

DECEMBER BLOOD DRIVE

Monday, December 7; 2:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.; Hickey Hall
In a recent Evangel we read that Marco Knapp's grandson required 126 pints of blood after being seriously wounded while serving in Iraq. It is through the generosity of donors at blood drives throughout the year that lives are saved on a daily basis. During our June drive, 41 units were collected. These units gave as many as 118 hospital patients a chance to once again enjoy good health. Many thanks to our new and loyal donors. You are truly "life savers." Sign-up sheets for appointment times will be in the Narthex during services two Sundays before our drive. We hope you'll mark your calendars.

KID'S NIGHT OUT

Saturday, December 12; 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Kid's Night Out is your chance to have a night out on the town, get some Christmas shopping done or simply enjoy a quiet couple of hours. To support the summer worktrip, children ages birth-fifth grade will be cared for by youth and adults at the church that evening. Activities will include games, crafts, a Christmas movie, plus – we will feed your children! A donation of \$15 per child or \$25 per family is suggested! Registration is required for this event by Monday, December 7. To register: contact Stacie Buckler at stacie@stpaulsrochester.org or (248) 651-9361 with your name, your email, your child's name and your child's age or grade.



THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

COOKIES FOR OUR HOMEBOUND

Drop off by Sunday, December 13, 11:00 a.m.

Every year, our ministers deliver a plate of cookies to homebound members. Please donate home-baked Christmas cookies to the church kitchen on or before 11:00 a.m. December 13. Please mark, "Cookies for the Homebound."



HOLIDAY COOKIE WALK

Sunday, December 13

All are invited to buy a wonderful selection of Christmas cookies. You may fill a box or buy a prepackaged box at that time. Anyone can bring homemade cookies to be part of the walk. Cookies can be dropped off in the church kitchen on Saturday, December 12 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Please label the cookie according to type. For more information or to volunteer contact Sylvia Anderson (248) 656-9645 or syleeus@att.net or Brenda Younker (248) 652-1538. All proceeds go to global and local mission projects.

COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS CANDLE LIGHTING

Sunday, December 13; 7:00 p.m.; Sanctuary



The Troy chapter of Compassionate Friends, a self-help group for parents coping with the death of a child, will participate in a worldwide candle lighting to remember loved ones. Newcomers are welcome to attend.

CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS

Monday, December 14 through Saturday, December 19

On Saturday, December 19, St. Paul's will deliver food baskets to over 100 families in the Greater Rochester Area. We accept non-perishable "family type" food items, checks, or you can help to assemble or deliver baskets. Watch for more details. Contact: Carolyn Phelps (248) 651-0765.

The St. Paul's Evangel

ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

P.O. BOX 80307

Rochester, Michigan 48308-0307

Address Correction #35791,

USPS 976-300

2nd Class Permit

Postage Paid at Rochester, MI

Published Weekly except July & August

YAHAs: Young-At-Heart-Adults

Tuesday, December 15; Luncheon, noon, Hickey Hall;

Program, 1:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Join us for traditional Christmas music. All adults who are young at heart are invited. Call for luncheon reservations before 3:00 p.m. on Friday, December 11 at (248) 651-9361. Cost for lunch is \$7.00.

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

Wednesday, December 16; 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.; Lounge

Don't miss our annual Christmas Party! It'll be a fun night with lots of laughs as we have our annual white elephant gift exchange. Bring a wrapped gift that is a unique, quirky and under \$5.



FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

ALL-MUSIC SUNDAY: Vivaldi's Magnificat

Sunday, December 20; 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.; Sanctuary

Don't miss this glorious celebration of Christmas through the music of our vocal, bell and handchime choirs as well as members of the Rochester Symphony Orchestra.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday, December 20; 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

This year's Christmas Party will be a Pasta Night at Stacie's house (49698 Shelby Road in Shelby Township). Come for some great food and a white elephant gift exchange. Bring a wrapped gift that is unique, fun and under \$5.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Thursday, December 24; Sanctuary

Family Service, 4:00 p.m.: This is a family oriented worship service that will retell the Christmas story in a beautiful pageant by our own St. Paul's families. Children and families are invited for this special evening of celebration and praise. There will be glo sticks for children and candles for adults. Rev. Jack Amick.

Candlelight Service, 7:30 p.m.: Childcare provided for children birth through age 4; no reservations required). Rev. Jeff Regan.

Candlelight Service, 11:00 p.m.: Rev. Jeff Regan.

JANUARY

GOD AND COUNTRY

All youth, grades 3rd – 12th

5 classes beginning **Wednesday, January 6; 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.;** Parlor

Recognition, **Sunday, February 14, 9:00 a.m.;** Sanctuary

Cost \$32, includes program materials, weekly dinner and recognition

While God & Country is recognized by scouting to achieve religious service awards, the program is open to all youth who desire to grow stronger in faith and in service to God. All program materials, dinner and awards are included in the cost. *No classes on January 27.* Youth are also invited to participate in the LOGOS and 360° portion after dinner until 7:30 p.m. To register, contact Susan Mason at (248) 651-9361.

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

620 Romeo Street, Rochester, Michigan 48307

Telephone: 248-651-9361 Fax: 248-651-7391 Web: www.stpaulsrochester.org

PROGRAM STAFF

Rev. Jeffery D. Regan

Rev. Jack Amick

Rev. Latha Ravi

Rev. Dwayne Kelsey

Dr. Wm. Jean Randall

Stacie Buckler

St. Paul's is a Stephen Ministry Congregation

Volume 40

Sunday, November 8, 2009

Number 35

The Advent Evangel

Greetings in the name of Christ!

Christmas is almost here! Those words may strike fear into the hearts of those of us who understand Christmas to be one of the busiest times of year. There is much to do in preparation of Christmas: There are special events to attend, things to make and buy, family traditions to uphold. All of these activities can be extremely overwhelming.

I'd like to suggest two strategies for reducing your holiday anxiety. First, try thinking of Christmas as less of a one-day event and more as a season. Instead of viewing advent as the time in which we count down to Christmas Day, perhaps we can see Advent/Christmas as a season in which we especially notice Christ's real and tangible presence in our lives. Second, try to look upon the programs listed in this Evangel not as more things for your "to-do list," but rather as opportunities for you to connect with God, each other and the world. My prayer is that these activities will be gifts of relationship for you and the church family.

This Christmas, may your life be richly blessed with the presence of Christ!

Rev. Jeff Regan



Candlelight Service

Christmas Eve Services

Family Service

Thursday, December 24 at 4:00 p.m.;

Rev. Jack Amick

(childcare provided for children birth through age 4; no reservations required)

This is a family oriented worship service that will retell the Christmas story in a beautiful pageant by our own St. Paul's families. Children and families are invited for this special evening of celebration and praise. There will be glo sticks for children and candles for adults.

Candlelight Services

Thursday, December 24 at 7:30 p.m.; Rev. Regan

(childcare provided for children birth through age 4; no reservations required)

Thursday, December 24 at 11:00 p.m.; Rev. Regan

The order of Worship for November 8 will be handed out in church.

Faith First

Save your spot and reserve any materials needed for these classes by calling the church office, (248) 651-9361, at least one week prior to the start of class.

November: Healthy and Whole
Respecting our bodies as temples

ANCHORING YOUR WELL BEING: Christian Wholeness in a Fractured World
Tuesday afternoons, 1:30-3:00 p.m.; October 27 – December 8; Room 131
Learn new ways to use the Christian Good News to guide and empower a healthy, biblical, spiritually-centered lifestyle. We will examine ways to become whole – physically, spiritually and relationally. Susan Amick will be facilitating the class. Books available for \$10.00 at first class. RSVP to church office at (248) 651-9361. ** See childcare note.

MANAGING YOUR STRESS DURING THE HOLIDAYS

Two-part program: Wednesday, November 11 & 18; 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.; Parlor
It is easy to forget that Thanksgiving and Christmas are about relationships and a renewed awareness of God's presence in our lives. The Health Ministry Team invites you to spend just 2 hours focusing on staying healthy and connected as you move through the rest of 2009 into the New Year. ** See childcare note.

Caring for Yourself and Others on November 11 will address: identifying and addressing your holiday stressors, special considerations for caregivers, and stress reduction techniques. Led by Dianne Landry-Worley, LMSW.

Food and Mood on November 18 will address: The effects of stress on the body, specific holiday stressors, the effect of food on mood, healthy food choices, and emotional eating. The session will be led by Beth Webb, Licensed Nutritionist.

December: Christ in Celebration
Centering Ourselves on the Christ in Christmas

ALL CHURCH ADULT STUDY

The Advent Conspiracy: Christmas Was Meant To Change The World
Sunday mornings, November 22, December 6, 13, & 20; 10:00 – 10:50 a.m.



Advent
STUDY

Adult Bible Study: All ages, drop in; Room 131
Time Out: Parents of Young Children; Rooms 128, 129
Faith & Family: Parents of Teens and Beyond; Room 132
Family Life: Empty Nesters; Parlor

Advent Conspiracy invites you to restore the heart of the holiday. Learn how to substitute compassion for consumption through four simple principles: Worship Fully, Spend Less, Give More and Love All.

OPENING YOUR HEART TO CHRIST

Wednesday, December 9 & 16; 6:30-7:30 p.m.; Parlor

This experiential mini-retreat will give you the opportunity to breathe, relax and refocus your heart on the coming of Christ in the midst of your busy holiday schedule. Journey with Susan Amick back to the expectation of Mary, Joseph, and all ancient Jews! During this two-part retreat, you will begin exploring how you prepare your heart for Christ during Advent, and all year-round. ** See childcare note.

January: Money and Manna
Living Abundantly even in Scarcity

GOOD SENSE BUDGET COURSE

Biblical Financial Principles for Transforming Your Finances and Life
Sunday, January 10; 4:00-7:30 p.m.; Parlor

and Wednesdays January 13, 20, 27, and February 3; 6:30-7:30 p.m.; Parlor

Learn how you can experience grace, joy, and freedom through Biblical financial principles. This nationally renowned Christian budgeting program will be kicked off Sunday, January 10 by Rev. David Bell, V.P. of Stewardship, Methodist Foundation of Michigan. The introductory session will cover the first two units of the program and include a light supper. The next four sessions will be led by Mike Gable on the following Wednesday evenings. It is recommended that participants complete some preliminary sections of the book prior to the first session. The cost for a book and dinner January 10: \$12 for 1 person, \$14 for 2 people, and \$16 for a family. Please contact the church office at (248) 651-9361 to reserve your book and dinner. ** See childcare note.

NOVEMBER

THE BOOK OF LUKE

Thursday, November 5 – December 17; 10:00-11:30 a.m.; Rooms 128, 129
Luke continues to challenge our lives. Focusing on Jesus and his earthly ministry among the early church, this class will be led by Rev. Ravi.

UNITED METHODIST MEN

Saturdays, November 7 & December 5; 8:00 a.m.; Hickey Hall
All men are invited to breakfast and fellowship with a book study, 90 Minutes in Heaven.

FAITH AND FAMILY

Sundays, November 8 & 15; 10:00 a.m.; Room 132
Ted Burton will be leading the Faith & Family class for a two week study based on the book Get Out of My Life: A Parent's Guide to the New Teenager. Even if your children are past this phase you can be a voice of experience during our discussion of dealing with the teenage child.

"CINN" SUNDAY November 22

It is "Cinn" time again! The fabled cinnamon rolls will be for sale in the Narthex after each worship service for \$5.00 for a package of 6, or \$6.00 with pecans and raisins. Perfect to eat right away or freeze for later. If you wish to order in advance, call Carol Zimny (248) 652-7798 (E-Mail: Zladders@Comcast.net). All proceeds go to global and local mission projects.



FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

FAMILY SUNDAYS

November 29, December 27 & January 3

There will be no Sunday school during worship or at the 10:00 a.m. hour for children, youth and adults on these Sundays. Worship bags for children will be available in the Narthex and balcony on those Sundays. Childcare will be available for children ages birth through 4 years during the worship services.

PRAYING YOUR WAY TO BETHLEHEM Weekdays during Advent beginning November 30 7:30 a.m. & 8:30 p.m.; Rickard Chapel

Learn how an ancient prayer format might be relevant for you during the busy days leading up to Christmas. Drop in for daily prayers led by Rev. Jack Amick. Come when you can and as you are.



H.U.G.S.

Humor, Understand, Growth and Support for moms of all ages!
Wednesdays, 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.; Rooms 128, 129

On December 2, 9, and 16, HUGS will do our Annual Advent Study. This is always an insightful time to see Christmas in the ways it is meant to be celebrated and how we build a sense of wonder in the process. HUGS is for Moms of all ages . . . come and enjoy building friendships in this truly special group. Childcare is provided. If you do not have a child previously registered and will be attending for the first time for this unit of study, contact Stacie Buckler at stacie@stpaulsrochester.org or at (248) 651-9361 (ext. 114 childcare hotline, if after hours) to register your child(ren) the Monday PRIOR to the class you will be attending.

DECK THE HALLS

Wednesday, December 2; 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.; Hickey Hall



You are invited to join LOGOS for dinner (\$5/person or \$10/family) and an evening of fellowship and decorating! Dinner will be from 6:00 - 6:30 p.m. in Hickey Hall, followed by fun activities and decorating the church for the Advent season from 6:30-7:30 p.m. There will be something for every age. Childcare is available for birth through four years from 6:30-7:30 p.m. **Reservations are needed for dinner and childcare before noon on November 30 by calling the church office at (248) 651-9361.**

** Childcare is available for classes with this notation. Call the church office (248) 651-9361 ext. 114, to register by 3:00 p.m. at least two business days prior to the first class. Ability to provide childcare will be based on a minimum RSVPs received prior to the first class.

CHRISTMAS AND CANDLELIGHT

Thursday, December 3; 7:00 p.m.; Hickey Hall

Join us for an evening of dessert and music. The special recognition of members chosen for outstanding service to the UMW will be given at a 7:00 p.m. ceremony preceding the concert. Members who have "gone to their reward" will be memorialized. Love and Faith Circles are in charge of the desserts and decorations for the evening.

ADVENT "BROWN BAG" CONCERT SERIES

Fridays, December 4, 11 & 18; Noon; Sanctuary

Join us for this series featuring half-hour concerts followed by brown bag lunch in the Parlor. Bring your own brown bag lunch.

SING-ALONG MESSIAH

Friday, December 4; 8:00 p.m.; Sanctuary

Bring your own score and sing along. (There will be seating for those who just want to listen!) Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$50 for a family of four. Scores are \$10 each. Tickets and scores are available at the door or by calling (248) 218-2149 or music@rc.edu.

POINSETTIAS

Help decorate the Sanctuary and memorialize or honor loved ones by purchasing a poinsettia. Plants may be picked up or donated to homebound members to be delivered after services on December 20. Contact the church office at (248) 651-9361 for details.

BALDWIN AVENUE CENTER



UMW is once again purchasing gloves and hats and your contributions can help! Please mark your envelope or check as "UMW Gloves." Contact: Jeanne Pichel (248) 651-8956.

JESUS' BIRTHDAY PARTY

Saturday, December 5; 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.; Hickey Hall

Bring the whole family and help us celebrate Jesus' birthday. We'll remember the true spirit of Christmas together, as we share an Advent craft, a walking Nativity Story, performances by the Cherub and Handchime choirs, sing carols and Happy Birthday to Jesus. Children are invited to bring an unwrapped gift that will be donated to children at United Methodist Children's Home or Rochester Area Neighborhood House. Punch and cupcakes provided following the program. We are looking for people who would like to bake 24 cupcakes and drop them off in Hickey Hall by December 5 at 11:00 a.m. If you can help, please contact Melanie Nally at (248) 650-6978. Thank you in advance for your help!



SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

HARMONY IN THE HILLS



Christmas with the Motor City Brass Band
Sunday, December 6; 4:30 p.m.; Sanctuary
Come hear the Motor City Brass Band, Michigan's first competitive British-style brass band, ranked among the Top 10 competition bands in North America.

ROCHESTER COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Sunday, December 6; 7:30 p.m.; St. Andrew Catholic Church
Celebrate the joy of the season in the annual Christmas concert featuring area church and community choirs, including St. Paul's. Donations go towards Tuesday Musicale's scholarship fund.