

Subject: December, 2017 Newsletter

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St. Paul's
Episcopal Church

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

**65 North Main Street
Wallingford, CT 06492**

(203) 269-5050



**St. Paul's Newsletter
December 2017**

DECEMBER AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday Worship - 8:00 & 9:30 AM

Vestry - 2nd Tuesday at 7:00 PM

Wednesday Eucharist - 12:10 PM in the Chapel

Choristers - Thursdays at 4:00 - 5:00 PM

CHOIRSTERS - Thursdays at 7:00 - 9:00 PM
Choir Rehearsals - Thursday at 7:00 PM.

CHURCH OPEN FOR PRAYER & REFLECTION
Wednesdays and Fridays - 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

SACRED TRUST MEETING
December 3 - 9:00AM

ST. NICHOLAS FESTIVAL
December 10

HEALING PRAYER MEETING
December 5 - 7:30PM

ELM CITY GIRLS CHOIR HOLIDAY CONCERT
December 8 - 7:30 PM

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP
TBA

GIRL'S FRIENDLY SOCIETY
Tuesday, December 19 - 6:30 PM

CHRISTMAS EVE PAGEANT
Sunday, December 24 - 4:00 PM

**CHRISTMAS EVE CHORALE PRELUDE AND CANDLELIGHT
SERVICE**
Sunday, December 24 - 10:30 PM

***DEADLINE FOR THE JANUARY NEWSLETTER IS SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 17***

Please see Christmas services at St. Paul's inside this newsletter!

Dear Companions in Christ,

We begin a new church year now in this season of Advent. We'll be observing the four weeks of Advent in church each Sunday - with special music, lighting candles on the Advent wreath and LOTS of purple! Note that the morning of Sunday, December 24 is

still Advent and we'll be observing it fully in a single service at 9:00 AM. (Please carefully review the Advent & Christmastide schedule on the following page for the full list of service times during this beautiful and busy season.)

To help you observe the season at home during the week, we have a

wonderful, all-ages devotional booklet called "Advent in Full Color" that will be available at church (or in the office during the week). Please pick up your copy soon so you can take full advantage of all the simple activities, prayers, poems, plus the option to color the pictures.

You might also consider using online devotional resources. The Episcopal Church in CT has an Advent Blog written by local folks in the ordination process. Find it at episcopalct-advent.blogspot.com. You might be pleasantly surprised to learn that there's an ECCT Advent/Christmas Pinterest Board. Finally, I can't recommend highly enough the #AdventWord series offered by the Brothers of the Episcopal Order of St. John the Evangelist. Go to www.adventword.org/signup to receive a daily meditation with stunning images. It's available via email, Twitter and Instagram.

Finally, don't forget that our beautiful, sacred space is open for prayer and reflection from 10:00-1:00 throughout the week during Advent, thanks to Gene Gervais and his team of volunteer hosts. At this point there's just one day left to fill, so please be in touch with Gene ASAP if you'd like to serve.

Faithfully,
Dee Anne+

P.S.:

Our St. Nicholas Festival on Advent II/December 10 is a highlight of the season. Please invite friends to enjoy our visit from Nicholas, Christian bishop, martyr and saint. Candy canes, gold coins, and wearing seasonal or mismatched socks are all part of the fun!

Advent & Christmastide 2017 at St. Paul's

Sunday, December 3

- Advent begins! Services at 8:00 & 9:30. Christmas Pageant rehearsal 9:15

Sunday, December 10 - St. Nicholas Festival! A visit from you-know-who at both 8:00 & 9:30 services, plus the blessing of candy canes and other fun.

Wear your seasonal or mismatched socks! (And, if you took an ornament off the Covenant to Care tree, please bring in your unwrapped gift.)

Sunday, December 17 -

Services at 8:00 & 9:30, with a visitor from Bethlehem selling olive wood ornaments to benefit Christians in the Holy Land. Christmas Pageant rehearsal at 9:15 AND again at 11:00 (following a snack for the pageant players).

Sunday, December 24 - It's STILL Advent! A single service at 9:00 AM

Then, it's *CHRISTMAS...*

Sunday, December 24: The Eve of the Nativity

2:45 PM Pageant Rehearsal

4:00 PM Christmas Service with Pageant & Carols

10:30 PM Choral Prelude with the St. Paul's Choir, flute and guest string quartet

11:00 PM Candlelight Service with Choir & Carols

Monday, December 25: Christmas Day

9:00 AM Come-as-you-are Holy Eucharist & Carol Sing. PG-rated PJ's welcomed!

Sunday, December 31 -- A single combined service at 9:00 AM. End the year with a beautiful celebration of Christmas poetry.

Regular schedule of services at 8:00 & 9:30 AM resumes Sunday, January 7 with A Festival of Lesson & Carols for Epiphany. Church School, Nursery & Adult Forum reconvene.



Vestry Update for November 2017 --

The minutes from October's meeting were reviewed and approved.

Rector's Report:

Dee Anne brought up that she's discussed with Jay the need to get an ad hoc group together after Christmas to review and possibly revise two important liturgical observances: All Saints' (especially the Tree of Remembrance service) and Palm Sunday. They will be looking for a mix of parishioners from both services to discuss and plan.

Fall Fair: A preliminary report indicates we may have made over \$5,500. Once the final tally is made we hope to be over \$6,000. The pie committee, of which we had plenty of volunteers, made 217 large apple pies and 68 mini pies. We were able to do this thanks to another generous donation of 40 bushels of apples from Blue Hills Orchard. New this year was a table operated by our newly constituted youth group. All activities were located downstairs in Wilkinson Hall. A very successful luncheon was provided

and coordinated by Brian and Lisa Sabia. This may be their last year doing this so we are looking for someone to take over this function for next year's fair. Concurrently with the Fair, the Thrift Shop reported over \$500 in sales.

Thanks again to all who made this year's Fall Fair a rousing success, especially Sharon Rogalski who volunteered in early October to take over coordinating all of the events and arranging for the crafters. Chuck was honored to work closely with George Swenson coordinating the pies.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report for October was reviewed and approved as submitted. We are currently \$20,000 ahead of/better than last year at this time and our investments have grown by over \$100,000 since this time last year. We discussed how matching gifts should be treated and how to display them in the Treasurer's report.

We also discussed working with the counters after the Sunday services to clarify what we record as pledge income vs. free will offerings.

Updates were provided from liaisons to the following committees:

Christian Formation: The first 6 week rotation has been completed. For the first time in a couple of years we have classes beginning with Pre-K through high school.

Much of this is due to our new Director of Religious Education and Formation, Frances Chamberlain. Frances was recognized as bringing a lot of energy beyond her budgeted ten hours.

Property: The detailed design prepared by Dan Lyon for two railings for the altar steps was presented to the Vestry. We will now contact three woodworkers to see if they are interested and request bids to construct and install the railings.

Following Thanksgiving we will be looking for assistance in cleaning out and reorganizing the storage closet at the end of the upstairs hall and the room off Wilkinson Hall where we store tables, chairs, and other odd items of furniture.

Healing Prayer: A Healing Prayer Team provided prayers for the second time at the services on November 12

th. A number of people contacted them during communion in the back of the church at each service.

Communication: The new digital directory is in the works. We need more people to submit photos or have them taken after the Sunday services. A limited number of hard copies will be printed and be available to those without internet connectivity at the Annual Meeting on January 21

st. To accomplish this, we have set a date of January 7

th for photos to be submitted/taken and for personal information such as address, phone numbers, and email to be updated.

Stewardship: As of November 14

th we have received 84 pledges for \$174,000. This is \$20,000 ahead of last year for the same number of pledges received. 18 were submitted on line and 66 were submitted using the new pledge form. 37 pledges were increases and 13 were new. There is approximately \$54,000 outstanding from people who pledged last year but have not yet submitted a pledge for this year.

Nominating Committee:

The committee has been identified and will begin working on nomination for the next class of vestry and committee members.

As a formality, the vestry reviewed and approved the Rector's IRS Housing Documentation for the coming year.

Looking ahead: Next year we celebrate the 150

th anniversary of the consecration of the church building.

Your wardens,
Chuck Maynard & Gene Gervais

Christian Education

Church School is available this month for those not participating in the pageant. Please meet in the "block room" near Wilkinson Hall at 9:15 for Advent celebrations!

The 2017 St. Paul's Fair

The "Fair That Almost Wasn't" . . . turned out to be a great success - thanks to everyone who stepped up and peeled apples, rolled dough, wrapped baskets, sold tickets, cooked in the kitchen and served sandwiches and apple pie a la mode for lunch. Special thanks to Helen, Denise and Al for managing the basket raffle; Brian and Lisa for organizing the luncheon; for John and Eileen for making sandwiches and Stan for taking lunch orders; Gerda and Kate for selling goodies at the baked goods table, Marcia and Shawn for all the bargains at the gold elephant table; and Chuck, George and Peter for orchestrating the baking and selling of over 270 pies. And thank you to our newly-formed Youth Group who made crafts and sold them at their own table, to the fourteen vendors who sold their crafts, to the Boy Scouts for setting up and taking down the tables, to Bobby for a fantastic job of cleaning up, and to all of you who came to the fair and enjoyed a great day. Amounts are still being totaled, but for the "Fair That Almost Wasn't," we anticipate making a profit of over \$6,500.00. -

Gratefully,

Sharon Rogalski

School Supplies for IRIS

The Girls' Friendly Society is collecting school supplies for Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services in New Haven. These supplies are needed throughout the year, as backpacks filled with basic supplies are given to newly arriving children to begin their schooling. There is a box set up near the front for your donations. Thank you to those who have already contributed. Supplies needed: crayons, glue sticks, pencils, pens, colored pencils, markers, highlighters, erasers, rulers and backpacks.

Elm City Girls Choir Holiday Concert

On Friday December 8th at 7:30 pm, St. Paul's will be hosting a concert by the Elm City Girl's Choir. Based in New Haven, the Elm City Girls' Choir is New England's premier girls' choral ensemble and has toured extensively throughout North America and Europe. ECGC has received national recognition, performing at venues such as Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center and with professional orchestras including the Boston Philharmonic, New Haven Symphony and Moscow State Orchestra. ECGC was founded by former St. Paul's music director Tom Brand, and our choral scholar Sophie Haxhi is a member of the choir and will be performing in the concert.

Christmas Eve Choral Prelude and Candlelight Service

On Sunday, December 24

th at 10:30 PM, the choir of St. Paul's will be joined by a string quartet, flute and soloists to present a variety of choral music. Composers will include John Rutter, Ralph Vaughan Williams, Harold Darke, and Johannes Brahms. The Choral Prelude begins at 10:30 pm, and the candlelight service begins at 11:00 pm. Join us in this joyous celebration of the Savior's birth.

"It is in giving that we receive..."

So far we have raised over \$189,000. That includes 42 people who increased their giving and 14 new gifts. Many thanks to everyone who has turned in a completed 2018 Pledge Form, or pledged online at stpaulswallingford.org. If you've not already done so, please place your Form in today's offertory or drop it off in the parish office during the week. Pledge Forms are available at each church entrance. YOUR pledge makes everything we do together possible. For instance, a pledge of \$900 provides altar supplies for the year, \$2,500 covers church school and youth programming, \$6,300 pays six month of utilities for our big, beautiful space, and \$14,000 supports half of the music director's time. We also encourage you to see if your employer offers Matching Gifts. Please contact the parish office for more information about how we can arrange for St. Paul's to be the beneficiary of this. Thank you!



Adult Forum: New Opportunities!

During the first three Sundays in December, the Adult Forum will do an Advent unit that explores the themes of Advent (hope, joy, peace, and love) through important figures in the Advent journey (Isaiah, John the Baptist, Mary).

In January and February we will read together Barbara Brown Taylor's, *Bread of Angels*. Here is the Amazon description: "*Bread of Angels* contains twenty-nine sermons about God's providential care, as symbolized by the manna given to the Israelites as they made their way through the wilderness." If you have any questions or would like to have a book ordered for you (\$10), please contact Amy Foster 203-697-2758.

The Adult Forum meets on Sunday mornings at 9:00 in Wilkinson Hall- come try it out!

Wallingford Workcamp

A free home repair program is coming to our area the week of July 8-14, 2018! The First Congregational Church of Wallingford is hosting a national group mission program in collaboration with Group Mission Trips which serves elderly, low income and/or disabled homeowners. Eligible residents must live within a 30-minute drive from Sheehan High School in Wallingford. Eligible repair projects include: porch repair/construction, step repair, exterior painting, interior painting, weatherization, wheelchair ramp repair/construction, mobile home skirting, roofing (no tear offs). Applications are available on the shelf outside the church. If you are interested apply ASAP. The deadline for applications is January 31, 2018. For more information visit the following website:
<https://sites.google.com/site/wallingfordworkcamp>

Readers - Ushers - Crucifers - Acolytes -Chalice Bearers!

Please check your schedules for services and times you are serving. If you are unable to fulfill your obligation, please obtain a substitute for yourself!

If you would also inform the parish office of any changes it would be greatly appreciated! Thank you.

Annual Reports-Reminder that all annual reports must be submitted to the church office by January 7, 2018.

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism will be celebrated on the following Feast Day: Epiphany (January 7, 2018) and Easter vigil (March 31). Preparation for this celebration of Christian initiation includes a formal application and participation of parents and godparents in our Baptism Workshop and Rehearsal. Please direct any inquiries to the Rector at 203-269-5050 or rector@stpaulswallingford.org.

New Parish Directory--Many thanks to all of you who've uploaded your contact info and family pictures for our new Parish Directory which will be available through a password protected website, mobile app or in printed form! If you've not already done so, please go to our website at stpaulswallingford.org and follow the link. If you need further assistance, please email us at stpaulswallingford@gmail.com. We'll also be taking pictures at church on select Sundays so those not online may participate.

The parish office is open Tuesday - Friday 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM.

The telephone number is (203) 269-5050.

E-mail - office@stpaulswallingford.org

Fax - (203) 269-3813

Web Site - www.stpaulswallingford.org

If we are not in the office, please leave a message.

Please advise us of - change of address or telephone numbers
- illness, hospitalizations, deaths
- requests for baptisms, weddings, etc

Times for St. Paul's Sunday Service
Comcast Cable Channel 18

Please advise us of - change of address or telephone numbers

Frontier Channel 99

www.WPAA.TV - WPAA on the Internet

Sunday - 5:00 PM

Monday - 8:00 AM

Wednesday - 2:00 PM

Saturday - 7:00 PM

VESTRY

Rector, the Rev. Dee Anne Dodd
203-269-5050

Senior Warden, Chuck Maynard
203-269-6323

Junior Warden, Gene Gervais
203-265-4658

Clerk, Kathy Schave
203-949-1638

Treasurer, Ted Hartsoe
203-269-6789

Linda Daley
203-915-8529

Beth Kennedy
203-506-0797

Susan Bravo
203-265-1392

Stephanie Crump
203-641-2420

Holly Frost
203-284-9823

Kristin Liu
203-507-7145

Ralph Nardi
203-265-3833

George Richardson
203-269-1071

Kelly Cozzi
203-506-2882

Visit St. Paul's Website at
www.stpaulswallingford.org
For more Information about Our Church!

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 65 North Main Street, Wallingford, CT 06492

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