

SAINT PAUL'S Epistle

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December 2009

Volume 67, Number 11

THANK YOU!!

Consider this is a huge thank you for all who helped us prepare & serve thanksgiving dinner at south park inn.

There are so many of you to thank for all you did. Thanksgiving at South Park Inn was a truly Blessed event and the amounts of thank you's and God Bless you's that we received from the families who benefited from your efforts are too many to list!

Our thanks to Stew Leonard's, Shop Rite Supermarkets and Hall's Market of West Hartford who helped supply some of the food!

This is also a huge thank you for all of the youth that collected cans & bottles used to purchase bus transportation tokens.

For those who don't know this, these tokens will be used at the South Park Inn so that people living there can hop a bus ride to get to an employment interview or a doctors visit. Thanks you guys. All of us can learn from what you did. Imagine what it took to collect 1063 cans and turn that into something useable for someone else. Talk about recycling!

There is a constant need for towels, wash clothes & bus tokens at the South Park Inn. We also need toiletries as well. In 2010 we will be launching a new campaign to collect donations of used towels and wash clothes or collect money to purchase new. Stay tuned for this exciting new area of outreach. A huge thanks to all who have been generous in their donations in the past.

If you would like more information before then, please contact Jim Newmark at (860) 231-2769.



Seymour "Red" Koczka 10/31/09
Genevieve "Gennie" Klatt 11/1/09

THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

The following excerpt is from a letter written by Dietrich Bonhoeffer on December 17, 1943 to his parents as he sat in Tegel Prison knowing that he would likely never be released by the Nazis. Bonhoeffer was a German Lutheran pastor who was part of a resistance movement opposing Nazism. He was executed on April 9, 1945.

Dear parents,

Above all, you must not think that I will let myself sink into depression during this lonely Christmas. .

From a Christian point of view, a Christmas in a prison cell is no special problem. It will probably be celebrated here in this house more sincerely and with more meaning than outside where the holiday is observed in name only.

That Christ was born in a stable because he found no room in the Inn—a prisoner grasps that better than someone else. For him it really is a joyous message, and because he believes it, he knows that he has been placed in the Christian fellowship that breaks all the bounds of time and space; and the months in prison lose their importance.

On Holy Evening (Christmas Eve) I will be thinking of all of you very much, and I would very much like for you to believe that I will have a few beautiful hours and my troubles will certainly not overcome me.

If one thinks of the terrors that have recently come to so many people [with the heavy allied fire bombings] in Berlin, then one first becomes conscious of how much we still have for which to be thankful. Overall, it will surely be a very silent Christmas, and the children will still be thinking back on it for a long time to come. And maybe in this way it becomes clear to many what Christmas really is. . .

Your Dietrich



WANTED ~ Holiday Decorations

Consider donating your gently used holiday decorations that you may no longer be using to the Thursday morning group. Contact Debbie Viola ~ 529-5051



The Sunday School Christmas celebration will be December 20th during the 10:30 AM service. We have selected a new program this year called, Remembering the Night that Changed the World.” We are in need of animal costumes for the pageant. Please consider either donating any gently used costumes— or maybe you are crafty enough to make one. We are looking for lots of volunteers to help and participate.

There will be a reception following the service with baked goods and beverages. We are seeking a coordinator to help make this part of the event a success.

Dress rehearsal for everyone is scheduled for December 19th 9 AM - 12 PM.

We are looking for lots of volunteers to help and participate. Please contact Debbie Viola at 860-529-5051 or Alice Ruppap at 860-721-6455.

Thank you,
Sunday School Teachers and Education Community

*Please note no Sunday School January 3rd we will resume on January 10th.

SOUTH PARK INN

The next dates to serve meals to S.P.I. will be December 2nd (Wednesday), December 10th (Thursday), and December 16th (Wednesday). We meet at St. Paul’s @ 4:15 PM. For information or to indicate your desire to participate, please contact Jim Newmark at jnewmark@stpaulswethersfiled.org or (860)268-5070.



The poinsettia orders for the “Memorial Garden” can be dropped off at the office on or before December 13th. It is most important tht you let us know ahead of time whether or not you are taking a plant, since all remaining plants will be delivered to our shut-ins. The poinsettias will be ordered from Patrissi’s Nursery in West Hartford. The cost will be \$12 per plant.

NEW FLOWERING PEAR TREE

Also take with you every kind of food that is eaten, and store it up; and it shall serve as food for you and for them." Genesis 6:21

The planting of a flowering pear tree at the Westway entrance to the parking lot was a memorial gift honoring Dorothy Latham, long time member of our congregation and resident of Westway. Dorothy was an advocate and interested in gardening. The purchased tree through the town’s program by the Wethersfield Village Improvement Association for



In honor of...

our 375th anniversary can be enjoyed by all especially upon entering the parking lot or our church. The hope is to see 375 trees through out the town especially after the June tornado.

ETERNAL CANDLE

Please note that as of January 2010 there will be an increase for the Eternal Candle of \$20 per month.





Christmas Card Tree

Rather than spend lots of money each year on tasteful but expensive Christmas cards for members of St. Paul's, we have used our Christmas card tree to send season's greetings to each other. The money saved has gone to the Wethersfield Fuel Bank to help pay the winter heating bills of our needy neighbors. This year the Outreach Committee has expanded upon this plan. We have determined that Outreach Funds will be used to *match* the amount contributed by the congregation. This matched money will be maintained here at church to be used by any needy families within the parish. If no need is brought to our attention, this additional money will be given to the Wethersfield Fuel Bank at some point in the future. When we think of the word *home*, we automatically think of *warmth*. For some people these words don't go together during the winter. We can help.

Thank you,
Outreach Committee

December Birthdays

- 3 Charlotte Homick
- 4 Carolyn Champagne
- 5 Kenneth Baumgartel
- 7 Carole Hughes
- 11 Christine Wittkop
- 11 Serge DeBlois
- 13 Bill Fischer Jr.
- 15 Brian Beckwith
- 15 Jim Newmark
- 16 Dot Matteson
- 17 Ursula Barr
- 18 Julie Perry
- 18 Beth-Ann Vogt
- 19 Helen Kanupka
- 20 Mary Baumgartel
- 22 Kyla Anderson
- 26 Peter Vanturas
- 28 Charles Bengtson
- 28 Charlotte Preuss
- 30 Timothy Rupp



It is that glorious time of the year again when we get to do for others by living our faith. It is a chance for us to share our Lord's message through song. On Sunday December 20th, 2009 we will go Christmas Caroling together to our shut-ins in the Cromwell, Newington, Rocky Hill and Wethersfield areas. Whether or not you can sing, join us. I promise you that this is going to be the gift you receive this Christmas that will blow the socks off all of your other presents because this gift is the gift of love that we will share with others! Afterwards, our celebration will continue with a Pizza at Vito's.


The festivities will begin around 2:45 PM with us meeting at the PE building to gather, organizing our caravans and heading out to both convalescent centers and friends homes for the caroling. That's right - friends homes too! If you have someone that you would like us to sing for please let me know. We will leave the church by 3:00 PM and return back to Vito's on the Silas Deane Highway by 6:00 PM. I'm so excited already - can you feel it too? Hope you can join us and Merry Christmas! For more information call Jim Newmark at (860) 231-2769 or email me jnewmark@stpaulswethersfield.org.



Can You Help? ~ A Simple Fund Raiser

Please donate your cans & bottles to St. Paul's. When the Youth was preparing to go to the National Youth Gathering, we raised over \$400 dollars by redeeming cans & bottles. That more than covered one round trip ticket to New Orleans! We are now designating the money to the *Out Reach Fund* where we will be able to help support our Ministry to South Park Inn. We will use the money to purchase towels and bus tokens. There is a spot in the lower PE Building by the kitchen to leave clean cans and bottles. If it is easier, you may leave them by the coat rack on the first floor. Thanks for your support.

December 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Outreach Team 7 PM OA 7:30PM	2 Bible Study 10:30 AM South Park Inn 4:15 PM AA 7 PM Choir rehearsal 7:30 PM	3 Thurs. Group 10AM	4 AA 10 AM	5 AA 7:30PM
	7	8 Stewardship Team 5:30PM OA 7:30PM	9 Bible Study 10:30 AM Pastor @ Wethersfield Health Care 2PM Youth Group 6:30 PM AA 7 PM Choir rehearsal 7:30 PM	10 Thurs. Group 10AM South Park Inn 4:15 PM	11 AA 10 AM	12 AA 7:30PM
6 2nd Sunday of Advent Holy Comm. 8 AM Holy Comm. 10:30 AM						
13 3rd Sunday of Advent Holy Comm. 8 AM Holy Comm. 10:30 AM	14	15 <u>*Epistle Deadline</u> OA 7:30PM	16 Bible Study 10:30 AM South Park Inn 4:15 PM Youth Group 6:30 PM AA 7 PM Choir rehearsal 7:30 PM	17 Men's Brkfst 7AM Thurs. Group 10AM	18 AA 10 AM	19 AA 7:30PM
20 4th Sunday of Advent Sunday School Christmas Pageant "Remembering the Night that Changed the World" 10:30 AM NO 8 AM Service Christmas Caroling 2:45PM	21	22 Parish Admin. 6:30PM Council 7:30PM OA 7:30PM	23 Bible Study 10:30 AM Youth Group 6:30 PM AA 7 PM Choir rehearsal 7:30 PM	24 <u>Christmas Eve Service</u> 6 & 10:30 PM	25 Merry Christmas AA 10 AM	26 AA 7:30PM
27 Holy Communion One Service at 9:30 AM	28	29 OA 7:30PM	30 No Bible Study No Youth Group AA 7 PM Choir rehearsal 7:30 PM	31 <u>New Years Eve</u>		

ST. PAUL'S MEMBERS IN SERVICE FOR December 2009

ACOLYTES:

Linda Anderson, Coordinator, 659-4094

- Dec 6 - Cameron Cheyney
- 13 - Angela Mihalick
- 20 - **Pageant**
- 24 - Kaitlin Anderson 6 PM
- 24 -
- 27 - Gretchen Schultz

ALTAR GUILD:

Linda Anderson, Coordinator, 659-4094

- Dec 6 - Elaine Strecker & Linda Anderson
- 13 - Carol Farley & Debbie Howe
- 20 - **Pageant**
- 24 - Mary Procyk & Cindy Seip
- 24 - Anderson's
- 27 - Jennie Dotts & Betty Lamo

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

- Dec 6 - Art Fischer - 8:00
- Bill Fischer - 10:30
- 13 - Emily Lourigan - 8:00
- Kathy Coyle - 10:30
- 20 - Mary Procyk - 10:30 **Pageant**
- 24 - Mike Coyle - 6 PM
- Bill Fischer Jr. - 10:30 PM
- 27 - Jerry Vaillancourt - 9:30 AM

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

Sue Agne, Coordinator, 563-0776

- Dec 6 - Helen Peterson
- 13 - Sue Agne
- 20 - **Pageant**
- 24 - **Volunteer Needed** 6 PM
- **Volunteer Needed** 10:30 PM
- 27 - Curt Leonard

FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS:

Winnie Sawrun, Coordinator, 529-7588

- Dec 6 - Christine & Rick Intravia
- 13 - Ann French & Winnie Sawrun
- 20 - **Pageant**
- 27 - Pam & Jody DiNatalie

FINANCE:

Mary Procyk, Coordinator, 257-4793

- Dec 6 - Winnie Sawrun
- 13 - George Howe
- 20 - Art Bruce
- 24 - Mike Coyle
- 27 - Lillian Doerschler

LECTORS:

Lillian Doerschler, Coordinator, 529-1939

- Dec 6 - Winnie Sawrun
- 13 - Kaitlin Anderson
- 20 - **Pageant**
- 24 - Vicki Anderson 6 PM
- 24 - Bill Fischer Jr. 10:30 PM
- 27 - David Bayek

NURSERY:

Ann French, Coordinator, 529-3245

- Dec 6 - Margaret DeBlois
- 13 - Rachel & Pam DiNatalie
- 20 - **Pageant**
- 27 - No Nursery

TAPING MINISTRY:

Coordinator,

Dec **Volunteer Needed**

USHERS:

Brian Beckwith, Coordinator, 8AM, 563-4066

Dec Emily & Les Lourigan

Louise Lostocco, Coordinator, 10:30AM, 529-3079

- Dec 6 - Bill Caughman & Mary Ann Mead
- 13 - Bill Caughman & William Fischer Sr.
- 20 - Bill Caughman &
- 24 - Art & Carol Bruce 6 PM
- **Volunteer Needed** 10:30 PM
- 27 - Bill Caughman & Mary Ann Mead

SAINT PAUL'S **Epistle**

SAINT PAUL'S EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH

371 Wolcott Hill Road

Wethersfield, CT 06109

www.stpaulswethersfield.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Worship at 8:00 and 10:30AM

SCS & Adult Ed. at 9:00AM

OFFICERS AND STAFF

Rev. Hugh R. B. Haffenreffer, PastorOffice: (860) 529-5397
 Cell Phone: (860) 966-7360
pastorh@stpaulswethersfield.org

Office Manager.....Janet Vasel: *janet@stpaulswethersfield.org*

Council President.....Rick Seip: *rseip@stpaulswethersfield.org*

Council Vice President.....Jim Newmark: *jnewmark@stpaulswethersfield.org*

SecretaryBill Fischer: *bfischer@stpaulswethersfield.org*

TreasurerTom Grottke: *tgrottke@stpaulswethersfield.org*

Financial Sect'y/Bookkeeper.....Mary Procyk: *mprocyk@stpaulswethersfield.org*

Minister of MusicMelissa Cheyney

Superintendent of Sunday Church School.....Alice Rupp

REMINDERS:

Christmas Pageant! Sunday, December 20 at 10:30 AM

NO 8:00 AM service on the 20th

Christmas Eve Services 6 and 10:30 PM

One Service on December 27 at 9:30 AM

December 2009