

The Chimes

December 2, 2008

Saint Paul's Worship Schedule

Sunday

9:00 & 10:30 am: Holy Communion

Christmas Pageant at 9 am on December 21

One service only, at 9:30 am, on Sunday, December 28

Wednesday Worship in Advent

December 3, 10 & 17

7:00 pm: Holy Communion

Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve services at 5:00, 7:00 & 11:00 pm

Saint Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
415 E. Athens Ave., Ardmore, PA 19003
The Rev. Dr. Harry W. McDowell II, Pastor
610-642-3211 610-658-3262 (fax)
www.stpaulsardmore.org

Saint Paul's Christmas Eve Services



5:00 pm – Candlelight Communion Service with Children's Choir (prepared especially with children in mind)

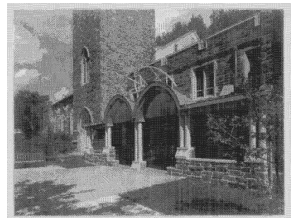
7:00 pm – Traditional Candlelight Communion Service with Brass Ensemble (preludial music begins at 6:45 pm)

11:00 pm – Traditional Candlelight Communion Service with Arioso String Quartet (preludial music begins at 10:45 pm)

The Chimes, the newsletter of Saint Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, is published monthly for the inspiration, education and entertainment of its members and friends. Comments and suggestions are welcome. Just mail, e-mail or deliver them to the church office.

The next issue of *The Chimes* will be published on **Tuesday, January 13**. Your articles are due in the office no later than noon on **Tuesday, January 6**. Thank you!

Thoughts from the Pastor



***O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence...
O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.***

Isaiah 64: 1, 8 (Reading for the First Sunday in Advent)

Dear Friends:

As we begin this Advent season, I begin with the above words from the First Reading for the First Sunday in Advent. Advent is from the Latin *adventus*, meaning “coming.” It is a season of expectancy, anticipation, and hope. The color is blue, which in the church signifies hope. The event that is the reason for our expectancy, anticipation and hope is, of course, the annual remembrance of the birth of our Savior in Bethlehem’s manger.

Our Hebrew scripture readings during Advent will all lead us in this journey of expectancy. On Advent 1 we hear those words above. I love these two thoughts Isaiah expresses. The first is a plea: “Come!” “O that you would tear open the heavens and come down.” The prophet begs God to come, acknowledging that our God is so powerful that the divine presence will cause the mountains to quake in his presence. I, for one, sometimes need to be reminded of God’s awesome, wholly-other presence and the force it wields.

Then the second thought from verse 8, is a surrender, an admission of humility. “You are our Father, we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.” It is a reminder to me that I am nothing on my own, and yet I am everything as a creation of God’s powerful yet gentle hands! The expectancy of Advent tells me that I am a child of God; I am human with a spark of the divine inextinguishable within me.

I hope, with all of the activity demanded of us at this hectic time of year, with all of the preparations and rushing we all go through to get ready for Christmas... I hope that we will all *take time for Advent*. The words and message of this season of expectancy and hope are so powerful and so important that we should not rush this part of the journey.

Please join us for Wednesday Eucharist on December 3, 10, and 17.

In Christ.

Pastor Skip McDowell
Pastor Skip McDowell

Death

Hildegarde Ward died on November 3, 2008. We pray for Hildegarde's family and thank God for her life and the promise of the Resurrection.

Change of Address

The Rev. & Mrs. Donald Doll
The Shores at Wesley Manor
2201 Bay Avenue, Apt. 166
Ocean City, NJ 08226

Prayer Chain

Prayers are requested for: the family of Jack Artz, former Saint Paul's member, who died on Sunday, November 23; Stephen Bevan (brother of David Bevan); Bill Buchanan; Renée Connell (sister-in-law of Lois Connell); Richard Connell (brother of Lois Connell); John Dougherty (friend of Carol Henry); Janet Feldman (sister of Julia Friedgen); Kathy Fleuhr (niece of David Bevan); Romaine McDowell (mother of Pastor Skip); Michael Melichar (son-in-law of Joan Swan); Jim Moran (brother of Mike Moran); Mike Moran; Scott Randolph (friend of Ginger Klepfer); Laird Robertson; Micki Walton (friend of Judi Zucker); and Ginny Wiley.

Thank You

Dear Members of Saint Paul's,

At last I am able to write to thank you for all the prayers and kindness shown to me while Dana was ill and after he died. The service (on 11/2/'08) was very meaningful.

Pastor Skip and Pastor Julie, especially, helped us through this whole, sad, difficult passage. Now Dana is in a far better place and we are healing.

Thank you all again and God be with you.

Joan Swan

* * * * *

(Pastor McDowell would like to share the following note from Michael Casey with our Chimes readers.)

Dear Pastor McDowell,

I am sorry I couldn't join you on all Saints Sunday I prayed all through Saturday and Sunday for Ruth, who was the love of my life Thank you for praying for Ruth and for the other late members of Saint Paul's.

*May we pray together in Christ,
Michael Casey*

Christmas Ingathering Reminder

Thank you to all who participated in the **2008 Christmas Ingathering**. Remember, all wrapped gifts must be returned to the church office by 10 am on Sunday, December 7th, for delivery to Lutheran Children and Family Services.

*Helene Roth
Christmas Ingathering Coordinator at Saint Paul's*

Christmas Pageant 2008

This year's Sunday School Christmas Pageant will take place on December 21, during the 9:00 am service. All classes will participate in the pageant. Costumes will be handed out on December 14 during Sunday School. Please make sure that your children are present for Sunday School on December 14 to receive their costumes. If you are unable to come on the 14th, please contact Liz McCoid (412-417-4545) to make other arrangements.

Attention Committee Chairpersons

Annual reports for the year 2008 are due in the office no later than Tuesday, December 30. Please note that reports are expected from all committees, subcommittees and groups. Observance of the deadline will greatly assist the church office in distributing the annual report to members in a timely fashion.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year fr. Saint Paul's Staff!

Pastor Skip McDowell, Andy Heller, Millie Parker, Judi Zucker, Jay Marcellus, Marge Tomarelli, Peg Hanlon, Mike Dougherty and Karen Spielman

***Help Celebrate the Re-Opening of Saint Paul's Library
at a Special Coffee Hour!***

**Between services on Sunday, December 7
Kugler Room**

Enjoy coffee, tea and snacks in the Kugler Room, then stop by the library and browse through our wonderful collection of books*. You will find items of interest for all ages and tastes. We look forward to seeing you on December 7!

* The books are organized topically (see list of topics below). The library has printed reference catalogs (alphabetical by title, alphabetical by author and topic [alphabetical by author within topic]). The library collection is also available through the computer database.

**Advent – Christmas
Angels
Afterlife
Bible Reference
Bible Studies - General
Bibles
Biography
Children
Children–Advanced Readers
Christian Education
Christian Literature
Christianity & Art
Church Admin/Ministry
Doctrine & Beliefs
Counseling
Death and Dying
Devotions
Ethics & Christian Life
Faith & Spirituality**

**Fiction
General Reference
History of Christianity
Jesus Life & Teachings
Lent – Easter
Lutheranism
Middle East – Islam
Missions
New Testament Studies
Old Testament Studies
Prayer
Protestantism
Reflections & Meditations
Religion in Science/Society
Women in Church History
Works of Martin Luther
World Religions
Worship and Music**

(The following Temple Talk was delivered by Jim Schneider to the congregation of Saint Paul's on Sunday, November 9. Please see Jim's follow-up message at the end of this article.)

Saint Paul's Temple Talk

by Jim Schneider, Finance Chair

Last Thursday, on a warm fall evening, the Congregation Council met for its monthly meeting. For those of you who haven't experienced Council meetings under the leadership of Frank Roth and Pastor McDowell, they are truly wonderful sessions with inspiring updates on news and initiatives from our Pastor and committees, demonstrating that the Holy Spirit is alive and well not only here in Saint Paul's Ardmore, but beyond our neighborhood and throughout the world. As I said, the night is normally inspirational and motivational until . . . the last three reports of the evening are given—the financial and treasury reports—usually delivered by Bob Ertner, Judi Zucker and myself.

Over the past several months, through *The Chimes* and weekly bulletins, we have been proactive in publicly communicating our most up-to-date financial status. This morning, at our current rate of spending, we are anticipating a deficit of approximately \$37,000 as we look at closing the fiscal year. In partnership with Council leadership, we are quickly addressing the challenges ahead for our upcoming budget planning sessions. We know that our investments will take a hit and that earnings will not yield the return that we have seen historically.

You may ask why we find ourselves in this position. Primarily due to the fact that earlier this year, we lost our rental income from Grace Covenant Church, and our expenses are over budget in categories such as utilities, salaries and general operating expenses (e.g., postage).

Eighty percent of our current expenses are fixed. So, I am here this morning to deliver a message of *urgency* for the present and hope for the future. Inside today's bulletin there is an envelope designated for a special appeal. Please prayerfully consider making a special donation that will go directly to one of the three expense categories: (1) utilities, (2) salaries or (3) Synod commitment.

We ask that you consider this additional one-time offering to help offset the expenses. I know that given the current economic challenges, making an additional commitment isn't easy, and I truly understand.

Thank you, for your support and the enduring love you show time and again to Saint Paul's and our community.

Follow-up message: Thank you for your kind generosity. As of Sunday, November 23, \$8500 was contributed toward deficit reduction in the expense categories addressed in the 11/9/08 Temple Talk.

Wednesday Worship in Advent

During the season of Advent, we will resume our tradition of Wednesday evening worship at 7:00 pm followed by a reception in the narthex.

CHILDCARE AVAILABLE IN THE NURSERY DURING WORSHIP AND RECEPTION

The theme of our Wednesday Advent series is “Living in the Meantime: Promise, Hope and Reversal; Expect the Unexpected.” These guest preachers will lead the remaining Advent services:

**December 10 Isaiah 11:1-10
Preacher: The Rev. Heidi Rodrick-Schnaath***

**December 17 Isaiah 35:1-10
Preacher: The Rev. Kris Peterson****

**The Rev. Heidi Rodrick-Schnaath has been an ELCA pastor for twenty years. She served congregations in Ava, Missouri, Lake St. Louis, Missouri and Naperville, Illinois before accepting a specialized call to serve as the manager of the Augsburg Fortress Bookstore on the campus of the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. Because she doesn't serve in a parish setting, Heidi frequently serves as a supply pastor for congregations in the Philadelphia area. She and her family have been members of St. Paul's for three years and happily live in "the little house" next to the St. Paul's cemetery.*

***The Rev. Kris Peterson has served two parishes in the SEPA Synod: Zion, Spring City, and Holy Spirit, Secane. In 2006 she received a Master's Degree in Pastoral Care and Counseling at Neumann College with a concentration in spiritual direction. In May, Rev. Peterson led the Women's Bible study at Saint Paul's on different forms of prayer. She facilitated the Women's Retreat at Saint Paul's in 2000. Rev. Peterson is presently completing her doctorate in ministry on the topic of contemplative prayer. She plans to establish an office in the Delaware Conference for spiritual direction, group direction, and retreat ministry.*

MORE NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to these folks, who have joined Saint Paul's recently:

Andrea and Ian Hagemann recently relocated to Ardmore from St. Louis, Missouri, with their 1-year-old daughter, **Sophie**. Andrea received her M.D. from Washington University in St. Louis, completed her residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Barnes-Jewish Hospital, and is now a gynecologic oncology fellow at the University of Pennsylvania. Ian also earned his M.D. and Ph.D. at Washington University and is serving his residency in pathology at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. In their spare time, they enjoy cooking and keeping up with their interest in running. Sophie is a spirited youngster who loves to laugh, discover nature, and play with her yellow Labrador retriever, Bentley.

Rachel Kanzinger lives in Belmont Hills, Penna. and works in data management at a pharmaceutical company. Her interests include waterskiing, working out and spending time with her boyfriend and family. Rachel's great-grandfather was The Rev. Albert Christian Kanzinger, pastor of Saint Paul's from September 1921 to December 1951.

Gustavo and Stina Peña recently moved to Ardmore from Portland, Oregon. Gus is a graduate student at Villanova University earning his M.S. in Nurse Anesthesia and Stina is the program assistant for the medical physics program at the University of Pennsylvania. She is also a post-baccalaureate student there. Gus's interests include cycling and enjoying the outdoors. Stina likes the home arts (especially needlepoint), exercising and current events. They share a love of travel and all things French.

The Chimes Is Going Green!

In an effort to reduce our use of paper and to reduce postage costs, Saint Paul's will begin delivering *The Chimes* electronically in January. Each household with an e-mail address on record will receive an electronic version *only*. The *only* people who will receive paper versions of *The Chimes* through the regular mail are those without e-mail addresses on record. If you prefer to receive a paper version of *The Chimes* through the regular mail, please contact Millie in the church office (610-642-3211) to subscribe to the print version.

Do you have a new e-mail address? Please let us know. Contact Millie in the church office to update our files.

Are you unsure if we have your e-mail address, but you're willing to help us go green and reduce costs? Let Millie know what your current e-mail address is, and we'll make sure you get the electronic version of *The Chimes*.

In addition to e-mailing *The Chimes*, we will also be posting *The Chimes* on the church Website (www.stpaulsardmore.org). Two versions will be available—a full version and a smaller, text-only version.

Stephen Ministry: Training for Life

by Barbara Keyser

“You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger...” (James 1:19)

For me this verse from James encapsulates one of the basic principles I and the others in my class learned during our Stephen Ministry training. Next to making Christ—his example and his teachings—the center of our ministry, the most basic thing we learned was the importance of listening wholly, attentively and in a nonjudgmental way and then conveying to the speaker that we empathized with his or her pain and were committed to doing everything we could to help that person deal with it. We discussed and practiced applying this principle, always realizing that trustworthiness and compassion should accompany any interaction with a care receiver.



As our training progressed, it became more and more clear to all of us that these approaches were useful not only in relating to a care receiver in a Stephen Ministry setting but also in our daily lives. We became aware that we are care givers in all our relationships and found ourselves applying our training to the people we encountered every day.

Besides these fundamental aspects of the training, we learned and practiced specifically how to deal with some of life's more stressful situations, such as depression, hospitalization, job loss, chronic illness, and probably the most traumatic loss of all, death of a loved one. Even in our own small group we sadly had occasion to draw on our training in these areas, and there seems to be little doubt that we all felt better prepared to give distinctively Christian care as a result.

Another great blessing of the training program for me was the bond that developed among us. As we spent more time together and learned about each other's joys, problems, and sorrows, we could all feel the love and support we received from the others and also felt encouraged to give that same love and support when it was needed.

So even though I have not yet been assigned a care receiver, I feel that I have gained valuable life training from the program and am looking forward to the time when I can apply what I have learned to a caring relationship as a Stephen Minister.

If you are a compassionate person who wants to help others who are struggling, why not consider becoming a Stephen Minister? If, after prayerful thought, you decide to embark on this journey, I think you will not only learn how to *be* a blessing to others, but you will also receive many blessings as well.

Jesus, Justice and Jazz
2009 ELCA Youth Gathering
New Orleans Youth Offer Babysitting Services

Our high school youth at Saint Paul's continue their fundraising efforts on the road to New Orleans. Just in time for the busy holiday season, babysitting services are being offered. Two babysitting sessions will be held in December:

Saturday, December 6, from 9:00 am to noon

Friday, December 12, from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm



Children 2 to 10 years are welcome.



Free play, crafts and a child-appropriate movie will be offered.



For each session, there is a \$15.00 per child/\$25.00 per family donation requested.

Registration is required to insure sufficient caregiver coverage. Contact Amy Horn at 610-667-7023 or areamS@comcast.net to register. On behalf of our youth bound for New Orleans, thank you for your support.

Bible Study at Saint Paul's

Women's Bible study meets on Thursday morning at 10:00 am in the Kugler Room. Each week we study the lessons for the upcoming Sunday. In December our study will have an Advent theme (the 4th and 11th will be our only two meeting dates for the month). When we resume after the holidays, we hope to have some guest leaders on specific subjects such as Luther's Catechism and meaningful Lenten practices. All are welcome! If you have ideas about topics you would like to discuss, please call Barbara Keyser (610-359-1822).

Men's Bible study meets on Saturday morning at 8:30 am in the Kugler Room. All men of Saint Paul's are welcome!

We hope you will consider joining us on Thursday or Saturday morning!

Alternative Gift Market

Sunday, December 14

Fellowship Hall

On **Sunday, December 14**, Saint Paul's will hold its annual Alternative Gift Market. After each service, you will have the opportunity to make a donation to a variety of charitable organizations to honor someone this holiday season. When you give to one of the organizations, you will receive a gift card that you may pass along letting someone know that a gift has been given in her/his name. This is a perfect way to recognize teachers, co-workers, coaches, family members and friends!

The organizations/ministries chosen for this year's Alternative Gift Market are:

- ◆ Philabundance;
- ◆ Our missionary in Tanzania, Barbara Robertson;
- ◆ Disadvantaged children and orphans at the Bishop Forson School in Ghana, Africa;
- ◆ Heifer Project International;
- ◆ Orphans at the Hope School of Lijiang City in the Yunnan Province of SW China.

You will also have the opportunity to support farmers and farm workers, struggling to lift themselves out of poverty, by purchasing coffee and chocolate at the Fair Trade table. Each Fair Trade purchase is an investment in the farms, communities and education of these individuals.

Help Raise Funds for Youth Group AND Help the Environment

Dear Saint Paul's Members,

We are thrilled to embark on a new environmental fundraising effort to help support Saint Paul's youth in the New Orleans Group (NOG). These youth will be attending the New Orleans Youth Gathering in July 2009. The *Think Recycle* program enables all of us at Saint Paul's to help prevent the accumulation of electronic waste in landfills while simultaneously raising funds for NOG.

What is Think Recycle?

Think Recycle is a free, community-based initiative of Greentec, a government licensed ISO 14001 certified program. Greentec assures donors that no product donated will end up in a landfill. Furthermore, Greentec's Think Recycle gives back to the environment on Saint Paul's behalf through their tree planting partnerships with American Forests and Tree Canada.

What is ISO 14001?

ISO 14001 is an environmental certification. It means that Greentec will maintain and continuously improve their comprehensive Environmental Management System to ensure a high standard of operations, and do their best to prevent pollution of all types. As part of this program, Greentec will efficiently and effectively identify and resolve any potential environmental hazards associated with their operations. It assures you that cell phones and cartridges will be recycled safely and appropriately.

How does it work?

The Think Recycle program provides cash rebates for the used inkjet cartridges, laser print cartridges and cell phones collected by our youth. NOG packages and sends the used materials to Greentec, who in turn issues a payment for each qualifying cell phone or used print cartridge received.

How can I help?

It's simple—just deposit your used inkjet or laser cartridges and cell phones in NOG's specially marked collection box in the narthex and help spread the word!

How does this help the environment?

Annually, over 300 million print cartridges are used and discarded in North America, and more than 500 million cell phones are retired. That's millions of pounds of electronic waste that usually ends up in a landfill. The Think Recycle program ensures that used cartridges and cell phones are not dumped in landfills.

Best of all, for every 24 qualifying cartridges or cell phones collected, Think Recycle sponsors the planting of one tree in partnership with Tree Canada or American Forests. Your support of the Think Recycle program will help NOG and the community understand the importance of recycling and the benefits of tree planting, and will help raise funds for NOG.

Thank you for your support. For more information, please contact Belle Miller (paperengineer@gmail.com).

January Birthdays

- 1 Alexandria Schuster, Andrea Schuster, Carol Simon, Ginger Vitty, Jackie Williams
- 2 Lydia Schlauch
- 3 Charlotte Miller
- 4 Sarah Krissingner
- 5 Susan Aronchick, Madeline Hamilton, Virginia Mace
- 6 Kari Draper, Maria Muñoz, Heather Van Horn
- 7 Alexa Foust, Catherine Gustafson, Giang Nguyen, Nancy Snyder, Christine Stallkamp
- 8 Julia Friedgen
- 9 Elizabeth McElvenney
- 10 Andrew Horn, William Miles III
- 11 David Harkins, Adam McCluskey, Frank Roth
- 12 Magnus Horner, John Mullin III
- 13 John Dormans
- 15 Rebecca Dewey, Kendall Henderson, Louise Pierce
- 17 Benjamin Heym, Nathan Wren
- 18 John Nagle, Sungbae Park, Nolan Schenkel, Jim Van Horn III
- 19 Russ Carstens, Jason Sack, Patricia Welsh
- 20 John Martin, Isabel Montgomery, Grady Walters
- 22 Melanie DeWarf, Eleanor Jacobsen
- 23 Christopher Holland, Barbara Orwig
- 24 Bob Phillips
- 25 Andrea Scota
- 26 John Jorgenson, James Smyrl
- 27 Jim Schneider
- 28 Denette Stetler
- 29 Paige Badovick, Benjamin Brophy
- 30 Vernon Newhouse, Logan Snyder
- 31 Kimberly Hunt, Elisabeth Schultz

Go In Peace . . . Remember the Poor

The Northeast Churches Community Food Cupboard, located at St. John's Lutheran Church, serves the needs of some 600 families who rely on the cupboard when they need emergency food assistance. Because of increased need for food assistance, the food cupboard supplies have been depleted. Please help replenish the food cupboard by donating non-perishable food supplies and items for food baskets given to families during the holiday season. Suggestions:

Peanut butter	Turkeys
Jelly	Stuffing mix
Juice & juice packs	Instant mashed potatoes
Cranberry sauce	Gravy mix
Pasta	Pasta sauce & tomato products
Soup	Hot chocolate
Tuna	Coffee
Canned vegetables	Tea bags
Canned meat	Canned pasta meals

PLEASE PLACE YOUR DONATIONS IN THE CONTAINER
LOCATED IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL.

Advent Receptions at Saint Paul's

During the season of Advent, we will resume our tradition of having Advent receptions after Wednesday worship services. The receptions will be held in the narthex. Traditionally, receptions have included hot cider and goodies for 20 to 30 people.

If you are willing to host a reception on one of the following Wednesday evenings, please contact Pastor McDowell:

December 3
December 10
December 17.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

THREE WEDNESDAY EVENINGS IN JANUARY AT 7:00 PM

INTRODUCTION TO JUDAISM: ITS PHILOSOPHY AND PRACTICE

➔ JANUARY 7 AND 14 IN THE KUGLER ROOM

PRESENTER: MARSHALL PORTNOY*, CANTOR, MAIN LINE
REFORM TEMPLE

Cantor Portnoy will survey Jewish attitudes towards life, concentrating on the rhythm of the Jewish year, and especially centering on the calendar and holiday observances.

➔ JANUARY 21 IN THE SANCTUARY

MAIN LINE REFORM CHOIR, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF ANDY
HELLER

On the final night of this series, the choir will sing parts of the Jewish liturgy.

*Marshall Portnoy is the Cantor of Main Line Reform Temple in Wynnewood, Pennsylvania, and immediate past Vice-President of the American Conference of Cantors. His two-volume series entitled *The Art of Cantillation* has brought the skill and the joy of reading Torah and Haftarah to tens of thousands throughout the globe, and regularly remains among the most popular volumes of the URJ Press. His musical works, published by Transcontinental Music Publications, are widely performed throughout the United States, and he is the recipient of frequent commissions. A graduate of Yale, Cantor Portnoy was invested both by the Jewish Theological Seminary and the Hebrew Union College. He has also served on the boards of Federation Day Care of Greater Philadelphia and Reform Judaism Magazine. He teaches regularly at the Biennial Convention of the Union for Reform Judaism, and the Pararabbinic Program of the Hebrew Union College where he also adjudicates cantorial certification examinations each spring. He is co-editor of a planned new Reform Clergy Manual. His latest compact disc, "Songs of Renewal," was released in 2006, with a companion CD, "Songs of Blessing," scheduled for release in the summer of 2009.

December Women's Dinner
To Be Held in Fellowship Hall
(not at Pica's Restaurant, as previously advertised)

Date: Tuesday, December 9

Time: 6:00 pm

Cost: \$20

(\$15 for dinner catered by John Henry's Pub;
\$5 contribution toward a Christmas gift from the
women of Saint Paul's to Womanspace in Ardmore)

Menu: Caesar salad, roast beef or turkey, mashed
potatoes, corn, dessert

Childcare to be provided by the New Orleans Gathering Youth Group
(Suggested contribution for babysitting: \$10 minimum)

Please register with the church office (610-642-3211).

Don't miss this festive holiday event!

A 2009 sign-up chart for sponsoring altar flowers for Sunday morning worship is available in the narthex, or you may call Dottie Buchanan, 610-789-8092, to make your request.

Flowers are needed for Sundays in January and February of 2009. The cost of the flowers is \$25. Once you have signed up, you will receive confirmation of your sponsorship and information about how to make your payment.



**Join us for
Breakfast with Santa**

Families with Young Children will gather
on Saturday, December 13, 2008
9:30 – 11:00 am in Fellowship Hall

Pancake breakfast, your picture with Santa,
and a craft will be on the menu.

Families, please bring the following items:

A – I Fruit
J – R Bagels and cream cheese
S – Z Orange Juice

Please register with the church office by Wednesday, December 10
(call 610-642-3211 or send an e-mail to millie@stpaulsardmore.org).

Family and friends are welcome. A free-will offering will be collected.

Mark your calendars and invite a friend to:

***Senior Friends Christmas Caroling
& Catered Luncheon***

Wednesday, December 17

Cost: \$10 per person

**Menu: Shepherd's pie, Caesar salad, rolls &
butter, dessert, beverage**

Door Prize!

Saint Paul's Music Director, Andy Heller will lead the caroling.
Please call the church office to register for this festive event
(610-642-3211).

MEETINGS & GATHERINGS—MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

3rd – 8th Grade Youth Outing at Bear Creek Lutheran Camp

Friday, February 6 to Sunday, February 8 in Bear Creek, Penna. \$60 per camper (covers lodging, food & roundtrip transportation); scholarships available. Contact Bill or Barb Henderson for additional information (610-642-3953 or barbhenderson@comcast.net).

Women's Retreat

February 20 – 21, 2009, Franciscan Spirituality Center in Aston, Penna. Come and explore the “Bad Girls of the Bible” with Pastor Dayle Malloy* from Trinity Lutheran Church in Lansdale. In our time together we'll attempt to breathe new life into ancient stories depicting several of the most infamous women in scriptural history, from Jezebel to Delilah. We'll dig into their pasts and discover all that their lives can teach us about ourselves today. This retreat promises to open our hearts and minds to these biblical women and their stories and to help us all to discover the power of God to rule our hearts and our lives even when we're “bad.”

* Pastor Dayle A. Malloy is a graduate of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. She has served Trinity Lutheran Church in Lansdale, Penna., for over ten years as Pastor of Evangelism, Congregational Care, Lay Ministry and Parish Life. Pastor Malloy has four sons, two daughters-in-law, and one amazing granddaughter, Anna. She lives with her two beautiful chocolate Labs, Rosie and Nellie. You may remember Pastor Malloy as our guest preacher for Consecration Sunday, November 18, 2007.

New Stephen Ministry Training Class Begins in January

Every day you see people who are hurting: those who have lost a job, lost a loved one, are dealing with divorce, or are battling an illness. Stephen Ministers are God's representatives who bring his love to those who are hurting. God is waiting to make a difference in their lives through you!

Saint Paul's will be training another class of Stephen Ministers starting in January 2009. Stephen Ministers work alongside our pastors to provide care, encouragement, and emotional and spiritual support to people who are going through a difficult time.

If you have gifts for caring, encouragement, and listening, please begin to prayerfully consider whether you might want to be part of this exciting ministry. The 50 hours of training you will receive not only prepare you to help your care receiver—it will come in handy in so many situations you encounter in life.

If you think you might be interested, please talk to Pastor Skip or any of our Stephen Leaders here at Saint Paul's: Beth McElvenney (610-853-2444); Hazel Pelletreau (610-284-6835); or Toni Whaley (610-896-7193).



Christmas Decorations & Music

I/We would like to share in decorating Saint Paul's for Christmas by donating the following item(s):

In loving memory of _____

In honor of _____

Name(s) of donor(s): _____

_____ Poinsettias @ \$10.00 per plant	= \$ _____ enclosed
_____ Wreaths @ \$25.00 each	= \$ _____ enclosed
Contribution toward pine roping	= \$ _____ enclosed
Contribution toward cemetery decorations	= \$ _____ enclosed
Total	= \$ _____ enclosed



I/We would like to sponsor a musician for the Christmas Eve services:

In loving memory of _____

In honor of _____

Name(s) of donor(s): _____

_____ Brass/string instrumentalist(s) @ \$250.00	= \$ _____ enclosed
Entire string quartet @ \$1000.00	= \$ _____ enclosed
Donation in any amount	= \$ _____ enclosed
Total	= \$ _____ enclosed

Any funds received in excess of the actual cost of the string quartet will be used to support the music program at Saint Paul's. Names of all contributors will appear in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

The church office must receive your completed form and check payable to *St. Paul's Lutheran Church* **no later than Sunday, December 7**, in order to include your information in the bulletin.

JANUARY CALENDAR

Thursday, January 1—New Year's Day (Office closed)

Saturday, January 3

8:30 am Men's Bible study/Kugler Room

Sunday, January 4 (*Free blood pressure checks between services*)

8:40 am Matins choir warm-up

9:00 am Holy Communion

10:30 am Holy Communion

7:00 pm Youth choir rehearsal

Monday, January 5

7:00 – 9:30 pm Stephen Ministry/Kugler Room & Meeting Room

Tuesday, January 6

9:30 am Staff meeting

12 noon Deadline for January *Chimes* articles

7:00 pm AA/Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, January 7

7:00 pm Adult education: Intro. to Judaism (session 1) / Kugler Room

Thursday, January 8

10:00 am Women's Bible study/Kugler Room

6:30 pm Children's choir rehearsal

7:15 pm Council meeting/Kugler Room

7:30 pm Adult choir rehearsal

Saturday, January 10

8:30 am Men's Bible study/Kugler room

Sunday, January 11

8:40 am Matins choir warm-up

9:00 am Holy Communion

10:30 am Holy Communion

6:00 pm Confirmation class/Kugler Room

7:00 pm Youth choir rehearsal

Tuesday, January 13

9:30 am Staff meeting

TBA Prepare *Chimes* for mailing

6:00 – 7:30 pm Families w. Young Children: The Hat Man / Fellowship Hall

7:00 pm AA/Meeting Room

Wednesday, January 14

7:00 pm Adult education: Intro. to Judaism (session 2) / Kugler Room

Thursday, January 15

10:00 am Women's Bible study/Kugler Room

6:30 pm Children's choir rehearsal

7:30 pm Adult choir rehearsal

Saturday, January 17

8:30 am Men's Bible study

All day	Grace Covenant Church at Saint Paul's/Kugler Room & sanctuary
Sunday, January 18	
8:40 am	Matins choir warm-up
9:00 am	Holy Communion
10:30 am	Holy Communion
TBA	Cooking for the hungry/St. Paul's basement kitchen
6:00 pm	Confirmation class/Kugler Room
7:00 pm	Youth choir rehearsal
Monday, January 19	
7:00 – 9:30 pm	Stephen Ministry/Kugler Room & Meeting Room
Tuesday, January 20	
9:30 am	Staff meeting
7:00 pm	AA/Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, January 21	
12:00 noon	Senior Friends brown bag lunch & presentation on senior safety/ Fellowship Hall
7:00 pm	Adult education: Intro. to Judaism (session 3)—Sing Jewish liturgy / Sanctuary
Thursday, January 22	
10:00 am	Women's Bible study
6:30 pm	Children's choir rehearsal
7:30 pm	Adult choir rehearsal
Saturday, January 24	
8:30 am	Men's Bible study/Kugler Room
Sunday, January 25	
8:40 am	Matins choir warm-up
9:00 am	Holy Communion
10:30 am	Holy Communion
6:00 pm	Confirmation class/Kugler Room
7:00 pm	Youth choir rehearsal
Tuesday, January 27	
9:30 am	Staff meeting
7:00 pm	AA/Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, January 28—Committee night	
7:00 pm	Christian Education/3 rd floor front room Evangelism/Meeting Room Parish Activities/Kugler Room Social Ministry/Volunteer Room Stewardship/Fellowship Hall Worship & Music/Choir Room
Thursday, January 29	
10:00 am	Women's Bible study
6:30 pm	Children's choir rehearsal
7:30 pm	Adult choir rehearsal
Saturday, January 31	
8:30 am	Men's Bible study/Kugler Room