offerings

We are enormously grateful to all St. Paul's parishioners who contributed to our special offering funds this past holiday season. In response to the Thanksgiving Offering appeal, over **\$6,100** was donated to support hunger ministries in the Greater Cleveland area. Due to the increasing need of those they serve, these food programs are especially appreciative of our support at this time.

Almost **\$23,000** was contributed toward the 2011 Christmas Offering Fund. This fund enables increased outreach to those in need both through direct assistance from the Rector's Discretionary Fund and through Apostleship grants to vital ministries locally and globally.

Thanks to your support, our parish is able to extend our service beyond our walls, helping to make a difference in the world.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2012

THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

SERVICES

Instructed Holy Eucharist, 7:45 a.m.

The Rev. Alan Gates, *Celebrant & Preacher*

Instructed Holy Eucharist, 9:00 a.m.

The Rev. Richard Israel, *Celebrant*; The Rev. Alan Gates, *Preacher*

Instructed Holy Eucharist 11:15 a.m.

The Rev. Lisa Hackney, *Celebrant*; The Rev. Alan Gates, *Preacher*

Holy Eucharist, 5:00 p.m.

The Rev. Richard Israel, *Celebrant & Preacher*

READINGS

Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-12,21; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

FELLOWSHIP

8:00—9:00 a.m. Parish Breakfast

CHRISTIAN FORMATION FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

9:00—11:00 a.m. Preschool Session

10:00—11:00 a.m. Grades K-2: Godly Play — *Parable of the Great Pearl*
Grade 3-6: Workshop Rotation — *Twelve Who Changed the World*

Grade 7: *Do I have to believe Jesus performed miracles in order to be a Christian?*

Grade 8: *License to Drive*
Grades 9-12: *Movie: "Bella"*

11:00 a.m.—noon Preschool Session

6:00—8:00 p.m. Junior & Senior High Youth Groups: Super Bowl Party

CHRISTIAN FORMATION FOR ADULTS

10:00 a.m. Adult Formation: *The Bible Makes Sense* Book Study – Led by the Rev. Richard Israel. (Dining Room)

Adult Forum: *The State of the Church* – Led by the Rev. Alan Gates. (Brooks Room)

FLOWERS ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

Flowers on Sunday are given in loving memory of Lt. Col. Robert E. Bachman and Sarah S. Bachman by Barbara and Ian Carlstrom.

SOUTH WING GALLERY

Be a Part of the Members' Art Show: March 9!

The Members' Art Show and Opening Reception is Friday, March 9, and will be here soon! Every member, 18 years of age and older, is invited to participate and help to showcase the many gifts of our St. Paul's family. Invitations were mailed to every household in late January. Please share your gifts. Submitted work must be:

- Framed and ready for hanging or display.
- Clearly labeled on the back with the work's title, artist's names, phone, email, and price if for sale.

The committee will receive members' works at St. Paul's Coventry House on two weekends – Saturdays, February 18 and 25, 1 to 4 p.m., and Sunday, February 26, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

If you have questions or would like to discuss your ideas with a committee member please call Suzanne Smythe, (216) 561-6623, or check the South Wing Gallery Web page at www.stpauls-church.org/gallery. There you will find submission forms and other details.



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St. Paul's Episcopal Church
2747 Fairmount Boulevard
Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44106

TIME-VALUED MATERIAL—DO NOT DELAY

ON MY MIND...

Staffing Notes at St. Paul's

The following is excerpted from the Rector's Annual Address at the Annual Parish Meeting on January 22. Copies of the full Annual Address are available in the Old Narthex, or on the parish Web site: www.stpauls-church.org.

Let my first words be an expression my gratitude for the dedicated staff with whom I am privileged to serve. I stand before you each year to talk about the accomplishments and dreams of the parish in the year past and those upcoming. But it is the commitment of all of you as members of this congregation, its volunteer leaders, and the devotion of our staff which makes it all happen, by God's grace.

Let me comment on a few staffing changes in the recent past and immediate future.

Paul Winter joined us last summer as full-time Youth Minister. No stranger to us after an earlier, 3-year internship here, Paul has hit the ground running, shoring up cherished traditions and developing new ones in our youth ministry.

Kirby Colwell remains faithful Deacon on staff, but no longer carries the title of Volunteer Coordinator. Non-outreach volunteer activities for which he has been responsible are being handed off to other staff. However, in fulfillment of his ministry as Deacon, Kirby continues to serve as the inviting organizer and motivator for many of our apostleship activities – as this week's delivery of 381 care kits to the Homeless

Stand Down demonstrates!

Kim Fry serves no longer as Communications Coordinator, but now bears the title Director of Communications. This seemingly small shift represents very significant ways in which she has moved beyond the production of publications alone, to a higher level of communication strategies and big-picture planning.

Pam O'Halloran, previously part-time Stewardship Director, will now be our full-time Director of Congregational Development. This moves us more fully towards our vision of integrating the ministries of Stewardship, Membership, and Fellowship. Pam is helping us to see how fundraising is not an isolated activity, but rather a function directly related to the ways that people are engaged in other vital dimensions of parish life.

Finally, as you know from my recent column, we will bid farewell in six months to the Rev. Dr. David Mason, who has served as an adjunct priest here at St. Paul's for forty years. We can scarcely imagine St. Paul's without David. So, we will remain in denial for a few more months, and then make sure we find the moments and the words to express our debt to this beloved pastor. An all-parish celebration of gratitude for David and Margie will be held following worship on Sunday, June 3.

Faithfully and gratefully,

WHO WE ARE

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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Our Mission

St. Paul's is a living, evolving community of Christian people who worship together according to the Anglican/Episcopal tradition. We seek to know God and God's will for us; to care for each other; and to support each other in the exercise of our ministries among our neighbors and in the wider world.

Parish Notes

Deadline for submissions is **Tuesday at noon**, 12 days before the Sunday publication date.

Items may be edited for space and/or clarity.

Kim Fry, editor

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