



The Scribe

St. Paul UCC

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(847) 358-0399 www.stpaul-ucc.org

December 2014 Edition

Monthly
Newsletter

Pastor's Pen...

A number of pastors are Scrooges. When Christmas rolls around each year, the words “Bah! Humbug!” roll off of their tongue just as readily as other words like, “Good morning!” and “Nice to see you!” or “Have a great week!” In the midst of their usual Sunday morning niceties, there co-exists a skin-deep loathing of the Yuletide season.

One reason for their Christmas-revulsion comes from having experienced one-too-many incidents of human brokenness at this time of year. When there is drama in people’s lives, pastors are often on the front lines of it.

The basic labor of the pastor is to be attentive to the things of God. We study, we pray, and we endeavor to keep the church grounded in her apostolic roots. While there are the more visible things like attending meetings, keeping office hours and providing pastoral care; it is really engagement with the Divine that is at the heart of our daily work.

Despite our best efforts, however, the pain that so many people feel around Christmas can get in the way of seeing what God is doing. It can be kind of like a lunar eclipse. The darkness of circumstances blocking out the light of heaven.

Nonetheless.....I am thankful, very thankful, that the humbug hasn’t bitten me yet. I still love Christmas! Each year after Thanksgiving when the Christmas decorations go up in the sanctuary, I feel a wave of joy come over me! Why? Because in spite of it all, Christmas is part of God’s answer to the brokenness that exists in this world. Christmas is about Christ, who has come to fix our brokenness and to resurrect God’s original plan for creation. Sure, there is plenty of pain and loss now, but Christmas reminds us that it won’t always be so. No humbugs from St. Paul’s pulpit! Let’s light the tree!

Pastor David

St. Paul UCC Executive Board Members: Karl Bethke, Bernadette Chvoy, Kim Ferris, David Freeman, Ellen Graham (Admin. Board Rep.), Greg Mayer (Spiritual Life Board Rep.), David Mercer, Chuck Oberly (Admin. Board Rep), Holly Petersen (Spiritual Life Board Rep.).

Advent & Christmas Happenings at St. Paul....



St. Paul UCC Advent Workshop Saturday, Dec. 6th 10-12 am
Join us for holiday cheer and make a special gift for someone dear! Children will make a special gift for someone dear and enjoy a holiday snack. Parents we are welcome to stay or drop children off for the event. Please register in advance by calling the church office.



Christmas Cantata

CHRISTMAS CANTATA - JOY TO THE WORLD

This holiday season the choir will be performing 'Joy to the World' by John Leavitt. There will be two performances; December 14, at 4:00 pm and December 21 at 10:00 am during worship. This is a tremendous opportunity to invite friends, family, neighbors and coworkers to attend. It is also a great opportunity to help the Palatine Food Pantry. Admission to these concerts is a donation of a non-perishable food item for the Palatine Food Pantry. Please help us fill the sanctuary with people and

food; spread the word!



Once again the *St. Paul Flippers* will be making those delicious pancakes they are famous for. Please join us for great food and wonderful fellowship for our annual **All You Can Eat** pancake breakfast to be held at 11:00 a.m. following the Christmas Cantata on **Sunday December 21st**. Adults - \$6.00, Children 3-12 years of age - \$3.00 and children under 3 are free.



"HERE WE COME R-CAROLING!"

Christmas Caroling: If you would like to sing Christmas Carols for our shut-ins on Sunday afternoon, December 21st, please see Greg Mayer. We will car pool leaving the church around 1:00 pm after the Cantata and Pancake Breakfast. Thank you!



Christmas Eve Service 5:00 pm
(for further details, please see page 4 of the Scribe)

Happy December Birthdays



6 Ryan Petersen	14 Margaret Gintz
7 Bruce Kerlin	18 Catherine Conrad
10 Susan Gould	23 Brian Whedon
12 Larry Ingram	30 Debra Ori
12 Holly Petersen	

*If there is anyone I missed, please call the church office,
so we can update our records. Thank you!*

Wedding Announcement

Constance Costa and Jeffrey Herzog were united in marriage at St. Paul on November 8, 2014. Congrats Connie and Jeff!



Chuck & Margie Anderson in honor of their new grandson, Declan Charles Anderson, born October 14, 2014.

memorials
& gifts

In Memory of James Roesner:

Dick & Jean Kolze; Mr & Mrs Richard Krabbe; Lois Roesner;
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Gillette; Mr. & Mrs. Allen Helms; Thomas & Catherine Kief;
Sandra Magana; Loraine Krabbe; Doris Marsh; Earl & Sharon Teets;
Kent & Marie Huff; Mr. & Mrs. Gene Reuter; Marlene Sampson;
Fred Roesner & Family c/o Lenore Roesner; John Helpap & Jane Mikuta;
Betty Wascher & Family; Wilbert Glade; Mr & Mrs. Herbert Plote;
Mr. & Mrs George Smego; Laverne Meyer; Ray & Helen Eggert.



2014 Christmas Eve Worship At St. Paul

Dear Members of St. Paul,

Each year the St. Paul staff, members of the choir, and the Worship Committee all endeavor to put together Christmas Eve services that honor Christ, as well as feed the spirit of all who attend and participate. Recognizing the Sacred nature of the season, we place a premium on making certain that Christmas Eve worship is well planned.

At last year's 11:00pm late Christmas Eve service, we noticed a significant decline in attendance by members of St. Paul. Our choir sang before a sanctuary that was mostly empty, and the few people who were in attendance were visitors to our church. *(They have not since returned.)* While the early service (4:30) was well attended, the late service (11:00) was nearly empty.

After much discussion among members of the staff and the Worship Committee, we have decided that it is better to have one good Christmas Eve service at an earlier time than it is to have two services in which the late one has such sparse attendance. For that reason and after a unanimous vote by the Board of Spiritual Life, there will be one Christmas Eve service this year. It is scheduled for **Wednesday December 24th** with music beginning at **5:00pm** and the service itself beginning at **5:15**. As it is already dark by that time anyway, this service will feature the traditional candlelight as well as Holy Communion.

It is our hope that the members of St. Paul will understand the reason for this decision and will support our efforts to make this one Christmas Eve service special for everyone.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF SPIRITUAL LIFE

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

ST. PAUL STAFF



PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS

The Family & Friends of James Roesner
The Family & Friends of James Kimball, step-father of Frank Bradley
Dr. Sean Benham
Jim & Flo Dailey, friend of Charlotte Mally
Capt. Mark DeMuth MD., cousin of Linda Hayford
Dorothy Regan Drake, friend of Bob and Pat Kolze
Margaret Gintz
Glenn Harris
Rudy Hempel
Larry Herron
Jeff Johnson
Austin Kaufmann, grandson of Ralph & Linda Hayford
Barbara Kerlin, mother of Bruce Kerlin
Tracy Kerlin
Dorothy & Paul Mende, sister & nephew of Charlotte Mally
Maureen Newman-Krause, friend of Charlotte Mally
Rick Paolisso, Uncle of Bruce Kerlin
Sherry Stephens, sister of Shirley Ann Kolze
Fran Werner, sister-in-law of Sharon Florey

SERVING CHRIST IN WORSHIP

Greeters for December:

7: Jim & Shirley Schimka
14: Wally & Jan Degner
21: Gloria Helms
24:
28: Bob & Pat Kolze

December Usher Captain:

Randy Everett

December Nursery Attendant:

Carrie Kerlin

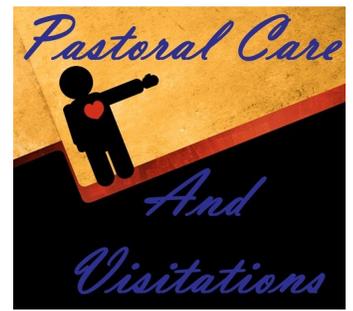
December Lectionary:

7: Isa 40:1-11; Psalm 85:1-2,8-13; 2 Pet 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8.
14: Isa 61:1-4,8-11; Psalm 126; Luke 1:47-55; 1 Thess 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28.
21: 2 Sam 7:1-11,16; Luke 1:46b-55; Psalm 89:1-4,19-26; Rom 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38.
24: Isa 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-20.
25: Isa 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Heb 1:1-12; John 1:1-14.
28: Isa 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148; Gal 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40.



Pastoral Visitation For Sick & Shut-ins

On an average of every other month, Pastor David visits St. Paul's shut-ins, bringing them Holy Communion. The frequency varies, depending on things like doctor's appointments on the church member's schedule and unexpected events in the life of the church, but the average timing is every other month. More frequent visitation is always available, however, as the shut-in member's health and life situation may change and more extensive pastoral care is needed. Any church member or their family member desiring more frequent pastoral visitation, or to be placed on the visitation list in the first place should contact the church office at (847) - 358-0399 to make arrangements.



Pastoral visitation is also available to those who are hospitalized, temporarily laid up at home, or going through rehab at a facility. Because hospitals and other institutions do not notify the church when a patient is admitted, we need for you or your family member to notify us. We will be more than happy to accommodate your request for pastoral care. Please note also that the pastor may be reached for emergencies at (847) -963-6114 (home) or (847) -445-7248 (cell phone).

"Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord." (James 5:14)

Altar Flower Chart

A new flower chart is now in the Narthex. We welcome you to sign up to have flowers placed on the altar for special Sundays of significance to you and your family. Having flowers on the church altar is a wonderful way to honor, celebrate or remember special persons or events in your life. We are hoping to have the chart filled for each week of the year, so that fresh flowers remain a part of our weekly service. Share your joys, concerns, and memories with the beauty of flowers. After the worship service, you may take your flowers home or request they be shared with our shut-ins. The cost is \$27.00. Please make checks payable to St. Paul UCC. Thank you!



Thank you to everyone who participated in our FMSC packing event on Saturday, November 8. We packed 113 boxes which equates to 24,408 meals; enough to feed 67 children for a year! The food is going to Nicaragua through FMSC's partner Reach Now International.

Update on Flu and Other Viruses

Simple practices like washing hands, getting enough rest, coughing or sneezing into the elbow, staying home when you're not feeling well, and managing stress are all important ways to stay healthy. Faith communities are great places to spread this wisdom!

Ebola

Please note that the main message to share is that Ebola is only communicated by direct contact with the blood or bodily fluids of someone who has symptoms of Ebola, such as fever, severe headaches, vomiting, or diarrhea. Ebola is not spread through the air. The risk of Ebola spreading in the United States is very low. We keep in prayer all those around the world who are suffering from this disease and encourage those who are concerned to connect with their religious bodies to find ways to express care and provide practical support.

Enterovirus D68

This year the number of people reported with confirmed Enterovirus D68 infection is much greater than that reported in previous years. Mild symptoms may include fever, runny nose, sneezing, cough, and body and muscle aches. Severe symptoms may include wheezing and difficulty breathing. In general, infants, child, and teenagers are most likely to get infected with enteroviruses and become ill because they do not yet have immunity (protection) from previous exposures to these viruses. Children with asthma are especially vulnerable. There is no vaccine for the Enterovirus D68, but good prevention tips include hand-washing, cleaning surfaces, and staying home if you feel sick.

Influenza

As we enter into flu season, we are mindful that thousands of people die each year in our country because of the flu. Flu is also a leading cause of the time off work and school. Getting a flu shot (or nasal mist) is the best way to prevent flu.

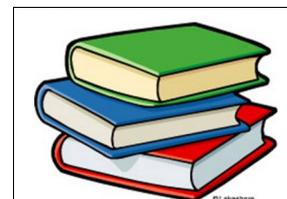
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3rd Annual Book Exchange

Please begin to look for books, magazines, DVD's ,and CD's that you would be willing to donate for our exchange which will be held on January 18th & 25th. We will collect books, etc. beginning on Jan. 4th. Keep your mind alert and improve your mental health by sitting down with a good book in these cold, winter months.

GUIDELINES:

- Bring books, etc. to Fellowship Hall and put them on the designated tables.
- You can bring them anytime during the first two weeks in January.
- Please do not take any items until **January 18th** to give us time to put them in order.
- The actual exchange will begin on **January 18th** and continue until **January 25th**.
- Beginning on January 18th you may take as many items as you wish regardless of whether you contributed any.
- Donated magazines should be no more than one year old. Names should be removed.
- Books and magazines should be in fairly good condition.
- No textbooks or encyclopedias.
- Include books for children.
- All books and magazines that are not exchanged will be given to the library.





The Women's Fellowship group is taking December off and will meet again on January 17th at 9:30. During our first calendar year of meeting, the Women's Fellowship group has had 28 St. Paul women join us for one or more meetings or outings. All St. Paul women and friends are welcome. Women's Fellowship meets once a month, usually the third Saturday morning, for fellowship, for a program to learn something new, to work on a service project, or to go on an outing together. We usually bring our own lunch and eat together at the end of our meeting, sharing fellowship, faith and laughter while we are together. Please consider joining us on January 17th when we will be working together in St. Paul's kitchen to prepare brunch and then dine together. Be sure to sign up in Fellowship Hall on the northeast bulletin board so we know how many to plan on purchasing food for.

We would like to thank Julianne Glesne for our excellent November program on the history of hymns.



CARE Team Christmas Wishes

The CARE Team at St. Paul was created early this year to organize our St. Paul members' efforts—YOUR efforts-- to reach out and provide avenues to show your care and compassion to fellow St. Paul members and friends experiencing a challenging or joyous life event. Many of you have shown your care by sending numerous cards and notes, providing meals following surgeries and other challenging life events, provided a monetary donation when requested, or been willing to provide other forms of assistance to our members. The CARE Team thanks you for your willingness to show your care during 2014. We are each truly blessed to be part of such a CARING faith community. Please remember those who need to know you care during this Christmas season.

Your St. Paul CARE Team,
Holly Petersen, Bernadette Chvoy, Mary Doktor, Kris Freeman, Barb Oberly, and Mandy Zavilla

Sharing Our Blessings
Thank you from the Community Outreach Committee

† Thank you for your generosity. We delivered four full **Thanksgiving baskets** along with twelve \$25 grocery gift cards to the Palatine Township before Thanksgiving. As you sit down for your Thanksgiving meal, please take a moment to give thanks for the joy you have helped to bring to families that otherwise would have struggled to assemble a Thanksgiving meal.

† Thank you for the abundant gifts you have signed up to donate for the two families we adopted this year through the Palatine Township Adopt-a-Family program. **Remember that all Adopt-a Family gifts and gift cards are due by Sunday, December 7th.** Be sure to attach a piece of paper with the family member's name, the family number and your name on the gift so we can be sure to know who it is for. Please give any gift cards to a member of the Community Outreach Committee with the same information attached to them. We were able to provide each of the children in the two families with a winter coat, a gift card for a pair of shoes or boots, a shirt, a pair of pants, and several toys or entertainment materials. God is at work through each of you. Thank you. We will be wrapping in Fellowship Hall on December 7th following worship and would love to have you share your wrapping expertise (or hand tape to the wrapper if wrapping is not your expertise)!

† Thank you for your bounteous gifts this fall for **Compassion Water of Life!** The Hunger Luncheon donations and sale of leftover soup has generated \$1201.00 that has been sent to Compassion Water of Life. Water-related diseases continue to claim the life of a child every fifteen seconds. **St. Paul UCC has provided fifteen families in undeveloped countries with safe water to drink for their lifetimes!** To learn more about Compassion Water of Life, go to **water.compassion.com**. If you still wish to make a donation, you may do so at **firstgiving.com**. Type *St. Paul UCC Palatine* in the search box and you will be taken right to our donation page.

Your Community Outreach Committee, Jill Dekrell, Melissa Gumm, Maryann Mahlman, Holly Petersen, Darlene Vogt and Karen Wagner

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WACHS FUND DECEMBER SCRIP PROGRAM

REMINDER Scrip orders are due the 1st Sunday in December, not the 2nd Sunday as the rest of the year, due to holiday shipping.**
Thank you!



A Different Kind Of Christmas

*Sometimes Christmas is just overwhelming, it seems,
As we rush around buying up stuff.
We spend without end, and we rack up those bills,
But it feels like it's never enough.
So this Christmas, let's all take a different approach:
Let's try to be more in accord
With God's Christmas gift, the best one of all--
Our sweet Jesus, our Savior, our Lord.
We'll be gentle and patient, and loving and kind,
And we'll keep our priorities straight;
The gifts of the Spirit, the gifts of the heart
Are the ones that we'll all celebrate.
And our stress will decrease, and we'll feel more at peace,
As we decorate, package, and trim;
Our new Christmas will be a pure joy and delight,
As we try to be much more like Him.*

By Joanna Fuchs

