

Get Set....GO!

- 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
- Monday, December 21, 2009**
- Tuesday, December 22, 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 23**
- Thursday, December 24, 2009**
Christmas Eve
 5:30 Family Service with Pageant
 10:30 Festival Eucharist
- Friday, December 25, 2009**
Christmas Day
 10:00 Christmas Service
 12:00 Christmas Dinner
- Saturday, December 26, 2009**
 7:30 Men's Community Bible
- Sunday, December 27, 2009**
 8:30 Cell
 8:45 1st Service
 10:00 Fellowship
 10:30 2nd Service & Sunday School, Holy Baptism
 12:15 Prophetic Teams



THIS 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)

NEXT WEEK'S LESSONS The First Sunday after Christmas

Isaiah 61:10-62:3 (p. 725)
 Galatians 3:23-4:7 (p. 1130)
 John 1:1-18 (p. 1027)

If you want to remember or celebrate a person, an event, as idea by contributing to our Christmas flowers today is the last day to do so and be sure it makes the Christmas bulletin. Forms are in the narthex.

Don't Miss Out on Christmas – Part II

The missionary teacher told her class about the real meaning of Christmas. It is the celebration of the birthday of God's Son Jesus. The reason Christians give gifts to one another is in honoring Christ and the gift of eternal life. The thoughtfulness and kindness toward others is a response to the grace we have received from God.

A few days later on Christmas Day there was a rare beautiful shell placed on her desk. A smiling young boy stood beside it. The teacher was truly moved because she knew the boy had travelled a long distance to the beach and back. When she commented on the effort, the boy replied, "Long walk part of gift".

Is all the effort you put into celebrating Christmas a response to God's offer of grace in Jesus Christ? Is your activity around gift-giving an expression of kindness toward others in Jesus' name? Are there certain things you should just stop doing? Are there certain things worth taking on at this time?

We don't want to miss out on Christmas!

Your brother in Christ,

Christopher

The Rev. Christopher P. Leighton
Rector

To Know Christ and to Make Him Known

To be a member of St. Paul's Darien is to be part of a dynamic spiritual body that seeks to know Christ and to make Him known.

How is Christ made known? What is the Biblical answer to that question? Christopher and Janet Leighton will be teaching four classes from the Bible, Sunday, January 10, through January 31, 2010, from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m.

The classes will involve a light lunch following the second service. All are invited, and are urged to RSVP to the parish office 203 655-8773.

St. Paul's Darien Financial Summary	12/13/09	Year to Date Actual	Year to Date Budget	Better(Worse) Than Budget
Tithes & Offerings	\$34,579	\$576,056	\$687,500	(\$111,444)
Disbursements	\$29,935	\$661,213	\$687,500	\$26,287
	Weekly Goal	\$13,750	Deficit	(\$85,151)

. The Christmas Dinner Needs YOU!

Thanks to all of you who have already signed up to bring food; please be sure to deliver your items by Monday, December 21, *unless you are bringing meat* which should arrive **cooked** on Wednesday, December 23.

If you haven't signed up, *it's not too late!* You can add yourself to the list today. We especially still need cooked turkey breasts and bags of fresh white and sweet potatoes.

If you don't have time to shop, you can give a cash donation to Meg Newton or Kim Stumpf who are heading out on Sunday afternoon to do the big grocery run for all those items not on the sign-up sheet – from butter to onions to aluminum foil Thanks so much!

Alpha returns

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!



Black Tie Optional

Yes! We are having a New Year's Eve event. The Cerretani clan and Josephine Rojas have agreed to organize this festive and fun evening. Although details have not yet been settled, we do know the date: December 31, 2009. Come around 6:30 bearing a main dish, a salad or side dish, or a dessert and we should be eating by 7:00. We are guessing square-and-line-dancing. Maybe a 'quiet(er) room for board games. At midnight we will gather and pray! Can you think of a better place to spend New Year's Eve than with the Body of Christ? If you want to help please contact Joann Cerretani. (It's only two weeks away so ...)

Mark Your Calendar

St. Paul's Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, January 30, 2010. If you are a member of St. Paul's, you should be here.

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

Ruth

On Sunday, January 10, 2010, we will begin a series of studies and sermons on the Book of Ruth:

January 10	Ruth 1:1-18
January 17	Ruth 1:19-2:4
January 24	Ruth 2:5-23
January 31	Ruth 3:1-18
February 6	Ruth 4:1-12
February 13	Ruth 4:13-22

We thank God for

- All those who helped with the Dove program this year, taking doves, shopping, wrapping, and returning them on time. For Polly & Daphne who coordinated it all, and for the drivers; and for all those who will be helped **by** the Doves this year.
- For sixteen adults and three small children who sloshed through a cold rain caroling in Darien last week – and for our wonderful neighbors, shopkeepers, restaurateurs, and firemen who welcomed us with joy.
- For all who helped make St. Luke's Community Dinner (held at St. Paul's) a success.

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)

*To Know Christ
And
To Make Him Known*