

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

OUR CHRISTMAS
SERVICES

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DECEMBER 24, 2010

CHRISTMAS
EVE

3:00PM

FAMILY & CHILDREN SERVICE

~ LOCATED IN THE CHURCH
THIS WILL INCLUDE THE
CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
& HOLY EUCHARIST

5:00PM

FESTIVE HOLY EUCHARIST

~ LOCATED IN THE CHURCH

10:30PM

MUSICAL PRELUDE

~ LOCATED IN THE CHURCH

11:00PM

FESTIVE HOLY EUCHARIST

~ LOCATED IN THE CHURCH

DECEMBER 25, 2010

CHRISTMAS
DAY

5:00PM

HOLY EUCHARIST

~ LOCATED IN THE CHAPEL

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR
DECEMBER 2010

Table of Contents

Rector's Corner

ADMINISTRATION

- 20 Anniversaries & Birthdays
- 5 Bazaar
- 18 Director of Operations & Finance
- 17 From the Sexton's Workbench
- 4 Homes Tour
- 21 Host & Helpers
- 14 Preschool - 4 year old Class
- 14 Preschool - Parents Morning Out
- 1 Rector's Corner
- 2 Senior Warden

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

- 9 Family & Children Services
- 12 Confirmation Information
- 3 Director of Christian Education
- 9 Pageant Information
- 19 Spirituality

OUTREACH

- 7 Angel Tree
- 16 Blood Drive Results

PARISH LIFE

- 16 St's. Mary, Martha & Ann's Guild
- 15 Newcomers Committee
- 18 Reception Honoring Jenifer Gregory
- 15 Wednesday Night Supper

WORSHIP

- 7 Advent Contemplative Eucharist
- 10 ECAEMF
- 6 Christmas Flowers
- 8 Greening of the Church
- 10 Music

YOUTH

- 13 EYC
- 13 Ski Trip Details



There's a special St. Paul's ritual which happens every December, right before Christmas and the start of the New Year. It's really not noticed by anyone except the Vestry, since it takes place during the final vestry meeting of the old year, which this year will take place on December 21, just a few short days before Christmas. It starts with a devotional and the sharing of food and drink to honor the retiring members of the Vestry and to welcome those who start their term on January 1st. As rector, it's become a bit of an emotional evening for me. It's always easier to begin anew than it is to say good-bye, even if those retiring from the Vestry are not moving on from St. Paul's and Greenville! Even though we will formally acknowledge our appreciation to those retiring members at our annual parish meeting on Sunday, January 30, I would like to extend my gratitude to the 2008 – 2010 retiring class: **Cordell Avery, Michael Gross, Jim Peden and Dave Whichard**. Each has brought unique gifts to their respective areas of responsibility; Cordell and Dave to our management team and the fiscal challenges we've faced with budget and other financial concerns up to and including the present 'work in progress' of preparing the 2011 Operational Budget; Michael has provided oversight in the extensive area of 'worship' and all that it entails, given how many people are committed to the weekly goal of making sure all the many tasks needing attention 52 weeks of the year are done

faithfully and carefully. Jim has been the supportive presence in the area of 'parish life' which is responsible for our Wednesday night suppers and 'Host and Helpers' – the network of parish members who make possible the many parish receptions we offer throughout the year, especially following a funeral or memorial service, when our hospitality extends far beyond the walls of our parish hall. To each and to all of you, *Thank You!*

Before acknowledging the 2011 – 2013 Vestry Class, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the women and men who have graciously accepted the invitation to put themselves forth in service to our church. We had a remarkable slate of candidates this year both in number and quality – and I want to say *Thank You* on behalf of the parish to **Cyndra Gasperini, Larry Graham, Loyd Horton, Brian Jowers, Katie Lumb, Monty Pollard, Bill Queen, Craig Rouse, John Stowell and Larry Barbour.**

Murrell McLeod will be the senior warden and **Alex Griffin** will be the junior warden for 2011. **Cyndra Gasperini, Brian Jowers, Bill Queen** and **Larry Barbour**, the newly elected Vestry, will join our present vestry members: **Nikki Blount, Tony Breuer, Wanda Bunch, Ed Smith, Sarah Klitzkie** and **Kathy Preville.** The Annual Vestry Retreat will take place next month, January 14-16 at Trinity Center in Pine Knoll Shores.

All members of our parish family who weren't able to attend the Parish Meeting on Oct. 24, 2010, should have received a mailing around Thanksgiving with a summary of the three reports given by **Dave Whichard** (current Pledge Appeal, 2011 operating budget and current debt on the church); **Ed Smith** (Building Repairs); and **Tony Breuer** (Strategic Plan). I appreciate the feedback that some of you are taking time to offer. In fact, I've received enough feedback that I've considered reserving some space in the Parish Hall for a **Rector's Forum.** The first free Sunday is the first Sunday of 2011. - and with no Children and Family Service or Sunday School scheduled, it presents a unique opportunity for an open conversation/discussion about where we've been, where we are, and where we see ourselves going in the future. The Rector's Forum will take place on Sunday, January 2, 9:15 – 10:15, in the Parish Hall.

We are at a crossroads, as I have been mentioning throughout our pledge appeal this fall. I continue to be hopeful that with knowledge of all the challenges before us, our parish family will respond. We need both your financial gift and your participation in the programs and ministries of our parish family. Both empower us to do together what we do so well in service to Christ through the many services we offer within and beyond our church.

I wish you a blessed and Merry Christmas!

Peace,

Bob +

Senior Warden

Advent means so much to all of us. It is the time to begin a new church year, experience the reassurance of the advent message and renew our faith. I look forward to seeing the young families light the advent wreath each Sunday.

We have experienced many good things this year as a church. We know what we have to do to restore our buildings and are blessed with a grant from the Perkins and Wells foundation to help make those repairs.

The task of building membership and support for a growing church with an ever-increasing operating budget remains a challenge. I feel the best reason to bring in new members is that St. Paul's is a great place to worship.

A year as Senior Warden teaches one a lot about the workings of a church. It is complex but will survive thanks to the efforts of so many of you. All of you have my respect. It has been a special pleasure to work with Jim Peden, Dave Whichard, Cordell Avery and Michael Gross on the Vestry this year. Their ideas and many hours of work deserve special thanks. Our new Senior Warden, Murrell McLeod, and Junior Warden, Alex Griffin have a great group of folks to work with to continue the mission of St. Paul's for 2011. All is well.

Alleluia!

Kathy Previll

Happy New Year

Message from the Director of Christian Education



Can I open my eyes yet? Is he here yet? Do we have to wait four weeks?



photo is from an unknown source

Welcome to the season of Advent! In the midst of all of our efforts to be watchful and prepare for the coming of our Lord, many of us find ourselves stretched in so many directions; it is hard to know how to focus. This picture above speaks volumes to our dance between excitement and apparent stress!

Advent calls us to open our eyes. Look all around to see what we have and to understand what we need. The four weeks of waiting is to remember, reflect and refresh ourselves as we prepare for the celebration of God among us. When we open our eyes we see God's presence in one another and all of creation.

And so we prepare -- in the midst of our own apparent stress, we prepare for the delight of a child in our midst, in our hearts. To do this each of us needs a little time -- to breathe deep and listen, to open our eyes and see. There is wonder in the quiet dark of winter. The four weeks of waiting, preparing, allows us the time to experience this wonder.

May we share this joy with all creation—as we celebrate God in our midst.

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carrie".

WELCOME TO THE ST. PAUL'S CHRISTMAS HOMES TOUR

INDEX OF OUR 2010 HOMES ON TOUR!



◆ MR. & MRS. W. GRAY BLOUNT, JR. – Page 3
4109 Dunhaugen Rd. Greenville



◆ MR. & MRS. TODD JORDAN – Page 5
1710 Rosewood Dr. Greenville



◆ MR. & MRS. BRIAN JOWERS – Page 7
3005 Landing Cr. Grimesland



◆ MR. & MRS. THAD J. LEWIS – Page 9
905 Nottingham Rd. Greenville



◆ MR. & MRS. DEREK STEPP – Page 13
402 Orton Dr. Greenville



◆ MR. & MRS. SCOTTY TURNER – Page 15
505 Ashburton Rd. Greenville



◆ MR. & MRS. DAVID J. WHICHARD, II – Page 17
201 Farmington Rd. Grimesland

We still have **Red** & a *few* **Green** tickets left!!
Be sure to get yours!!



**COME JOIN THE FUN
SHOP ST. PAUL'S CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BUY A HOMES TOUR TICKET
TO SHOP THE BAZAAR!

SHOPPING HOURS 9 A.M. TO 3 P.M.

CRAFTS, CHRISTMAS BASKETS READY TO GIVE YOUR FRIENDS

BEAUTIFUL KNITTED ITEMS, PLANTS

BAKED GOODS, HOMEMADE FROZEN DINNERS

TO HELP YOU GET THROUGH THE HOLIDAYS

CHEESE STRAWS, BULBS, AND THE PRICES ARE PERFECT

TELL YOUR FRIENDS TO JOIN YOU...

SEE YOU SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4TH

Christmas Flowers

Flowers and greens used in the Christmas services are only made possible by your generous donations. There is no established memorial donation amount, but a usual contribution is about \$25.00. Please complete this form and return it with your check to the office. All memorial or thanksgiving names will be included regardless of donation amount. Forms and donations must be received by December 20, 2010 for the names to be printed in the Christmas bulletin.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY TO BE SURE NAMES ARE SPELLED CORRECTLY!

Given by: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Thanksgiving for: _____



Angel Tree

When a parent is incarcerated, it is the children who do the “hard time.” Every year, the Angel Tree Ministry provides Christmas gifts to the children of prisoners, on their behalf and on the behalf of Jesus Christ.

This year we are providing gifts for over 70 children. We still need 10 more parishioners to help with this ministry so that all the children can receive a gift.

Please search in your hearts and find a way to comfort the little ones in this season of giving. To participate, contact Jon Shaw at 355-2737 or Lena and Roy Carawan at 752-4744.

May the Lord bless and keep you!



Advent Contemplative Eucharist

WEDNESDAYS AT 5:30 pm



For the season of Advent, a contemplative service of Holy Eucharist will take place Wednesdays at 5:30 PM in the church. In the midst of the hustle and bustle in these weeks before Christmas, the liturgical season of Advent beckons us to be still, to listen, and to prepare our hearts for the spiritual rebirth of Christ in our hearts and in our world. Let the simplicity and quiet of this contemplative service offer you a friendly, sacred space for Advent prayer and reflection.

Greening of the Church

MARK YOUR CALENDARS *for Wednesday, December 22nd*



Please mark on your calendars the date Wednesday, December 22 to “Green” the Church for Christmas!

Please be among those merry souls and able bodies who will join immediately after the Wednesday night 5:30pm service for a Pizza Dinner hosted by Parish Life and the Annual Christmas Greening (decorating) of the church. Christmas trees will be brought in and placed in the Church and lights put on. Windows will be decorated with greenery and candles and Christmas wreaths put up. Children will enjoy setting up the Nativity Scene. Christmas trees have already been ordered, and they arrive on the Monday prior to “Greening”

We also need cut greens for decorating! Buckets of water will be placed in the alley between the Church and the Garth. Please bring cut greens on that Sunday or Wednesday and put them in the buckets.



Please join in this annual event (spontaneous singing of favorite Christmas carols has been known to occur) that prepares our Church for the celebration of Christmas.

Contact me, please, (grossm@ecu.edu) with any questions and suggestions.

Michael Gross
Vestry Liaison for Worship

Pageant Information

With three services on Christmas Eve, our 3 p.m. Family and Children's service is always a wonderful way to begin. Our pageant tells the story of Christ's birth in a way that reaches the faithful of all ages. In the innocence and delight of our children, we see this story come to life and remember why it is so important to us.



We will be coordinating the pageant with input and direction from both Christian Formation and our music leaders. We will be looking for adults who can help as we find our Holy Family, shepherds, angels, and animals (keep an open mind the stable may be filled with creatures other than sheep and donkeys!).

Sign up sheets will be available the first Sunday of Advent and we will be distributing the schedule for "rehearsals" at that same time.

Please note: the dress rehearsal will take place Dec. 18 beginning at 11 a.m. and including a pizza lunch for everyone! If you have any questions please contact the Reverend Carrie Craig at 752.3482.Christianed@stpaulsepiscopal.com

Family & Children Services Schedule



During the Christmas season there will be a change in the regular schedules. There will be no Family and Children service on Dec. 26 as well as Jan. 2.

There will also be no Sunday school or any other Christian education scheduled during the holiday. We will begin our schedule again on Jan. 8.

Music



A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS & CAROLS

Sunday, Dec. 12, 2010 at 5 p.m.

Mark your calendars now! Our annual carol service will be held on Sunday, Dec. 12 at 5 p.m. You will want to join our choir and clergy for a wonderful, candlelit evening of music and scripture sung and prayed in preparation for the Holy Feast of Christmas. Many parishioners express that attending Lessons & Carols marks for them the start of the holiday season, and gives them a unique

opportunity to prepare their hearts and minds for the true meaning of Christmas, Christ's Incarnation. One of the most traditional and significant of all services in the Anglican Church, our service is modeled after the legendary Lessons & Carols services held in English Cathedrals and Collegiate Chapels, the most famous of which is in King's College, Cambridge, where this service originated. The choir will sing music of Howells, Cleobury, Tavener, Leighton, Gardner, Goldschmidt, Ledger, and others, and the congregation will join in singing all the carols of the season.

LOOKING AHEAD:

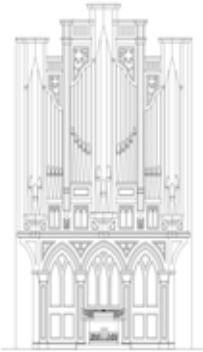
Wednesday, Jan. 5: Solemn Choral Eucharist- Epiphany, 5:30 p.m. in the Church.

Sunday, Jan. 23: Choral Evensong 5 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 5: Organ Recital with Ann Labounsky and Andrew Scanlon 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 27: Choral Evensong 5 p.m.

Andrew Scanlon, MM, FAGO
Organist-Choirmaster



**THIS ARTICLE HAS BEEN
REMOVED AT THE REQUEST
OF THE ORIGINAL AUTHOR.**

Confirmation

WHY BE CONFIRMED?



For young people it's quite simple. Having reached a degree of maturity, they can, after preparation, "make a mature public affirmation of their faith and commitment to the responsibilities of their Baptism," as the Prayer Book states. (please read below)

But what of adults? There are three fundamental reasons why adults may choose to attend confirmation classes:

There may be Episcopalians who, while baptized, have not yet been confirmed. But confirmation is necessary for certain church functions. One cannot, for example, serve on a Vestry or as a lay chalice bearer, or serve as a delegate to diocesan convention unless that person is "a confirmed communicant in good standing," as specified in the canons.

Then there are those who have come to the Episcopal Church from another denomination. These too have to be either confirmed or received after due preparation.

Finally, there are those confirmed Episcopalians who may wish to deepen their faith and to explore the sweep and the glories of the Anglican/Episcopal tradition.

It is to serve all these categories that confirmation instruction will be offered in 2011 at St. Paul's. Those adults interested should plan to come to an orientation meeting on Sunday, January 9, at 2:00 p.m. For further information, contact the Rev. Carrie Craig 752-3482 or e-mail christianed@stpaulsepiscopal.com or David Crean 756-0808 or e-mail at davidcrean@embarqmail.com.

An important note to young people and parents:

We will be confirming youth who are presently in eighth grade (rising to ninth in the fall) and those who are now in ninth grade and above. Several of our eligible young people are in St. Paul's Journey to Adulthood, yet we know there are others who may want to be confirmed who are not currently involved with this program. We will be contacting eligible young people and parents for a separate meeting to discuss the plans to schedule confirmation classes for our youth. If you have questions please contact, christianed@stpaulsepiscopal.com.

DECEMBER EYC ACTIVITIES

- Sunday, Dec. 5** -- Andrew Scanlon: Music and Faith, and Organ Tour
- Friday, Dec. 10** -- Shopping for Angel Tree gifts (4:15-6 p.m.) - Meet promptly at 4:15 p.m., lower church parking lot.
 -- Christmas Caroling (6:15 - 8:00 p.m.) - Meet promptly at 6:15, lower church parking lot then we will return to the Parish Hall for refreshments.
- Sunday, Dec. 12** -- EYC program will be the 5 p.m. Christmas “Lessons and Carols” in sanctuary, followed by pizza supper in Parish Hall.
- Sunday, Dec. 19** -- Susan Vickery-Mercer: Reflections on Christmas
- Sunday, Dec. 26** -- NO EYC, Merry Christmas!
- Sunday, Jan. 2** -- NO EYC, Happy New Year!

All Sunday programs are from 5-7 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, unless indicated otherwise.

Regular 5-7 p.m. EYC Sunday schedule:

5:00pm - 5:30pm -- gathering and games

5:30pm - 6:30pm -- program

6:30pm - 7:00pm -- meal

Please contact Susan Vickery-Mercer, Youth Minister, at 551-9189 or youth@stpaulsepiscopal.com if you have any questions.

Check St. Paul's website under Youth for regularly updated events and calendar of EYC activities.

SKI TRIP WEEKEND OPEN TO PARISH: FEBRUARY 11-13

This year's annual Ski Trip will be open to ALL parishioners of any age. And you don't have to ski to enjoy a weekend in the mountains! This will be our first trip to Valle Crucis Episcopal Conference Center (near Boone) with skiing at nearby slopes. The youth group will be leading the way and plans are already in the works for those who intend to ski. The cost of two days lodging at Valle Crucis, lodge meals, and skiing is \$260.00. For those who would like to simply go and enjoy the beautiful lodge, good cooking, hiking, beautiful mountain scenery or just sitting in front of a great big fire place, the cost is \$148.00. We leave late Friday afternoon and will return early Sunday evening. Our rector will be part of our group and offer a service of Holy Eucharist in the lodge on Sunday. Payment needs to be made in advance with the first down payment of \$100.00 due on Dec. 15. The remainder is due January 25. Any questions concerning this trip? Registration? Please contact Sarah Klitzkie at linnandsarah@embarqmail.com

Preschool—Parents Morning Out

Our Tuesday & Thursday Parents Morning Out Class wishes you Happy Holidays!

What a special group of children we have in our class this year! We are so blessed to have them on Tuesdays & Thursday mornings for lots of fun play!



The class is a vibrant group! We have children in our class from ages 7 months to two years. The children are learning so much through play! We have short story time along with fun musical play!

Last month the children were making lots of fun crafts for the Thanksgiving holiday, so stop by our class and take a peak at a precious group of children and some spectacular at work!



Mrs. Jennifer & Mrs. Amy

Preschool - 4 Year Old

The preschool year for Saint Paul's fours is off to a wonderful start. Our class is a special group of seven girls and seven boys. We have enjoyed getting to know each other, and we are settling into a nice routine. We are very proud of the way the children walk themselves to class, find their names, check their jobs, choose a book and sit in circle to wait for their classmates to arrive at school. They are learning to be very responsible. Our daily Circle Time begins each day with a good morning song, the Pledge of Allegiance, calendar skills, weather lessons, and our lessons and project for the day. Our projects are based on monthly themes and lessons. October was a fun month for us. The children took a look at a real fire truck and visited with the firefighters who brought the truck to school. We explored fire safety, the job of the firefighter and fire trucks. We took a look at safety in



the home and at school, and we talked about the signs of fall/autumn. Amber Winstead, the Library Lady, visited us for a special story time. The second half of the month was capped off by our Halloween party. Halloween projects included pumpkins, spiders, owls and other FUN Halloween themes. We wore our costumes when we had a Halloween Party hosted by several of our special parents.

Katherine Pollard
Mary Keehln Ross
Renee Parker

Newcomers Committee

The Newcomers Committee is actively seeking new members and greeters for 2011.

As we learned in our Parish Meeting, in order to meet our goals for the church, we must grow our parish by 40 families a year. The Newcomers Committee is the first step in that goal. Newcomers has become an active organization on our campus by sponsoring a coffee hour on Sunday mornings, newcomer's receptions, and fun activities such as the hot cider and cookies following the All Saint's service. Members of our committee become "shepherds" to help our visitors feel welcomed and become involved. We communicate through email so there are no regular meetings that require time away from your busy day.

The other way the committee needs your help is by becoming a greeter for one of our three weekly services. Being a greeter is a wonderful way to serve St. Paul's, by making all of our visitors feel welcome and wanted! When you sign up to become a greeter, you pick which service (8, 9, or 10:30) and commit to being the greeter for that month. We currently have no greeters signed up for 2011 and need your help!!!

Please help our parish grow to meet all of our goals for the future! We all know and understand the blessing that St. Paul's is our own lives, please help us share that blessing with those around us!

If you are interested in becoming a greeter or joining our committee, please contact Robin Bliven at robin.bliven@gmail.com or (252) 258-0813.

Peace,

Robin Bliven

robin.bliven@gmail.com

Wednesday Night Supper

Wow, the year is coming to a close very quickly! I would like to thank Jenifer Gregory for her delicious soups- bean and ham and chicken with Spanish rice that she cooked on Nov. 10th. Laura and Bill Bivins served us some yummy Swedish meatballs with mushroom gravy on Nov. 17th that was wonderful. Thank you to our great cooks that we've had so far. Jenifer- I know that you will have a little more free time in the near future, so we are going to call for an encore performance next year!

We have three more scheduled WNS in December: the Kluteys will cook on Dec. 1st, FoYC (Fathers of Young Children) on Dec. 8th and our fabulous finale will be the MoYC (Mothers of Young Children) on Dec. 15th. I know that I am getting old, but I still remember how good that was last year! We are now scheduling for 2011, put on your chef's hat!

This year the greening of the church will be held on Wed. Dec. 22nd after the service. Although there are not WNS that late in the year, there will be a supper of pizza provided by the Parish Life committee for those that participate in the preparation of the church for Christmas. Please come enjoy the food and festivities, it is a joyful time.

Gretchen Ewen
757-1975

St's Mary, Martha & Ann's Guild

Additional copies of the parish cookbook, "Cooking Favorites on Fourth," have been ordered and are scheduled to arrive Dec. 15. If you are interested in reserving a copy, contact Nikki Blount, nikkifever@hotmail.com or Edith Rand, erand@suddenlink.net. The books will also be available at Lautares Jewelers and A Proper Setting, both in Arlington Village.

Blood Drive Follow-up / MoYC



The Mothers of Young Children (MOYC) wish to thank everyone who participated in the Blood Drive to honor Ashley Burnette on November 11th. It was a great success. Twenty-nine units of blood were collected! This effort depended on many people, including those who volunteered to register blood givers, set up the Parish Hall, passed the word on to friends, managed the canteen, watched the children during the event, took pictures and made a card to send to Ashley, prayed for the success of the event, and gave up their own blood! This is a very difficult period in Ashley's life.



However, the blood drive really showed all the Burnettes how much St. Paul's cares. Please keep the Burnettes in your prayers as 7-year old-Ashley continues her struggle against metastatic neuroblastoma. She will have surgery in New York near the end of the year and needs all the support we can give.





This has been a successful year selling Grocery Cards. Thanks to Bill Sneed, Bob Shaw, Charles Ewen, Chris Ulffers, Sam Uzzell, Bill Payne, and Larry Barbour. Thanks to all our wonderful customers .

“Saints Alive” is an Epistle column that gives thanks for non-staff St. Paul’s members who give of themselves in ways that enrich our life together. Is there someone who you would like to see thanked? Send an e-mail to office@stpaulsepiscopal.com Subject Line “Saints Alive”.

The Sexton’s Workbench

DECEMBER

*The year is near at its end,
Just 30 more days and a new one begins,
But lets not count this year finished yet,
There is a birthday to celebrate, let us not forget.
Who's I'll not say but I'll give you a clue,
No rosy red cheeks and no big round belly
That would be the sexton, so stop being so silly.
This man is more famous and well known too,
He dressed in a robe with sandals for shoes,
The son of a carpenter but heir to a throne,
Now in the kingdom of heaven,
He waits for us to follow Him home.
To send Him best wishes no e-mails will do,
No banners, or card will ever get through,
Birthday wishes are best sent in short little prayers,
It is much easier for them to reach way up there.*

Charlie A. Alexander

Sexton

December 2010

Happy birthday to you, Amen

P.S.

I hope everyone will join us on the Fourth of December for the Homes Tour and the Christmas Bazaar.

Parish Office

Please help welcome our new Director of Operations and Finance, Dianne Jenkins. Dianne comes to St. Paul's with 10 years of experience at another church in a similar position and her experience will continue to make this a smooth transition. She is a resident of Kinston where her husband is a Methodist minister, her son is a freshman in high school and she has a daughter here in ECU. Introduce yourself next time you are at the Church office on a week day.

There are several things we can do to assist Dianne as she familiarizes herself with how St. Paul's works. If you call, let her know what ministries you are working with, not being a member nor attending Sunday services, these areas are what will begin to be familiar to her. When submitting a check request for reimbursement or an invoice to be paid please include all information-Your name and address, What the check is for, and most importantly what line item from the budget the funds need to come from (Flower Guild for Sunday Flowers, Altar Guild for Brass Polish etc...)Checks will continue to be cut on Thursdays.

These same details are also important for submitting a facility request form for meetings, classes or events. This information allows the office to keep accurate information on the calendar and website.

You may reach Dianne at 752-3482 or directorofops@stpaulsepiscopal.com. Her office hours are Monday-Friday 9am to 5pm. ***The e-mail address for Jenifer, parishadmin@stpaulsepiscopal.com will not be valid after December 1st.***

“Church work” is a different kind of work-there is that voice we hear that leads us to say yes. I was touched at the staff retreat 2 years ago when an almost completely new staff reflected that we all felt “called” to be doing what we were doing in this place. It is the reason I could say yes to being the interim Parish Administrator, and the voice I heard recently saying it had been 2 years and was time to go. How amazing that Dianne heard a voice of her own telling her she missed working in a church at the very same time! Add your voices to welcome her!

Janifer Gregory

Reception to Honor Jenifer Gregory

Jenifer Gregory's tenure as Interim Parish Administrator the past two years has come to an end. She has been assisting Dianne Jenkins, our new Director of Operations and Finance, in her new role, for the past few weeks. Friday, December 3, will be her last day in the office. We will have a reception to honor Jenifer on Sunday, December 5 in the parish hall, immediately following the 10:30 service. We are grateful for all she has done during her tenure in providing direction to the staff and coordinating the management of a growing church. Her energy, dedication and commitment has been outstanding. Please join us in expressing our gratitude to Jenifer for her service to St. Paul's.

Bob +

Advent

Submitted by David Crean

(Note: At this time we depart from our customary practice of sharing pen portraits of significant spiritual figures to share these Advent meditations by Fr. Gregory Fruehwirth, OJN, Guardian of the Order of Julian of Norwich.)

The first week of Advent marks the start of a new liturgical year in Christ. It is a time of darkness, of hidden pregnancy, of waiting. The seed of the kingdom of God, the seed that will germinate at Christmas, sprout in Epiphany, grow through Lent, blossom at Easter, and bear its seven-fold fruit at Pentecost, is sown in the dark soil of Advent. The new life of God is already within us, even though we may see, feel, and understand nothing. Patience and faith are called for.

In Advent we might do well to recognize the spiritual suffering of God's apparent absence from our lives as itself being a kind of goad to our spiritual maturation. If we talked with our fellow Christians about their inner lives, we might be shocked to learn just how many of us live, day in and day out, with a pervasive sense of divine absence, or at least a longing for a God who seems not fully here, fully with us. Advent can be a season when, instead of trying to cover up this emptiness, we allow ourselves to feel it deeply. We let it ring through us. We have received the promise that in our emptiness a fullness will be born and in that darkness, a light. Just allowing ourselves to be aware of the suffering of not having God as we would like allows God to be born in us in a new, deeper way. This is how we are progressively deepened, and this is how our presence becomes more settled and more profound, and able to bring light into a darkened room.

Advent is a time to reclaim our radical passion and commitment. I think that it is natural for our original zeal to cool, to be troubled by temptations, passions, and moods, or to be hampered with useless and distracting thoughts. Instead of a life of self-gift, we become entangled in harried and anxious self-concern. Instead of trusting in God, we seek power and control over worldly realities. Our life then ceases to be a journey into the strange land, the spiritual wilderness where we live close to the Holy Mystery of God. Instead we become fussy and hyper-sensitive curators of a collection of the familiar and the comforting, and the cliché. God becomes just one item in our collection of favorite things.

In Advent, with its two saints – John the Baptist and the Blessed Virgin – we return to the original prophetic zeal of our desire for God and the great mystery of our soul's pregnancy with God's own life. Returning to that place of original desire and mystery, we clear our inward lives of all that is unessential, strip away the clutter and the thick accretions that prevent the clean flow of the Spirit. We do this not because the world is intrinsically bad, or because of a puritanical instinct for unreal purity, or a morbid delight in cutting against our own desires. Rather, we do this because we have heard again the voice of the Beloved calling us to a life radically given to him in love. In our heart's response we naturally want to have less and less unnecessary stuff in our lives so that we can have more and more space for the Beloved. God is wooing us now out into the wilderness of a truer life so that we can discover the union with him, a union that asks all and gives all, in an exchange of love, as radical an exchange as that lived by any missionary, any martyr, any saint.

December Birthdays

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|-------|-------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|
| Flora Lancaster | 12/1 | Dell Lane | 12/13 | Linda Chamberlain | 12/24 |
| Lou Hamilton | 12/2 | Katherine Gregory | 12/13 | Lynn Carlisle | 12/24 |
| David Womack | 12/2 | Mason Paramore | 12/15 | Melanie O'Donahue | 12/25 |
| Jeanne Clark | 12/3 | Martha Williams | 12/16 | Bill Moos | 12/26 |
| Penny Gaskins | 12/3 | Mark Warren | 12/16 | Julie Vincent | 12/26 |
| Fran Cherry | 12/3 | Andy Miller | 12/16 | Jeffrey Carstarphen | 12/27 |
| Mary Holt Faircloth | 12/3 | Robert Hyatt | 12/16 | JoAnne Bath | 12/28 |
| Janey Ferguson | 12/3 | Judy Currin | 12/17 | Frank Fisher | 12/28 |
| Daniel VanLiere | 12/3 | Bonny Breuer | 12/17 | Anne Bunnell | 12/28 |
| Carl Loop | 12/3 | William Smith | 12/19 | Adrienne Boniface | 12/29 |
| Mel Markowski | 12/4 | Anne Fisher | 12/19 | Noel Manning | 12/29 |
| Emilie Schaefer | 12/4 | Herbert Carlton | 12/20 | Rob Powell | 12/30 |
| John Bennett | 12/5 | Kirsten Bean | 12/20 | Frank Brewer | 12/30 |
| Meg Storck | 12/5 | Elizabeth Jenkins | 12/21 | Alli Warren | 12/31 |
| Steven Rogers | 12/8 | Peter Siessel | 12/21 | Nancy Zeller | 12/31 |
| William Elmore | 12/11 | Leo LaFrance | 12/22 | Rusty Jackson | 12/31 |
| Chris Warren | 12/11 | Robin Bliven | 12/22 | | |
| Eric Whaley | 12/12 | Judith Yongue | 12/23 | | |
| Sarah Klitzkie | 12/12 | Phillip Horne | 12/23 | | |
| | | Patrick McGee | 12/23 | | |



December Anniversaries

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-------|------------------------------|-------|
| Patrick & Resa Bizzaro | 12/5 | William & Elizabeth Blount | 12/17 |
| Jim & Barbara Moye | 12/17 | Charlie & Leah Anderson | 12/19 |
| Chris & Erin Riley-Tillman | 12/22 | Dallas & Patsy McPherson | 12/27 |
| Bobby Lee & Helena Shepard | 12/29 | Jason & Mary Courteney Green | 12/30 |
| Eric & Katie Benson | 12/31 | John & Tiffany Whichard | 12/31 |

We would like to recognize everyone on their Anniversary & Birthdays, if we have missed yours please email the office at office@stpaulsepiscopeal.com with your information so we can add you on our list for next year.



December

Leader: Sylvia Smith

Team #5 Hon - Lat

Hosts and Helpers is currently looking for monthly leaders! There are many months that a leader spot is vacant! If you are interested or want more information about what it means to be a leader please contact Sylvia Smith at 355-0407 or e-mail to ssmith410@suddenlink.net.

Thank you!

Honeycutt, Lib
Hopfengardner, Jerry
Hopfengardner, Winnie
Hopfer, Clark
Hopfer, Wade
Hopkins, Pamela
Horne, Alexander
Horne, Dot
Horne, Grace
Horne, Phillip
Horton, Christy
Horton, Loyd
Horton, Sonny
Houston, Ashleigh Jane
Houston, Pat
Houston, Sandra
Howard, Parma
Hubbard, Gina
Hubbard, Slade
Huber, Cathee
Hudak, Louise
Huff, Julianne
Hutcherson, Corey Sloan
Hutcherson, Jackie
Hutcherson, Jackie
Hutcherson, Kenneth
Hutcherson, Tracy
Hyatt, Alice
Hyatt, Carolyn

Hyatt, Robert
Jackson, Debbie
Jackson, Rusty
James, Don
Jarrell, Gregory
Jarrell, Stacy
Jenkins, Heather
Jenkins, Rom
Jenks, Tim
Jethro, Gordon
Jethro, Libby
Johnson, George
Johnson, Lynette
Jones, Martina
Jowers, Brian
Joyner, Jane
Karns, Jack
Karns, Sandra
Kemmer, Gretchen
Kendall, Laura
Kennedy-Dudley, Paula
Kenny, Jean
Kindig, Alan
Kindig, Sharon
Kitchin, Lucy
Kitchin, Will
Kittrell, Heidi
Kittrell, Jim
Klitzkie, Carrie

Klitzkie, Jane
Klitzkie, Linn
Klitzkie, Sarah
Kloeping, Kelly
Kloeping, Clint
Klugh, Mary
Klugey, Richard
Klutey, Fred
Klutey, Kathy
Kunkel, Nancy
Kuszyk, Brian
Kuszyk, Cara
LaFrance, Leo
LaFrance, Mary
Lancaster, Llyod
Lane, Dell



Hosts and Helpers is a group comprised of all members of the church. Serving on a monthly rotation schedule by name, they provide help for church receptions for funerals, bishop's visits and other events. If you are new to St. Paul's and would like to participate in this important ministry, just contact Sylvia Smith at 355-0407 or e-mail to ssmith410@suddenlink.net.

To know Christ and make him known.



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Emails:

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Office: Office@StPaulsEpiscopal.com (Laura Darner)
Director of Operations & Finance: DirectorOfOps@StPaulsEpiscopal.com (Dianne Jenkins)
Dir. of Christian Ed: ChristianEd@StPaulsEpiscopal.com (Carrie Craig)
Organist/Choirmaster: Music@StPaulsEpiscopal.com (Andrew Scanlon)
Preschool Dir.: Preschool@StPaulsEpiscopal.com (Gretchen Ewen)
Youth Minister: EYC@StPaulsEpiscopal.com (Susan Vickery-Mercer)
Campus Ministries: ECM@StPaulsEpiscopal.com (Matt Scully)
Sexton: Sexton@StPaulsEpiscopal.com (Charlie Alexander)

Clergy

The Rt. Rev. Clifton Daniel III, Bishop of the Diocese of East Carolina
The Rt. Rev. Santosh Marray, Bishop Assisting for the Diocese of East Carolina
The Rt. Rev. The Rev. Bob Hudak, Rector
The Rev. Carrie Craig, Director of Christian Ed. & Formation
The Rev. James Smith, Deacon
The Rev. Scott Luce, Deacon
The Rev. Lawrence P. Houston, Rector Emeritus

Vestry

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Kathy Previll <i>Senior Warden</i> | Ed Smith <i>Junior Warden</i> | Charles Gaskins <i>Treasurer</i> |
| Tony Breuer | Jim Peden | Michael Gross |
| David Whichard | Cordell Avery | Murrell McLeod |
| Alex Griffin | Nikki Blount | Sarah Klitzkie |
| | Wanda Bunch | |

New Vestry Elected ~ Starting January 1, 2011

Brian Jowers - Cyndra Gasperini - Bill Queen - Larry Barbour

Visit Us

401 East 4th Street, Greenville, NC 27858

Sunday Schedule (Summer Hours)

8:00 am - Holy Eucharist Rite II
10:30 am - Holy Eucharist Rite II

Weekday Schedule

Wednesday - 5:30 pm - Holy Eucharist Rite II

Staff

Andrew Scanlon, *Organist / Choirmaster*
Matt Scully, *Campus Minister*
Susan Vickery-Mercer, *Youth Minister*
Jenifer Gregory, *Parish Administrator (Interim)*
Diane Jenkins, *Director of Operations & Finance (Training)*
Laura Darner, *Secretary*
Charlie Alexander, *Weekday Sexton*
James Smith, *Weekend Sexton*
Milka Mrkaljevic, *Housekeeper*
Gretchen Ewen, *Preschool Director*

Guild Chairs

Cathy Gavigan, *Altar Guild Chair*
Judy Whichard, *Flower Guild Chair*

Assembly Contacts

Laura Farley, *Point of Contact*