

On the Mark

December 6, 2009
The Second Sunday of Advent

Get Set....GO!

Sunday, December 6, 2009

- 8:30 Cell
- 8:45 1st Service
- 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**

Monday, December 7, 2009

- 11:15 CBS Rehearsal

Tuesday, December 8, 2009

- 9:30 MOPS Steering Comm.
- 10:00 Holy Eucharist & Healing Service *nave*
- 11:30 Art Group
- 12:00 Agape Lunch
- 12:30 Staff Meeting
- 1:00 Cell
- 6:00 Band Rehearsal
- 7:00 Vestry
- 7:00 H & I SAVR *chapel*

Wednesday, December 9

- 9:30 MOPS Study

Thursday, December 10, 2009

- 9:00 CBS

Friday, December 11, 2009

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

Saturday, December 12, 2009

- 7:30 Men's Community Bible Study Group
- 9 – 2 Dan Mohler Evangelism Class
- 6:30 Worship - Dan Mohler

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

THIS WEEK'S LESSONS The Second Sunday of Advent

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

NEXT 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)

Awake and Hearken

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh
Awake and hearken, for He brings
Glad tidings of the King of kings.

Then cleansed be every heart from sin
Make straight the way of God within;
Oh, let us all our hearts prepare
For Christ to come and enter there.

In this ancient Advent carol from 1690, we sing the word *hearken*. We don't use words like *hearken* anymore, but look at the word and you see within it "*hear*". *Hear* the announcement of John the Baptist that the Lord is near. *Hear* him as he calls us to prepare for the Lord's coming. *Hear* him as he tells us *how* to prepare: Cleanse your heart! Align your life with God! Repent! Remove the hindrances...the things in your life that would set up a roadblock. The Christ wants to come to YOU!

Hear the psalmist also as he exhorts us to *praise* and prepare: "Sing to God, sing praises to His name; cast up a highway for Him who rides through the desert; His name is the LORD, exult before Him!" Psalm 68:3-4. Praise builds the highway for the King to come to us! Let's sing our hearts out to Him this season, looking for deeper meaning for our lives in the sometimes too-familiar words of the carols. They hold glad tidings for each of us! Come to think of it...we don't use words like *tidings* anymore either..

With anticipation,

Roberta

The Rev. Roberta Schneider
Deacon

First Sunday Celebrating our Freedom Tonight! December 6, 2009 – 6:30 p.m.

Join us as we celebrate as a church body the freedom that we have found in Christ since reading Bondage Breaker by Neil Anderson. While we have had the chance to individually pray off any association with the things that bind us up...it is good for us to stand together, re-affirm our freedom and corporately claim the authority of Christ over any work of the enemy. Come join the fun, sing songs of freedom, pray prayers of joy, and celebrate the Lord's Supper!

Come Stick Your Neck Out!

Saturday, December 12 – 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. – Dan Mohler of Neck Ministries 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.



St. Paul's Darien Financial Summary	11/29/09	Year to Date Actual	Year to Date Budget	Better(Worse) Than Budget
Tithes & Offerings	\$12,989	\$539,247	\$660,000	(\$128,753)
Disbursements	\$13,201	\$626,883	\$660,000	33.117
	Weekly Goal	\$13,750	Deficit	(\$87,636)

Christmas Eve Pageant/Liturgy

At the **5:30 p.m.** Family Service on Christmas Eve, we will again have a pageant as the liturgy just 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 from Scripture. There will be **ONE** rehearsal from 9:30 to noon on Saturday, December 19. If you or your child(ren) are interested in participating, please contact Debbie de la Rivera

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 residents, St. 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.

TODAY!

We want to welcome our very special friends, the men of Pivot Ministries, who will be singing for us at both services today. St. Paul's has supported Pivot for just about as long as it has existed, and we rejoice at the lives which have been turned around by this Christ-centered drug and alcohol rehabilitation program. Join us in welcoming them today.

Sing We Now of Christmas!

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

Then **next** Sunday, December 13, immediately after the 10:30 service, we are again going into Darien to sing carols on street corners, in restaurants and shops. The merchants and customers seem to enjoy this almost as much as we do!

Everyone is welcome to join us – it is a terrific family outing – and musical ability is NOT a necessity. (Although a smile is required!)

February 16, 2010: Frolicking Fabulous Fun!
Save the Date.

The Doves are here

Thank you in advance!
If you have taken a Dove this year, be aware that you have one more week to return your box...they are due by Tuesday, December 15th.

If you haven't yet picked one up, we strongly encourage you, as this year's number of families in need is at a record high!

But **please** follow the directions!! Record the number of your dove on the clipboard. Leave the front dove with your check or cash in the pouch provided. Buy what is requested. Return your wrapped and marked box on time! If you have questions – *any* questions, see **Polly Verrico** or **Daphne White**.

In remembrance: *On Thursday, Fr. Dan joined Eleanor Cartwright in celebrating the life of her husband **Robert** who passed away November 12th. Eleanor and Bob were members at St. Paul's back in the '80's and live in Dallas, TX. Please hold the Cartwright family in your prayers as they grieve their loss of Bob.*

Apostolic Adventure Night: you are invited to the Halperts, 296 Smith Ridge Rd, New Canaan on Monday, December 7 at 7:30, to hear testimonies shared by those who have had life changing experiences in Africa on AAA trips conducted by Jan Nel. The trip is geared to experiencing our supernatural God in the unique setting of Africa, and understanding your calling. Fr. Dan Morgan is one of those who will be sharing. Please note that Jan will NOT be at this event. The next Apostolic Adventure is planned for March 7-14, 2010. please RSVP to newlinda@yahoo.com or 203 972-7555.

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.



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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)