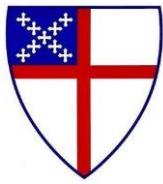


Grace to You and Peace

St. Paul's Episcopal Church



Volume 18 | Issue 12

December 2022

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Advent Schedule of Services

- Advent Study with Father Jason – Waiting on Jesus
 - Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. in the Earline Robertson Room
- Children's Christmas Pageant – December 18 at the 10:30 service
- Lessons and Carols – December 18 at 5:30 p.m.

Christmas Services

- Christmas Eve
 - Evening Service – 5:30 p.m.
- Christmas Day – 9:00 a.m. in the chapel
PJs welcome!

O Come *
Adore Let Us
Him

Reflection from Father Jason

Will you?

This past week we were able to help a woman and her two children find lodging for three nights and put down a deposit on a new place to live, in a good apartment in a safe neighborhood. This was all done through money given to the discretionary fund, and it is a blessing to be able to help people. We are surrounded by need, and it is easy to be overwhelmed by the number of people who need help. It is easy to be discouraged by the number of people who take advantage of our kindness and mislead or lie to us about their situation. It is easy to say that we don't have the money to help everybody, so we decide not to help anybody.

When Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem, there was room somewhere; there might have even been room in the inn. But the innkeeper looked at Mary who was about to give birth, and rather than reach out and help this couple in need, he decided that he didn't want to deal with all that mess. In most nativity plays the innkeeper appears remorseful and says he's very sorry, but there's just no room, and then he magnanimously offers them the stable. If nothing else there was his room. He could have reached out to the women in his community, and told them that this woman was about to give birth, and they likely would have found her a room, a birthing stool, hot water, towels, and women who knew how to deliver a baby. Instead, Mary was stuck with Joseph in a filthy stable. This is how Jesus came into the world. It's always easier to not do something, reach out, get involved, or take a risk. People are messy; relationships are messy, and maintaining our relationships with our nearest and dearest is hard enough, without including strangers as well. As we celebrate the birth of our Lord, let us consider how we might honor him and his mother; not just with songs, prayers, presents or pageants, but through helping people like them: the vulnerable, strangers and transients. And it's not one or the other; we can sing, pray and give while we raise up and help those most in need. It's nearly never a matter of can we do it, but rather, will we do it?



Farewell Reception

Join us as we say
Farewell to The Shelbys

DECEMBER 18, 2022

Time: 9:00 am - 10:15 am

Location: Loggia

A Message from the Senior Warden

Dear people of St. Paul's, An address in a season of mixed emotions:

Our parish once again thanks Brittany Legg and Amber Brislin for their tremendous effort to make "Trunk or Treat" a success. Well done to all who helped. We, St. Paul's, are grateful.

Vestry nominations, to be voted on at our Annual Parish Meeting, are Tom Whitaker for Sr. Warden. Vestry nominations are John R. Davis, Ralph Winton, and Rebecca (Becky) Berry Scott. It is gratifying that these faithful members of St. Paul's are willing to serve. Their biographies are in this newsletter. Delegates proposed for the 2024 Diocesan Annual Council are Tyler McShan, Shaula Hailey, and Gina Thompson. Alternate, Will Sanders.

Addressing the bittersweet.... We bid farewell to Rev. Shelby, Jennifer, Archie, Tom and Rachel. The Shelbys leave St. Paul's to be closer to Jennifer's parents in California.

A busy calendar for Advent will be published. Fr. Shelby will have an Advent Wednesday study class of the great progression of, and reasons behind, the Christmas Story.

Please mark your calendars for December 18th. Many things happen that day. Christmas Pageant at 10:30. The Farewell Reception for the Shelby family will take place between the 8:00 a.m. service and the 10:30 service in the loggia...cake and punch! Please be there! In addition, at the 10:30 service on December 18, the Dedication of a new Brass Gospel book in memory of Alice Lancaster for her tireless work for St. Paul's and our Altar Guild will be blessed. This is made possible by the many donations in the memory of Alice and all she gave to this church. ALL CHILDREN are asked to participate in the Christmas Pageant. We have costumes for sheep-,angels, to Mary, Joseph, other important parts. Please call Pam Rhea to sign your children to participate. Lessons and Carols will take place, again on the 18th. Christmas Eve service will be one service late afternoon, December 24. Christmas Day service will be one service at 9:00 a.m. in the chapel.

In this time of uncertainty and questions, I am at your service to answer any questions or concerns. I will miss Fr. Shelby and his family, personally, and as a guiding light for St. Paul's. St. Paul's is working hard to maintain our congregation and its strength. Thanks be to God, gratitude to Pam Rhea, our gift, to guide us as Deacon-in-charge.

Marian Hazard, Sr. Warden



Biographies of Senior Warden and Vestry Nominees

Tom Whitaker – Senior Warden

Tom has been a member of St. Paul's since 1978. He has been involved with prior audits and working with the finance team, serving as past treasurer, vestryman, and junior warden. Tom enjoys being part of the usher team and helping to serve during the May luncheon, helping with loaves and fishes, EYC and other church outreach ministries. Tom would like to assist the church during this time of transition to help us grow our church and share our good news with others.

Rebecca (Becky) Berry Scott

I am thrilled to once again be a communicant of St. Paul's, the church where I was baptized and confirmed. I am so grateful for the hard work and service that has kept St. Paul's a beautiful and active Parish. As a member of the Vestry, I would prioritize the preservation of our church building and grounds, and I would welcome any opportunity to build and grow our church family. I believe that we can accomplish this by committing to worshipping faithfully together, by creating opportunities to gather and celebrate together, and by serving our community together.

John Davis – Vestry

John Davis: Lifelong Episcopalian. **Church Activities:** Senior Warden, Vestry member, Vestry clerk, Choir member, Sunday school teacher, Confirmation teacher, Usher, Stewardship chair, Finance Committee chair, Long time Treasurer for church, School Board member and treasurer, Search committee, Discernment committee, Church Endowment trustee, Christian Education Committee, Outreach Committee, Homeless, Loaves & Fishes, Capital Campaign, Diocesan Trustee, Diocesan Executive Committee, Council Delegate.

I hope to see St Paul's and its members grow to their fullest potential.

Ralph Winton – Vestry

I was reared in the Methodist Church but was confirmed in the Episcopal Church in 1975. I have attended St. Paul's for about 36 years. From 1997-2010, I attended St Michael Episcopal Church, Fayette, AL. During my time at St Michael's, I served on the vestry, was treasurer, Jr Warden, and Sr Warden. During my early years at St. Paul's, I served as an usher. I completed the Education for Ministry (EFM) course on May 25, 2014. My volunteer work includes Loaves & Fishes and the Golden Triangle Regional Homeless Coalition. My wife, Melody, and I have been married for 17 months. My hope for St. Paul's is that we will continue to be the hands and feet of Jesus and look for new ways to serve our "neighbors". I would bring the will to continue to serve those in need in our community.



Reminder - December 18

One more reminder about the very busy Sunday, December 18!

- 8:00: Service
- 9:00 – 10:15: Farewell Reception for The Shelbys
- 10:30: Service
 - Christmas Pageant
 - Blessing of Gospel Book
- 5:30: Lessons and Carols

Preschool News

We are currently collecting \$25 gift cards to Kroger and Wal-Mart for our St. Paul's Episcopal School staff. These women work very hard every day to educate the children of SPES and to make them feel loved and appreciated. Let us do the same by spreading some Christmas cheer with these gift cards. Donations should be brought to the office on or before December 16.

THANK YOU!

Due to the generosity of the parish, we were able to donate 32 Thanksgiving bags to Helping Hands in November.

SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES

8:00 am — Eucharist

10:30 am — Eucharist

All services are recorded and may be found online at

[https://stpaulscolumbus.dioms.org/
Sermons/sermons.html](https://stpaulscolumbus.dioms.org/Sermons/sermons.html)

Office Hours

8:00–4:30 M–F

Office Phone

662.328.6673

Church Staff

The Rev. Jason Shelby, Rector

frjason@stpaulscolumbus.com

The Rev. Deacon Pam Rhea,

Director of Christian Education

deaconrhea@gmail.com

Lori Mitchell, Office Administrator

officeadmin@stpaulscolumbus.com

Ellen Hawkins, Organist

music@stpaulscolumbus.com

Ronnie Clayton, Sexton

ronnieclayton@stpaulscolumbus.com

Juwana Jenkins, Preschool Director

schdir@stpaulscolumbus.com

Website

stpaulscolumbus.com

Parish News

Outreach for December - Diapers



We will collect diapers this December in honor of Mary and Joseph, who only had swaddling bands for Jesus. All sizes of diapers are needed. Please place your contribution in the shopping cart in the hallway outside the church office.

Loaves and Fishes

Loaves and Fishes needs **30 - 35** packages of Bear Creek Soup to serve one meal. There is an **urgent need** for **Vegetable Beef Soup and Minestrone Soup**. Your assistance is needed as we continue our mission to help feed those in need. To volunteer, contact Ann Sparkman at **662.328.2133**.

St. Paul's serving days are **December 12 and 14**. St. Paul's served **601** lunches during November.



Deacon's Mass

The Rev. Deacon Pam Rhea will lead a service of Communion from the Reserved Sacrament, also known as a Deacon's Mass, on the second Sunday of each month at 5:30 pm in the chapel. This is meant to be a "come as you are" service in a relaxed atmosphere.

The next mass will be held on **December 11 at 5:30 p.m.**

Wednesday Night Study

Join Father Jason for an Advent study, *Waiting on Jesus*. **The class meets each Wednesday evening at 5:30 in the Earline Robertson Room through December 21.**

Men's Club

Thank you to Russell Young and Ryan Munson for hosting our November meeting at Munson Brothers. The next meeting will be held in March. Watch for details in the newsletter!

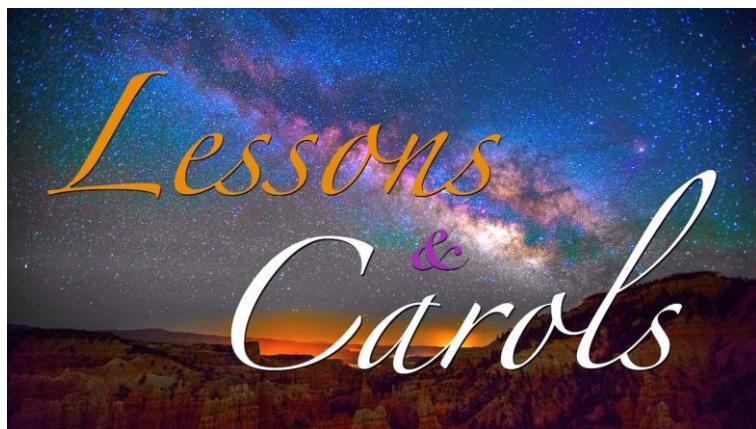
Parish Breakfast

Thank you to Stephanie Gale, Elizabeth Bell, and their team of volunteers for preparing and serving the November breakfast. The next Parish Breakfast will be held in January. More information will be provided in your service bulletin.

January Newsletter

The deadline for submissions for the January edition of the newsletter is **December 28, 2022**. Please email your information to officeadmin@stpaulscolumbus.com

More Parish News!



Do you enjoy singing? Join our choir as they prepare for their annual presentation of Lessons & Carols. Practice will be held each Wednesday at 4:30.

Lessons & Carols will be held on December 18 at 5:30.

The Annual Children's Christmas Pageant will be held December 18 during the 10:30 service.

Pageant practice will take place on December 11 during the Sunday School hour (9:15 – 10:15).



St. Paul's Episcopal School will present their Christmas Program on Tuesday, December 13, at 10:00 a.m. Please join us!

December Observances

Birthdays

3	Taylor Smith
5	Pam Rhea
7	Shelby Phillips
11	Becky Scott
12	Carol Knie
15	Rachel George
16	Richard Thomas
17	Pam Sams
20	Sid Carradine
24	Gail Laws
27	Walton Cunningham
29	Marian Hazard
30	Caroline Clay

Anniversaries

1	Keith and Barbara Miles
5	Ron and Kathy Foster
8	John and Eulalie Davis
14	Frank and Sandy Imes
19	David and Sarah Lee
28	Jason and Jennifer Shelby
29	Tom and Sunny Whitaker



Intercessions

Randy Jones	Bobby	Steele Family
David and Sarah Lee	Family of Colby Waldon	Teen Stallworth deRoode
The W.B. and Hazel Russell Family	Lynne Rosamond	John Simpson
Joe Smith and Family	Chip Billups	Matt and Alice Parker
Doug Crowe	Rose Loftis	Rusty Holleman
Mary Clopton	The Kemp Family	Patsy McDaniel
Dalana Chandler and family	Peggy Gentry	Bruce Howell
Carole Moss	Richard Thomas	Juanita Trimuel
Brittani Devore	John David Hardy	Wink Wright
David Pridmore	Katherine Horton	George Richards
Herb Blakeney	Jacob Davis	Kim Sanders
Dave White and family	Jan Ballard	Nancy Smith
Sherri Fairley and family	Beth Rice	Mallory Caissie
Anna Myers Bolton	Samantha Turner	Allison Whitaker
Ann and Jesse Sparkman	Paulette Frank	Dot Breland
Katharine McClanahan	Linda Horn	Eddie Mauck
Harriet and Cleatus Doyel	Kevin Alexander	Emily Hayden
Carmen and BJ Montgomery	Linda G.	Eugene Blaine and Family
Dan Waldrop	Tammie Damron Dolan family	Jamie McCollum
Sue Monesmith	Faye Tabor	Martha
Taylor Fields and family	Betty Lou Jones	James and Ann Masinelli
Eric Niebuhr	Mollie Hamblin	Jeana L. Whitacre
Don Callaway	Valerie Gonzolaes	John Barron
Gina Swartz	Carole Knie	Lee Ann Dorn
Carolyn Laster	Kevin Hogan	Brenda Caradine
Doug Phillips and family	Sandra Mims	Nursing Home Residents:
Jean Floore	Myra Rowzee	Trey Atkins
Pat Jones Kinder	Marquita Kirk and Yvonne Sanders	
Axel Durr	Vernon Gregory	



**ALL YOUTH EVENT REGISTRATIONS OPEN
JANUARY 1
CAMP REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 30**

DIOCESAN YOUTH EVENTS Spring 2023

JANUARY 27-29

Youth Presence
at Diocesan Council

FEBRUARY 24-26

Jr. High DOY @ CBG

MARCH 10-12

TRINITY, HATTIESBURG
Happening #94

APRIL 14-16

Sr. High DOY @ CBG





December 2022

December

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
				1	2	3
4 Sunday School 9:15 Services at 8:00 & 10:30	5 Preschool Board Meeting 5:30	6	7 Choir Practice 4:30 Advent Study 5:30	8	9	10
11 Pageant Practice 9:15 Services at 8:00 & 10:30 Deacon's Mass 5:30	12	13 Preschool Christmas Program 10:00	14 Choir Practice 4:30 Advent Study 5:30	15	16	17
18 Services at 8:00 & 10:30 Farewell Reception 9:00-10:15 Christmas Pageant 10:30 Blessing of Gospel Book 10:30 Lessons & Carols 5:30	19 Vestry Meeting 5:30	20	21 Choir Practice 4:30 Advent Study 5:30	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 5:30
25 Christmas Day Service 9:00 Chapel	26 Church Office Closed	27	28	29	30	31