

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*December 2023
Newsletter*



Advent begins on December 3, 2023



**St. Paul's Christmastide schedule
is on page 12**

DECEMBER AT A GLANCE

**** See page 12 for full Christmastide schedule**

SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:00AM & 9:30AM*

CHURCH OPEN FOR PRAYER & REFLECTION

Wednesdays 10:00AM – 1:00PM (see page 11)

ADULT FORUM – THE PSALMS OF ADVENT via ZOOM

Wednesdays at 7PM during Advent (starts November 29) (see page 3)

HOLIDAY STROLL

Friday, December 1st 4:00PM – 9:00PM (see page 5)

BELLS FOR BEGINNERS

Sunday, December 3rd – 9:10AM practice time (see page 6)

DECEMBER FOOD/DIAPER DRIVE

Saturday, December 9th - 9AM-12PM (see page 9)

ST. NICHOLAS CELEBRATION & CHILDREN'S WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, December 10th (see pages 4 & 6)

HOLIDAY FOR GIVING DEADLINE (ST. PAUL'S CHURCH TREE)

Sunday, December 10th (see page 4)

STORY WALK AT MARCUS COOKE PARK

Sunday, December 17th at 8:30AM (see page 7)

FAMILY SERVICE & PAGEANT

Sunday, December 24th (see page 7)

**DEADLINE FOR THE JANUARY NEWSLETTER IS
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12TH AT NOON**

*****SAVE THE DATES for these JANUARY events*****

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

Annual Parish Meeting

*9:30 Combined Service followed by Annual Meeting & potluck brunch
(Snow Date: February 4th)

With more on-site events taking place in the church building again, just a gentle reminder to please be in touch with the parish office to advise and request dates and times for any activity or meeting that will be taking place at St. Paul's. It is important to make sure events are on the calendar to avoid any potential overlapping dates! Thank you in advance for your help with this important task!



At our November meeting, the Vestry discussed a variety of ongoing projects including Stewardship Sunday, the upcoming Holiday Stroll, and the Christmas service schedule (which you will see has been changed this year due to Christmas Eve being on a Sunday). We also voted to allocate \$300 of our advertising budget to try out Facebook ads for

our upcoming Advent and Christmas services. Hope McGrath is spearheading this effort, and we will analyze the impact after the holidays to determine if this is something we want to continue. We continued conversations about identifying priorities for allocating the Outreach money generated from Sacred Trust and will be establishing a subcommittee of Vestry members and parishioners to work on this. If you are interested in participating, please let Amy Foster know.

Regarding the search for a priest-in-charge, the Vestry has completed the Unconscious Bias training that is required before we read applications or interview candidates. In addition, the job opening has been posted not only on the ECCT website but also on two nationwide sites. Now, we pray and we wait to see who comes forward. We ask that you keep this process in your prayers as we seek to find the right person for St. Paul's!

Amy Foster, Senior Warden
Tammy Napoli, Junior Warden
On behalf of the Vestry

Adult Forum: The Psalms of Advent



Adult Forum will return to **Zoom** for an Advent program that explores the **Advent themes of hope, peace, joy, and love through the psalms** appointed for the four Sundays in Advent. Join us via Zoom at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, Nov. 29, Dec. 6, Dec. 13, and Dec. 20. If you would like to participate, please email Amy Foster at foster9092@gmail.com.

Advent Devotional Booklets

December 3 is the First Sunday of Advent, and there will be devotional booklets available at both entrances to the church--- *Living Well Through Advent 2023: Practicing Wonder with All Your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind*. Published by *Living Compass*, the booklets include day-by-day reflections offered by gifted writers that focus on wonder as a spiritual practice. In addition to the reflections, there is a collection of quotes, Bible verses, prayers, poems, and contemplative practices. All are welcomed to pick up a copy and journey with wonder during Advent.



Lighting the Advent Candles

One of the ways we mark the four expectant weeks of Advent is by lighting the candles on the Advent wreath every week at each service. If you would like to do this during one of the four weeks of Advent, please be in touch with Rev.

Dr. Linda Spiers or you may also contact the parish office at 203-269-5050 or office@stpaulswallingford.org. Single folks, empty-nesters and families' welcome! The Sundays of Advent are December 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th.



St. Paul's will once again be partnering with Wallingford's "Holiday for Giving" to help those in need in our community have a wonderful holiday. **Our drive this year starts on Thanksgiving Weekend, November 26th, and ends on St. Nicholas Sunday, December 10th.** We will have the Christmas tree up in the back of the church and it will be decorated with "wishes" ornaments. Please take a wishes ornament and bring back an unwrapped gift to place under the tree. We ask when you take a "wishes" ornament off the tree, you hang another ornament from the box so our tree will stay decorated throughout the Christmas season reminding us of the warmth and joy we brought to others. We are asking for infant items (rattles, small stuffed animals, teething toys, clothing); toys, books, puzzles, and games for children ages 1 to 10; toddler underwear, socks and sleep pants for the Community Day Care; gift cards \$20 or under to Walmart, Subway, East Side Market, Shop Rite, Stop & Shop, and pizza, ice cream, and donut shops.

The deadline for placing gifts under the Christmas tree is Sunday December 10th. We will be collecting items the weeks of November 26th, December 3rd, at the December Food Drive on December 9th, and on Sunday, December 10th (St. Nicholas Sunday). What better way to honor St. Nicholas than to put a toy for a needy child under our Christmas tree and then come down to coffee hour to enjoy a very special St. Nicholas coffee and cocoa hour. And please wear your favorite funny, ugly Christmas sweater on December 10th. Santa may have a surprise for you if you do. You may also leave your donations outside the church office on Wednesdays between the hours of 11:00 and 2:00.



Holiday Stroll: Friday, December 1st



St Paul's will be open to greet the public during the Wallingford Holiday Stroll. Can you help host for an hour or so between 4:00 - 9:00pm? Donate apple cider

or bring seasonal goodies to share with our guests? Sign up on the list on the easel in the back of church. Darlene James and Jay Lindsay will be playing music throughout the evening with the **Community Carol Sing at 6:30 pm** — open to all, so invite friends!



Our Thrift Shop will also be open during the **Holiday Stroll evening, Friday, December 1st from 4:00PM until 7:00PM**. If you'd like to work in the shop for part or all of that time, please let Helen Stowe or Carole Ireland know. Or just pop in and say hello! Thank you!

If you are interested in being part of the Thrift Shop Team in any way, please let Helen Stowe (203-848-7113) or Carole Ireland (203-988-7405) know. Thank you.

CHURCH SCHOOL



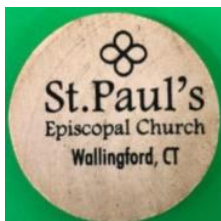
December is jam-packed with events for children and families at St. Paul's! Here's what's coming up this month:

December 3rd—Bells for Beginners

On the first Sunday of December, Bells for Beginners will once again be playing during the 9:30 worship service! Children of all ages and all musical abilities are welcome. Rehearsal will take place at 9:10 in the Purple Room, before regularly scheduled Church School at 9:30. Please be on time—children who arrive after 9:15 will unfortunately not be allowed to join.

December 10th—Children's Worship Service

On the Second Sunday of Advent, children will be leading the 9:30 worship service! They will be doing the readings, prayers, and sharing some reflections about Advent and Christmastide. We hope that you will come support our children as they make worship their own.



(continued on next page....)



December 17th—Story Walk

Story Walks continue on the third Sunday of Advent, at 8:30 at Marcus Cooke Park. Whether you're a regular at these bible-based woodland adventures, or you've never before attended one, we hope you'll join us! After the Story Walk there will be 9:30 Church School. This departure from the usual pattern of having the children in worship after a Story Walk is to make up for the fact that the children will have been in worship the previous Sunday.

December 24th—9:30 Family Service & Pageant

During 9:30 worship on the morning of Christmas Eve, St. Paul's children will be putting on a Christmas pageant! With the exception of a few speaking roles, there will be no rehearsal or preparation necessary. If your child wants to participate, simply show up at St. Paul's at 9:00. Church School volunteers will set them up with a costume and walk them through the whole thing.

We hope that you will join us for any or all of these opportunities! Thank you so much to all the parents, children, and volunteers who make St. Paul's Church School possible.

Yours in Christ,

Nathan Leach

Director of Religious Education

christianeducation@stpaulswallingford.org



HARVEST FAIR UPDATE

It was the first Saturday in seven weeks that the sun was shining – outside and inside. Our Harvest Fair kicked off at 9:00 a.m. following a week of making our famous Mile High Apple Pies. This year we made a total of 222 pies and donated 11 to Master's Manna.

After all the baskets were won, after all the burgers and hot dogs and grilled cheese sandwiches, and apple pie a la mode were eaten, after the tables were taken down and the kitchen cleaned, and the vendors packed up, we were thankful for the success of our Harvest Fair. The net proceeds raised from the Harvest Fair totaled \$4,511.33!

The success of our Harvest Fair was made possible by the help of so many who dedicated hours of time making pies, setting up and manning St. Paul's tables, cooking and serving lunch, and cleaning up afterwards, and the fourteen vendors who brought beautiful items to sell, the Henry family who donated the apples, everyone who came down to Wilkinson Hall to help peel apples, roll dough and assemble the pies during the week before, and the many people who came through our doors to have fun and purchase items. This year's fair especially showed the unity of St. Paul's, the bringing together of everyone to help make this event a success. A special thank you to each and every one of you.



Worship Leaders

Calling all readers, crucifers, ministers of communion! Sign up sheets are available on the easel in the back of the church. You may also call the parish office and Jen Parsons will sign you up.

November Food & Diaper Drive UPDATE!

We had competition for the November Food Drive. The Boy Scouts were running their Thanksgiving Food Drive on the same day. But we still collected 320 lbs of food for Master's Manna, along with \$453 in cash donations -- \$373 of which was collected at Jay's concert -- and \$215 for diapers for the Community Day Care. When we drove our two SUVs into Master's Manna's driveway at 12:15, the Boy Scouts (including St. Paul's Troop 4) had already unloaded and were sorting 7,000 lbs of food. We heard later that evening that they collected 11,500 lbs. We thank everyone who supported St. Paul's and the Boy Scouts -- it was truly a community endeavor.

***THE NEXT FOOD & DIAPER DRIVE IS
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9TH***

**DRIVE-THRU
COMMUNITY
FOOD DRIVE**

TO BENEFIT



**ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL
CHURCH PARKING LOT**

**SATURDAY,
December 9th
9AM-12PM**

2023 Annual Convention

The 239th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut (ECCT) was held in Hartford on October 28th and 29th. Brian Sahlin and Patti Cullen attended as St. Paul's lay delegates. Eight resolutions were adopted, and several annual elections were held.

A summary follows:

- 1) Approved ECCT's \$7 million operating budget. The two main revenue sources - parish contributions of \$4.2 million (58%) and a draw from endowment funds \$2.1 million (30%) go to support a wide variety of missions and initiatives. Other revenue sources cover ECCT's administrative expenses.
- 2) Approved of a 3.05% percent cost of living increase in the clergy compensation schedule.
- 3) Adopted the amendment to Canon XVI - Bishop Transition Process which will streamline that process.
- 4) Passed a resolution Repudiating Discriminatory Legislation and Harmful Rhetoric Targeted at Transgender, Non-binary, and Gender Non-Conforming Persons. This resolution will be forwarded to the General Convention Office where it will be shared with those working on this issue.
- 5) Approved a \$20K appropriation for a historical analysis of ECCT endowments and to support congregations desiring to join in the work of Racial reparations.
- 6) Acknowledged the 175th Anniversary of the Abolition of Slavery in the state of CT and created an ECCT Reparations fund.
- 7) Voted to end the requirement for a Racial Justice Addendum to the ECCT Parochial report as it duplicated information and created an unreasonable burden on parishes to report this information twice. Instead, the parishes will use the narrative section of the parochial report to describe the Ministries of Racial Healing, Justice and Reconciliation.
- 8) Approved the merger of St. Mary's, Manchester and St. John's, Vernon. The new Parish will be called St. John's.

Annual elections filled positions for Standing Committee and Mission Council, among others. A complete list of resolutions, election results and the Bishop's Address can be found online on the ECCT website. Please reach out to Patti or Brian if you have any questions.

--Submitted by Patti Cullen & Brian Sahlin

Christmas Memorials -- 2023



Christmas is a special season to remember your loved ones. And what better way to honor their memory than with a Christmas memorial flower. If you would like to make a donation to the Christmas memorials, please submit a form with the names of those you would like remembered along with your **check payable to**

St. Paul's Flower Fund in the amount of \$25.00. Forms can be found at both entrances. You may place your form in the collection plate or drop it off at the church office on Wednesdays or Fridays between 11:00 and 2:00, or at the Food/Diaper Drive on Saturday, December 9th. **The deadline is December 12th.** Please be sure to include your name, address and phone number. If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Rogalski at 203-678-4824 or srogal156@comcast.net.

The Church will be open Wednesdays from 10:00 am to 1:00pm for prayer & reflection.

A member of the Healing Prayer Team will be available from noon on to offer prayers and blessings-to-go, upon request.



The Parish Office Hours

The parish office is open to the public on Wednesdays and Fridays from 11AM-2:00PM. Please email or call the office at (203) 269-5050 to arrange any additional times to meet during the week.

Calls, emails and other matters will generally be addressed during business hours of 9:00-3:00 Tuesday-Friday.



Christmastide 2023 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church

65 North Main Street Wallingford CT 06492

203-269-5050

www.stpaulswallingford.org

Sunday, December 24: The Eve of the Nativity

8:00 AM The Fourth Sunday of Advent – Holy Eucharist, Rite I

9:30 AM Family Pageant Service with Holy Eucharist

NOTE TO FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN: Bring your child to church at 9:00 AM to select a role & costume for our Pageant tableau!

Angels, shepherds, sheep & more animal costumes available!

9:30 PM Choral Prelude with St. Paul's Choir,
flute & string quartet

10:00 PM Candlelight Service with Choir &
Carols & Holy Eucharist

Monday, December 25: The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Single service at 9:30AM Holy Eucharist

No Nursery or Church School.

Sunday, December 31: The First Sunday After Christmas

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I and **9:30 AM** Holy Eucharist, Rite II

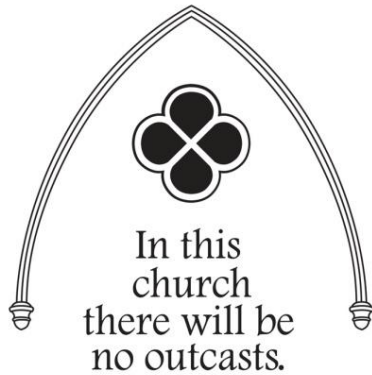
No Nursery or Church School.

Sunday, January 7: Epiphany Sunday

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite I

9:30 AM Epiphany Lessons & Carols, Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Nursery, Church School & Coffee Hour resume.



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

The parish office can be reached at (203) 269-5050.

E-mail – office@stpaulswallingford.org

Fax – (203) 269-3813

Web Site – www.stpaulswallingford.org

If we are not in the office, please leave a message.

VESTRY

Senior Warden, Amy Foster
Junior Warden, Tammy Napoli
Clerk, Ben Henry
Treasurer, Ted Hartsoe
David Adams
Hope McGrath
Sharon Turlis

Wendy Oestreicher
Nathalie Szilagyi
Carole Ireland
Patricia Cullen
Art Sousa
Larry Stowe

Please advise us of

- change of address or telephone numbers
- illness, hospitalizations, deaths
- requests for baptisms, weddings, etc


Times for St. Paul's Sunday Service
Comcast Cable Channel 18
Frontier Channel 99
www.WPAA.TV - WPAA on the Internet
Sunday - 5:00 PM
Monday – 12:30 AM, 1:00 PM, and 11:00 PM

[Click here to sign up for email blasts and text messages.](#)

Keeping in touch is more important than ever!

St. Paul's is on YouTube & Facebook!

Please follow us and "LIKE" us:

[YouTube](#)  **YouTube** **St. Paul's Episcopal Church Wallingford, CT**
Please subscribe to our YouTube channel

[Facebook](#)  **St. Paul's Episcopal Church Wallingford, CT**

Thank you for pledging!

We appreciate your faithful giving.

You may give online by going to **stpaulswallingford.org** and clicking the red "Donate Now" button, mail your gifts into the parish office or place your offering in the basket during Sunday worship. It's all good! Thank you.



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Wallingford, CT 06492

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