

# On the Mark

November 29, 2009  
The First Sunday of Advent

## Get Set....GO!

### Sunday, November 29, 2009

- 8:30 Cell
- 8:45 1st Service
- 10:00 Fellowship
- 10:30 2nd Service & Sunday School
- 12:15 Prophetic Teams

### Monday, November 30, 2009

### Tuesday, December 1, 2009

- 9:30 Art Group
- 10:00 Holy Eucharist & Healing Service *nave*
- 12:00 Agape Lunch
- 1:00 Cell
- 6:00 Band Rehearsal
- 7:00 MiC *fellowship room*
- 7:00 H & I SAVR *prayer room*

### Wednesday, December 2

- 9:30 MOPS

### Thursday, December 3, 2009

- 9:00 CBS

### Friday, December 4, 2009

- 7:30 NCS Cell Group
- 7:00 Christian 12 Step

### Saturday, December 5, 2009

- 7:30 Men's Community Bible Study Group
- 10:30 Memorial Service for Bob Brown
- 7:00 Yoot Group

### Sunday, December 6, 2009

- 8:30 Cell
- 8:45 1st Service
- 9:30 Christmas Dinner Comm. Mtg. *living room*
- 10:00 Fellowship
- 10:30 2nd Service & Sunday School
- 12:15 Prophetic Teams
- 5:00 Community Carol Sing & Luminaria Lighting – *Tilley Pond in Darien*
- 6:30 **First Sunday**

#### NEXT WEEK'S LESSONS

##### *The First Sunday of Advent*

- Zechariah 14:4-9 (p. 926)
- I Thessalonians 3:9-13 (p.1147)
- Luke 21:25-31 (p. 1021)

#### NEXT WEEK'S LESSONS

##### *The Second Sunday of Advent*

- Psalms 126 (p. 605)
- Philippians 1:1-11 (p. 1138)
- Luke 3:1-6 (p. 994)

*The flowers on the altar today were given to the Glory of God by Millerdeen Braggiotti in loving memory of David Webster.*



## Nearness

My generation has felt far away from God. It has been customary to ponder the absence of God. Why do bad things happen to good people? Where is God when it hurts? These and other such questions have been discussed and discussed. We were the ones who announced the death of God and at the same time we pushed His name out of the public square. We forsook prayer in school and civic meetings.

Yes all of this talk is foreign to us at St. Paul's. We are countercultural. Ours is a faith that is robust – even intense. It is as though we have pondered the words of Goethe who urged that the ministers of his day should proclaim the truth and not their doubts – he had enough of those of his own!

Here we know Christ and make Him known. Jesus Christ and His kingdom are very near to us. Indeed, we are in Him and He is in us! The season of Advent, which begins today, announces the nearness of the Kingdom of God. In Advent, we believe that Jesus is coming soon. I encourage you to prepare yourself.

Your brother in Christ,

**Christopher**

The Rev. Christopher P. Leighton  
Rector

PS: One way to be better prepared is to plan to attend the meetings on sharing your faith Saturday December 12 and Sunday December 13 with Dan Mohler. You will see the Kingdom of God – and enjoy yourself!

**Saturday, December 12 – 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. – Dan Mohler will lead evangelism training, visitation, and a “de-briefing” session where we can share what happened when we shared our faith.**

**6:30 p.m. – Worship, praise, and a teaching by Dan Mohler.**  
**Sunday, December 13 – 8:45 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. – Dan Mohler will preach at both services Sunday morning.**

*Newcomers and guests at St. Paul's are invited to come to the Prayer Room after the service for a personal word of encouragement from the Lord our God. Our prophetic prayer team is ready to listen to God and ask Him to speak to you.*

## The Doves are Here!

Each year Person-to-Person provides Christmas dinner to families and seniors in need through the Dove Program. This year we are one of 19 area churches involved – and there are 871 families in need!

The instructions are in the narthex along with the doves. **PLEASE** follow them closely. The back dove **MUST** be completed and left in the envelope provided. Dove boxes are due back at the church for delivery on Sunday, December 20, 2009. This year Polly Verrico and Daphne White are heading up our part in the Dove program .



St. Paul's Darien Financial Summary	11/22/09	Year to Date Actual	Year to Date Budget	Better(Worse) Than Budget
Tithes & Offerings	\$9,488	<b>\$526,258</b>	\$646,250	
Disbursements				
	<b>Weekly Goal</b>	<b>\$13,750</b>	<b>Deficit</b>	

On Saturday, November 21, 2009, our brother **Bob Brown** went home to the Lord. Please keep Bonnie in your prayers, and join her in celebrating Bob's life at a memorial service next Saturday, December 5, at 10:30 a.m.

## Christmas Eve Pageant/Liturgy

At the **5:30 p.m.** Family Service on Christmas Eve, we will again have a pageant as the liturgy as we did last year. **YOU ARE NEEDED!** There are spots for adults and for children of all ages! We will need readers, angels, shepherds, sheep – and helpers behind the scenes. There are no speaking parts other than the readings. There will be **ONE** rehearsal from 9:30 to noon on Saturday, December 19. Please contact Debbie de la Rivera if you or your child(ren) are interested in participating.

**Community Dinner**, December 17. For some time now, St. Luke's Church has held a community dinner each Thursday evening (Drew and Kathleen Gilliam can tell you about it – they regularly attend). On December 17 St. Paul's will house the dinner! While St. Luke's will plan the menu and do the shopping and most of the cooking, we need to help them...in setting up, in cooking and serving, and in welcoming all who come to share the meal! If you want to help talk to **Linda Deane** or call the office 203 655-8773 and let us know.

## Christmas Dinner Donations And VOLUNTEERS

Preparations are underway for our sixth annual Christmas Day Dinner – and we need your help! We're planning to feed about 150 people - Pivot, shelter, Paul's folks (you're invited!), and anyone else at loose ends on Christmas Day - and the entire meal is funded through food and cash donations. Please see the sign-up sheets in the narthex for specific ways to contribute or to volunteer.

## NEXT SUNDAY

On the Second Sunday of Advent, December 6, there are two very special events:

At both our morning services – 8:45 and 10:30 – the men of Pivot Ministries will worship with us and will offer us a gift of song!

And at 5:00 p.m., the Darien Clergy Association and the Center for Hope invites everyone to Tilley Pond for the lighting of luminaria and a carol sing.

### What are You Doing New Year's Eve?

If you want to be spending it at St. Paul's as we have the last two years, we need someone to step forward and organize it!

### Another St. Paul's Tradition

On Sunday, December 13, immediately after the 10:30 service, we are again going into Darien to sing carols on street corners and in stores and restaurants. This has been very well received by our neighbors in town and is a joyful way to spend the afternoon. All ages welcome!!

## First Sunday

December 6, 2009 – 6:30 p.m.

Praise, worship, healing prayer, Holy Eucharist



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### Staff

The Rev. Christopher P. Leighton, Rector  
The Rev. Daniel C. Morgan, Asst. Rector  
Debbie de la Rivera, Children's Ministries Coord.  
Pat Poremba, Bookkeeper  
Phyllis Schlemmer, Parish Secretary  
Andy Thomas, Sexton  
Noel Thomas, Assistant Sexton

### Assisting Clergy

The Rev. Gail Paige Bowman  
The Rev. M. Blake Greenlee  
The Rev. Novella Lawrence  
The Rev. Roberta Schneider

### Vestry

*Sr. Warden* Dominic Napolitano  
*Jr Warden* Joann Cerretani (Christian Form.)  
*Treasurer* Roger Knudsen  
*Clerk* Adelaide Waring (Hospitality)

### Class of 2010:

Linda Deane (MiC)  
Jeff Newton (Mercy)  
Marie Pronesti (Healing & Intercession)

### Class of 2011:

Pamela Corker (Hospitality)  
Bill Steinfeldt (Buildings & Grounds)  
Kim Stumpf (Christian Formation)

### Class of 2012:

John Donovan (Buildings & Grounds)  
Bill Jolly (Evangelism)  
Julia Nichols (Communications)

**To Know Christ and  
To make Him Known**