

Get Set....GO!

Sunday, December 13, 2009

8:30 Cell
8:45 1st Service
9:30 Christmas Dinner Comm
10:00 Fellowship
10:30 2nd Service & Sunday School
12:15 Prophetic Teams
12:30 Caroling in Darien

Monday, December 14, 2009

Tuesday, December 15, 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 H & I SAVR *chapel*

Wednesday, December 16

9:30 MOPS
12:30 Darien Clergy Assoc. Luncheon
6:00 Billy Graham Telephone Ministry
7:00 Vestry Meeting

Thursday, December 17, 2009

9:00 Community Dinner

Friday, December 18, 2009

7:30 NCS Cell Group
7:00 Christian 12 Step
7:00 Yoot Christmas Party

Saturday, December 19, 2009

7:30 Men's Community Bible
9:30 Christmas Rehearsal

Sunday, December 20, 2009

8:30 Cell
8:45 1st Service
9:30 Christmas Dinner Comm
10:00 Fellowship
10:30 2nd Service & Sunday School
12:15 Prophetic Teams

THIS WEEK'S LESSONS

The Third Sunday of Advent

Zephaniah 3:14-20 (p. 914)
Philippians 4:4-9 (p. 1140)
Luke 3:7-18 (p. 994)

NEXT WEEK'S LESSONS

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Micah 5:2-4 (p. 902)
Hebrews 10:5-10 (p. 1167)
Luke 1:39-56 (p. 991)



Don't Miss Out on Christmas

The young family set out one cold evening to go door to door caroling. It didn't matter to them that the father was Bing Crosby, the very popular singer and actor. They just wanted to bring Christmas joy to those around them.

The family approached one fully-lit home and after several pushes of the doorbell a harried woman opened the door and said in an exasperated tone, "What is it?"

"We're going door-to-door to bring Christmas joy. We'd like to sing to you," came the invitation from the family.

"No, no. I've got company coming and there's just too much to do," said the busy woman as she shut them out, closing the door. She missed out on being sung to by America's top star and his family.

Do you think you might be shutting out of your busy life the possibility of real joy this Christmas? Do a quick evaluation of your schedule and cancel any unnecessary activities. If some activities are obligatory, consider appearing briefly, offering your regards, and moving on quickly.

But *do* make keeping your appointment with God your top priority with prayer and scripture reading. One person told me recently that, in response to a challenge offered by a Christian leader, she's reading three chapters of the Bible every day. Come to church and rest in the presence of the Lord!

Don't miss out on the real joy of celebrating the birth of Jesus this Christmas!

Christopher

The Rev. Christopher P. Leighton
Rector

P. S. By the way, come caroling with parishioners today after the second service!

Please Welcome Dan Mohler

If you attended yesterday's class, or the worship service yesterday evening, Dan Mohler needs no introduction. For the rest: Dan Mohler says that his mission is "to connect the body of Christ with the head, Jesus Christ." (hence the name, "Neck Ministries") His passion is seeing the love of God reverse the effects of sin and sickness in the world and to train others to reproduce the works of Jesus in their everyday lives. We are delighted that he has remained here to preach today.

Community Dinner

For some time now, St. Luke's Church has held a community dinner each Thursday evening. This Thursday, 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, they need our help. (Imagine cooking for 100 people in a strange kitchen!) If you want to help – with cooking, serving, welcoming – call the office 203 655-8773 and let us know, talk with Linda Deane, or just show up on Thursday to help!

St. Paul's Darien Financial Summary	12/6/09	Year to Date Actual	Year to Date Budget	Better(Worse) Than Budget
Tithes & Offerings	\$2,177	\$541,424	\$673,750	(\$132,326)
Disbursements	\$4,395	\$631,278	\$673,750	\$42,472
	Weekly Goal	\$13,750	Deficit	(\$89,854)

*You are cordially invited
To join us for
Christmas Dinner*

December 25, 2009

12:00 noon

*In the Parish Hall at
St. Paul's Church
471 Mansfield Avenue
Darien, CT 06820*

*Everyone is welcome;
reservations are not required.*

Christmas Dinner Donations And VOLUNTEERS

It has become tradition for St. Paul's to hold a Christmas Day feast for anyone who wants to come – the men of Pivot, people in the shelter, our own parish. What better place to spend Christmas Day than with the Body of Christ, our family and friends. In fact this has become a highlight of the season for many families; a chance to serve together!

We expect to serve about 150 people this year, and the entire meal is provided through donations of food, cash, and time. If you look at the signup sheets in the narthex you will see that there are still MANY slots to be filled. Food! Especially cooked turkey breasts! Cash for the extras! Volunteers to prep or cook or help set-up or clean up or pick up guests from the shelter...Sign up in the narthex. Questions? Talk to Meg Newton, Kim Stumpf, or Father Dan.

Alpha returns

Mark your calendars! A new round of the Alpha course will begin on Monday, January 11 and will continue on Mondays through March 1st. We'll gather at 6:15 for free food, fun, and fellowship. At 7:00 the program will begin with a video of Nicky Gumbel addressing a question of faith and life in a Biblical, thoughtful, and humorous way. Discussion follows, and the evening is over by 8:45. Childcare will be provided. Sign up by calling the church office. Come and bring a friend!

Thanks to everyone who presented the names of possible candidates for Vestry positions to the Nominating Committee. Nominations will be closing very soon, so if you have been praying about someone, ask if that person is willing to have their name submitted, then talk to a member of the Committee: **Alex Malloy** the Chairman, or **June Camerer, Linda Deane, Bill Gardiner, Tony Shell, or Daphne White.**

February 16, 2010 Shrove Tuesday = Mardi Gras = Fat Tuesday = Frolicking Fabulous Fun!
Save the Date!

BLACK TIE OPTIONAL

Yes! There WILL be a New Year's Eve party at St. Paul's this year! There will be dancing, board games, a chocolate fountain – something for everyone – all ending with a time of prayer at midnight. Stay tuned for details!



Doves

need to return to roost by Tuesday, December 15! If you took a white dove, please get your shopping done, and your boxes

wrapped, labeled and back to St. Paul's by **this Tuesday** so we can deliver them on time!

Christmas at St. Paul's

Christmas Eve

5:30 p.m. - Family service with Pageant & carols, Holy Communion

10:30 p.m. - Festival service with carols, candles & Holy Communion

Christmas Day

10:00 a.m. - Christmas service with carols, lessons, and Holy Communion

12:00 noon - Christmas Dinner with all the trimmings!

Newcomers & 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 prophetic prayer team is ready to listen to God and ask Him to speak to you.



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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 (Bldgs & Grnds)
Kim Stumpf (Christian Form)

Class of 2012:

John Donovan (Bldgs & Grnds)
Bill Jolly (Evangelism)
Julia Nichols (Communications)