St. Paul's Episcopal Church

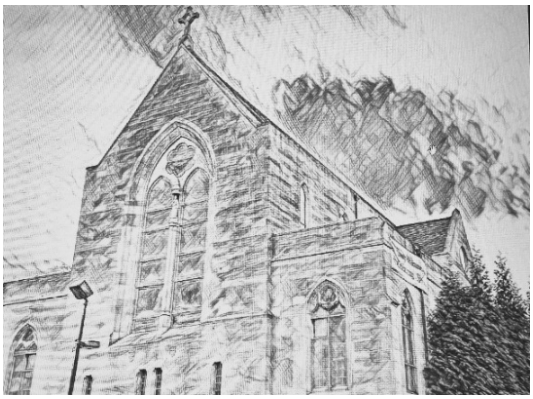
Canton, Ohio

15th Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Eucharist
Sept. 6, 2026, 10:30 a.m.

Welcome to St. Paul's

Online and in-person services begin with music at 10:25 a.m.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
425 Cleveland Ave SW
Canton OH 44702
(330) 455-0286
Week of Sept. 6: Closed Labor Day; office hours
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Website: www.stpaulscanton.org
Facebook:
https://www.facebook.com/stpaulscanton
e-mail: stpaulsoffice@att.net
We're on YouTube: StPaulsCanton



St. Paul's Mission

St. Paul's is an exceptionally welcoming Episcopal community in downtown Canton, grounded in faith, and called by God's Love to minister to the world.

The mission of The Episcopal Church is "to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ." In step with that mission, we follow Jesus into loving, liberating, and life-giving relationships with God, with each other, and with the earth.

"Love God. Love Your Neighbor. Change the World."

"God Loves You. No Exceptions."

15th Sunday after Pentecost

Celebrants: The Revs. Joe and Kay Ashby

Readings and Psalm

Ezekiel 33:7-11
Psalm 119:33-40
Romans 13:8-14
Matthew 18:15-20

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Prelude: *Prelude in G Major* (C. V. Stanford)

The Word of God

Please stand in body or spirit

Entrance Hymn: *Awake my soul and with the Sun Morning Hymn* (H 11)

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed are you, holy and living One.
People You come to your people and set them free.

Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Song of Praise *Spirit of God* (Skye Boat Song) (VF 53)

Words: Margaret Old (1932–2002) © Scripture Union. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
Music: *Skye Boat Song*, Scottish traditional melody; arr. James Whitbourn © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant God be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray.

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen*.

Please sit.

The Lessons

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 33:7-11

A Reading from the book of Ezekiel.

7So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word
from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. 8If I say to the wicked, "O wicked
ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their
ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your
hand. 9But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their
ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

10Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions
and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we
live?" 11Say to them, "As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the
wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your
evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?"

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People Thanks be to God.

PSALM 119:33-40

[33]Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, *
and I shall keep it to the end.
[34]Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law; *
I shall keep it with all my heart.
[35]Make me go in the path of your commandments, *
for that is my desire.
[36]Incline my heart to your decrees *
and not to unjust gain.
[37]Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless; *
give me life in your ways.
[38]Fulfill your promise to your servant, *
which you make to those who fear you.
[39]Turn away the reproach which I dread, *
because your judgments are good.
[40]Behold, I long for your commandments; *
in your righteousness preserve my life.

SECOND READING: ROMANS 13:8-14

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Rome.

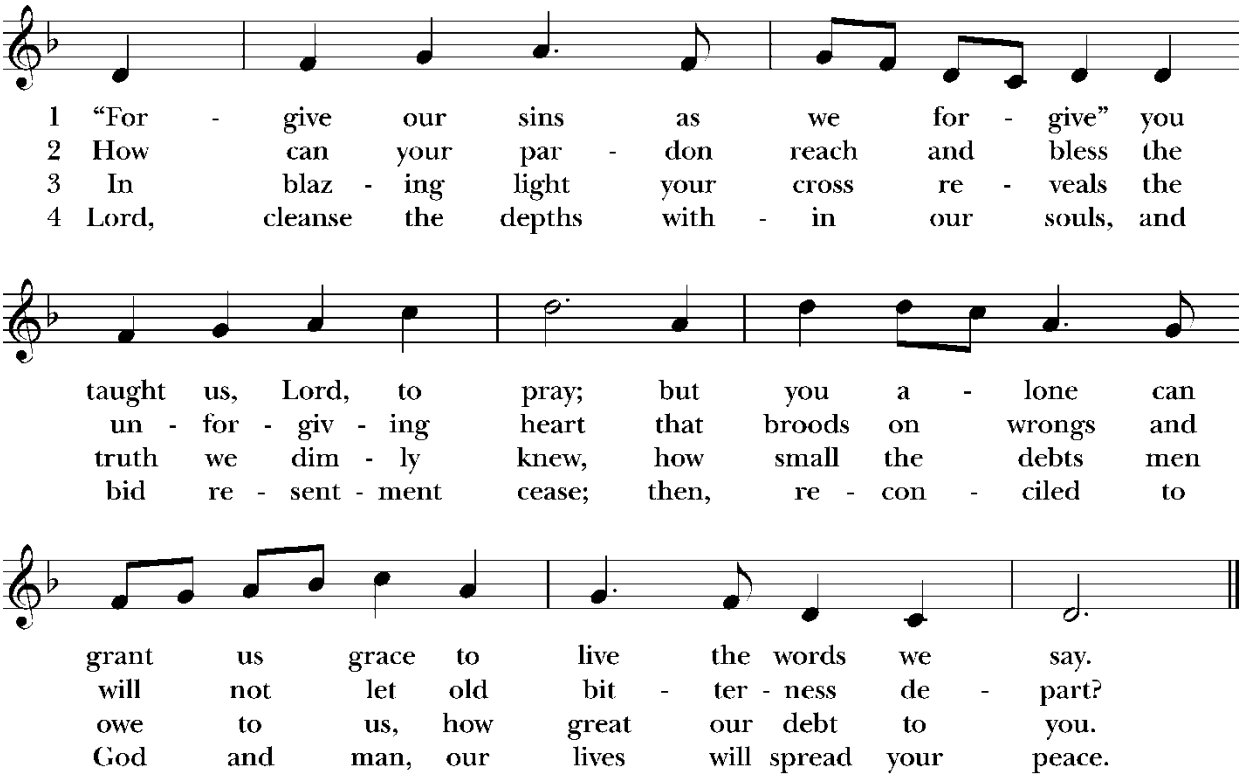
[8]Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. [9]The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." [10]Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

[11]Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; [12]the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; [13]let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. [14]Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People Thanks be to God.

Please stand in body or spirit

Sequence Hymn: *Forgive our sins as we forgive* (Detroit) (H 674)



GOSPEL: MATTHEW 18:15-20

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus according to Matthew.
People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

[Jesus said,] [15]"If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. [16]But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. [17]If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. [18]Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. [19]Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. [20]For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Celebrant The Gospel of Christ
People Glory to you, O Christ

The Sermon: The Rev. Kay Ashby

Please stand in body or spirit

The Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Please remain standing

Prayers of the People

All-loving God, whose life is the source of our life, whose love is the source of our salvation, pour out your grace upon your church and upon the world, that all may know you, love you, and serve one another in your Name;

Hear our prayer.

All-governing God, who set forth the foundations of the world, so direct, inspire, and correct those in authority in this nation and the world, that the laws they make and the policies they embrace may reflect the dignity with which you created humanity in your image, and in harmony with your creation. Remove from the imaginations of power all thoughts toward oppression, discrimination, or other sins of pride, that we may truly love your image in one another, and in your Name;
Hear our prayer

Incarnate God, you lived among neighbors, friends and enemies alike; you know the intimate and everyday concerns of your people in this and every community. Where there is suffering, continue to heal it. Where there is harm, continue to expose it. Where there is need, continue to feed your people with the abundant Providence of God, from whom all blessings flow. Do not let us forget, either, our responsibility for one another's welfare, in your Name;
Hear our prayer.

Resurrecting God, we pray for those who live in the shadow of death, in places of war, in places of terror, in unsafe homes, in uncaring communities. We pray for an end to war, an undoing of terror, a disarming of hatred. We pray for those who have died, known to us and known only to you, that we may one day receive the same mercy that you have for each of them. In your Name*;*
Hear our prayer.

Awe-inspiring God, we thank you for the joys of human living, for the relationships that bring us closer to the knowledge of your love, for the colors of creation that reflect your glory, as the prophet recognized in the rainbow the glory of the living God. We thank you that we are "marvelously made" in your image, and in your Name;
Hear our prayer.

All healing God, we ask for your healing presence in the lives of those we love especially for Judy Johanning, Tom Lilly, Dr. Claire Pernsteiner, Johanna Middleton, Linda Fogle, Peter Dench, Cara Warren, Alice Bolam, Andrea, Marilyn Dickinson, Jackson, Gary, Richard Green, John Titmas, Holly Hillen, Frances Beacon, Vicki Simpkins, Brinley Wyczalek and Ronnie Long, in your Name;
Hear our prayer.

All listening God, we offer before you the deepest thanksgivings and desires of our hearts, silently or aloud.
People add their prayers.
We pray to you O Lord.
Hear our prayer.

We pray together now the Discernment Prayer for St. Paul's:
O Lord our God, May we, the parish of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, embrace your commandment of loving our neighbors as you have loved us while we discern who we are and how best to serve you. We ask that you quiet our souls, so we may listen to you. We ask that you grant us wisdom as we seek new leadership. And lastly, we ask for the courage to follow wherever you lead us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant Almighty God, you have so linked our lives one with another that all we do affects, for good or ill, all other lives: So guide us in the work we do, that we may do it not for self alone, but for the common good; and, as we seek a proper return for our own labor, make us mindful of the rightful aspirations of other workers, and arouse our concern for those who are out of work; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen

Confession of Sin

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen*.

Please stand in body or spirit

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.
The People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Church Announcements

Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence (Psalm 50:14)

The Celebrant says

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High.

Offertory Hymn: ***Take my life and let it be*** **(Hollingside) (H 707)**

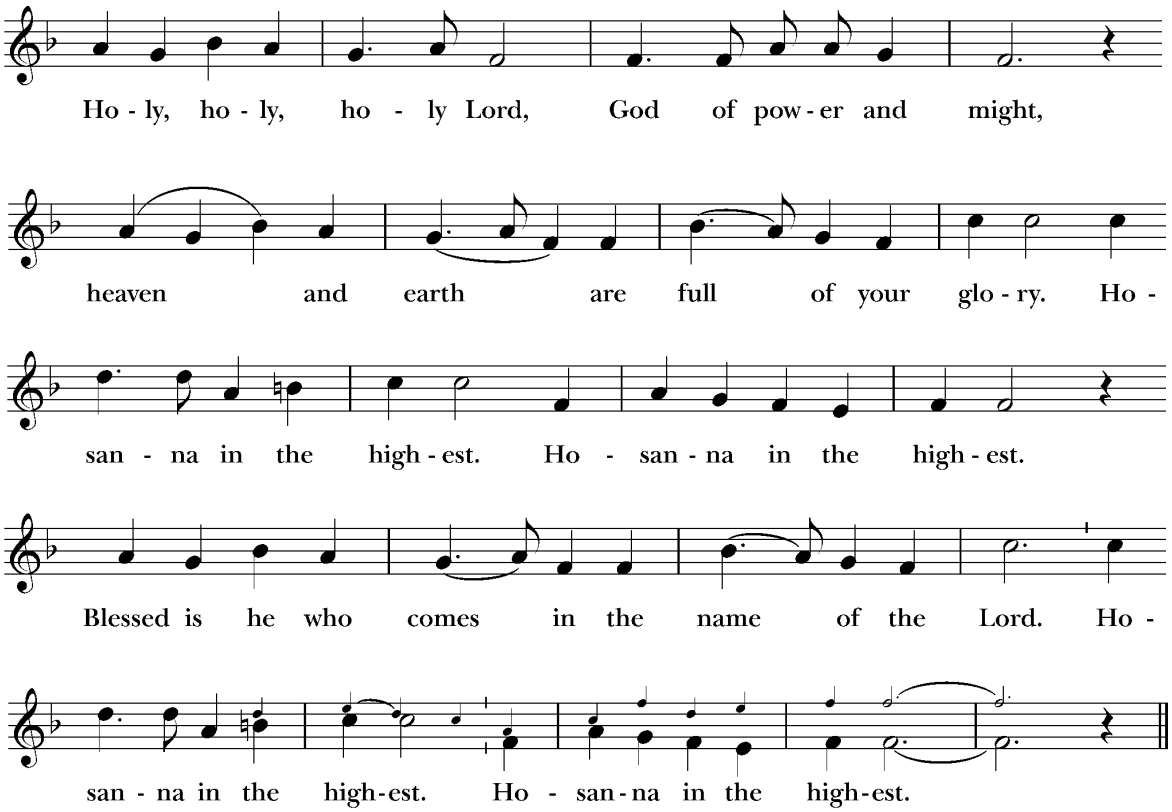
The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. For you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing: ♪♪♪

Sanctus S125



Blessed are you, Gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.
Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."♪
As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."♪

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Celebrant and People
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with Paul and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. ***AMEN.***

The Lord's Prayer

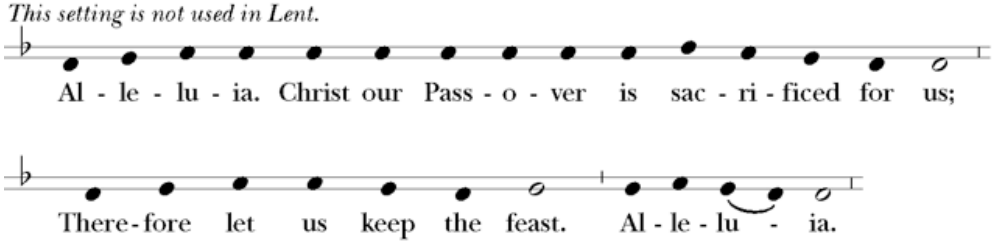
And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread (S 152)

This setting is not used in Lent.



This setting may be sung full by all, or by the choir, or as a versicle and response.

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Spiritual Communion

Celebrant Please join us in praying with our siblings in Christ who are with us online and receiving communion spiritually.

Dearest Lord Jesus, we believe that you are truly present in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. We love you above all things and long for you in our souls. Since we are not altogether in our church today to receive the bread and wine made holy, we ask you to come spiritually into our hearts. Fill us with your light and nourish us all with your word and Spirit. Amen.

****Note to the congregation: Everyone is welcome to receive Holy Communion. Please tell the clergy if you need gluten-free bread. If you come to the communion station for a blessing instead, please cross your arms on your chest. If you are interested in being baptized, please contact the priests of St. Paul's.*

Post-Communion Prayer

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Blessing

Celebrant
God's Blessing be with you,
Christ's peace be with you,
the Spirit's outpouring be with you,
now and always. *Amen.*

RECESSIONAL HYMN: Joyful, Joyful we adore thee (Hymn to Joy) H 376)

Dismissal
Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: *Processional* (Richard Knight)

A prayer for peace

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Today's Servers

Celebrants: The Revs. Kay and Joe Ashby
Parish musician: Edward Grimes
Greeters: David Lewis and Paula Hampton
Crucifer: Douglas Colmery
Eucharistic Minister: Demetrius Carrothers
Video/Photography: David Lewis, David Rotthoff
Lector: M.L. Schultze
Altar Guild: Douglas Colmery and Susan Phillips
Counters: Marcia Enslen and M.L. Schultze

Happy September Birthdays

Bradley Swinderman, 9/9
Craig May, 9/12
Joanne Miller, 9/20
John Papadeonise, 9/21
The Rev. Joe Ashby, 9/23
Janet Lewton, 9/23
Ellis Wade, 9/23
Judith Johanning, 9/24
Jessica Patterson, 9/25
Sutton Wade, 9/27
Carol Duncan, 9/28

Happy September Anniversaries

John and Samantha Papadeonise, 9/20
Tammy and Joe Patterson, 9/23
Molly and Sean Ryan, 9/23

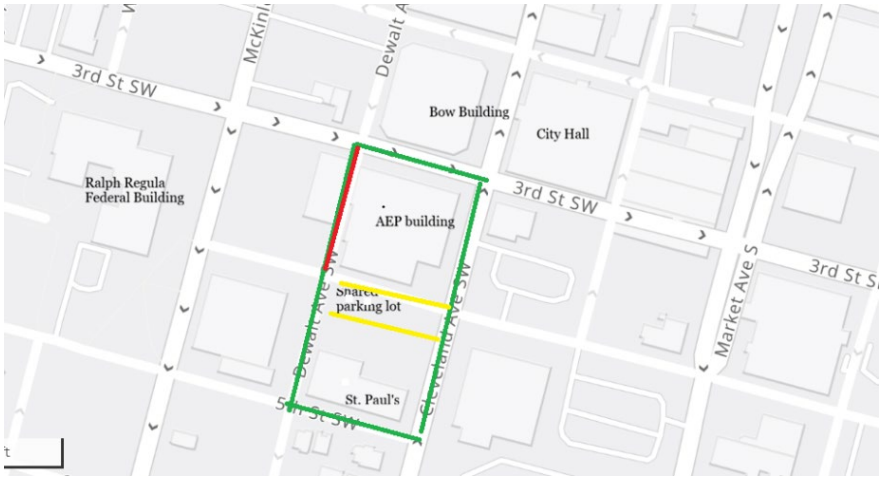
Parish News

More clues on what the AEP building will become

Whatever the specifics, by the end of the decade St. Paul's will have a lot more people working just across the street.

The former AEP/Ohio Power building is now owned by the city, which has hired a planning and design firm to map out its best use. We recently met with Canton Planning Director Donn Angus, who sketched out the city's overall intentions for the five-plus stories of that building.

The basement and first two floors will be a safety center, with the goal of



combining law enforcement command operations at the federal, state, county and city levels. This may include the police academy, crime lab, and cross-jurisdictional task forces such as the one to combat human trafficking.

AEP is leasing back the third floor from the city, and its roughly 30 employees are expected to grow to 100 or more as the power company consolidates local operations. Up on the fifth floor, the city expects to move some departments such as planning and HR. And on the floor in between it's still considering options, such as a data-processing operation.

The donation of the building to the city for $1 also includes seven parking lots. The one to the west of Dewalt Avenue from the AEP building will continue to be used by AEP, and that block of Dewalt likely will be closed permanently. We don't expect that to have much impact on access to St. Paul's since most people arrive at church from either McKinley or Cleveland avenues, and the turn south onto Dewalt into our parking lot will remain unchanged.

The deal also includes a parking lot of much more direct interest to St. Paul's – the north half of our lot, which we sold to AEP some 30 years ago. That sale included a guaranteed use of the lot by St. Paul's on Sundays, and Mr. Angus said the city expects to remain a good neighbor to our church.

Our evening programs and events also should not be impacted by the city's hours. We expect to formalize the arrangement in a memorandum of understanding between the city and St. Paul's.
The expected timeline for the project is: General planning completed by the end of 2026; design and construction commencing in 2027 and 2028; safety operations moving in beginning 2029-2030.

Welcome back Bible Study!

St. Paul's Bible Study returns from summer hiatus on **this coming Wednesday**. But there's a change in both time and place. We'll be gathering at 11:30 a.m. at Taggarts for lunch and to choose the fall topic. Enjoy the sweetness! The actual classes begin **Wednesday (Sept. 16)** at 10 a.m. in the church library.

Join us for iconography: The brushstrokes of prayer

The St. Elizabeth Chapter of the Daughters of the King is inviting all St. Paul's members to be our guests for a luncheon and special program on iconography on **Saturday, Sept. 19**. The presentation will be led by the Rev. Meghan Carlson of St. James in Wooster, who was raised in the Ruthenian Byzantine Catholic tradition where she fell in love with the story-telling and spiritual practice of iconography.

The presentation is part of the regional Fall Assembly of the DOK**, which begins with check-in at 9:30 a.m. and concludes at 2 p.m.** Reservations are due Sept. 16 via the St. Paul's office, 425 Cleveland Ave. SW, Canton, OH 44702, Attn: Tammy Patterson. We're also asking you to bring cat/dog treats for donation to the St. James Pet Pantry.
Members of The Order of the Daughters of the King are a spiritual sisterhood of Anglican, Episcopal, Lutheran and Roman Catholic women dedicated to prayer, service and evangelism – and a lifelong journey with Jesus Christ. "We see our Order as a community nurturing women, accepting all people." Our motto is:

For His Sake…
I am but one, but I am one.
I cannot do everything, but I can do something.
What I can do, I ought to do.
What I ought to do, by the grace of God I will do.
Lord, what will you have me do?

None of this would happen without you … so we want to say "Thanks!"

St. Paul's will be holding a special day of appreciation for our entire congregation on **Sunday, Sept. 20th**. During Holy Eucharist, we'll honor everyone and everything from formal ministries to the personal prayers that sustain each of us and St. Paul's. Before we head into the Guild Hall to continue the celebration, we're aiming for a BIG PICTURE, as David Rotthoff captures the image of all who have strengthened our parish. Please, invite all those you know who have made a difference, continue to make a difference and want to make a difference.

Widening our Vision

Being Episcopalian means being part of a broader community, one that extends around the world. You can get to know part of that community by representing St. Paul's at the annual Diocese of Ohio convention, Nov. 20 and 21 at Sawmill Creek in Huron. The 210th gathering will focus on "Widening our Vision," with Friday's session beginning at 1 p.m. to allow more time for conversation and reflection. Keynote speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Dwight Zscheile, a professor of Congregational Mission and Leadership and author whose books include "Embracing the Mixed Ecology: Inherited and New Forms of Christian Community Flourishing Together," and "Leading Faithful Innovation." If you'd like be a delegate or alternate, please let Schultze know.

Remembering Deb and opening doors

By Barbara Anderson

Several years ago B.C. (Before Covid), our late parishioner and friend Deb Shamlin had a dream to install a "Little Library" – a free lending library open to all – in the church's neighborhood. Because of these book-sharing boxes, children can continue their reading journey not only all summer long, but basically any time when a trip to the brick and mortar library is not possible.

A permit was granted by the City of Canton at the time to install a box in the shadow of St. Paul's in McKinley Park, and a Girl Scout Troop was enlisted to build the box and earn their woodworking badge in the process. Deb organized a book drive to stock the Little Library, and parishioners responded generously, with several boxes of books collected. Sadly, Deb became ill and Covid struck, and the Little Library project fell by the wayside. Fast forward five years, when – during a church cleaning project undertaken by the Daughters of the King -- the boxes of books were rediscovered.

With the original Scout troop "aged out" of Girl Scouts, a new troop was enlisted with the help of Wendy Johnson, who was serving as the project coordinator for the Northeast Chapter of the Girl Scouts of Ohio at the time. With her assistance, and that of troop leader Lana Bookwalter, the project was set back into motion.

Now, it is nearing completion, and will be installed by the city sometime this fall. The boxes of books are in the hands of the Scouts, who will be responsible for keeping the Little Library stocked. A plaque commemorating Deb will be attached to the box, reading:

"Deb's Dream"
In Memory of Deborah Shamlin
1953 – 2020
"Reading Opens Doors"