

St. Paul's News

DECEMBER 2016



From the Pastor's Pen:

St. Paul's,

Welcome to Advent. It hardly seems possible that we have already reached this four-week period of waiting and preparation for the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In our worship together during this month we are going to focus on some of the well-known characters in our Christmas story: Zechariah, Joseph, Mary, and the shepherds. We will discuss one experience they all have in common: a visit by an angel who tells them "Do not be afraid." Of course this is a common greeting of angels after all we would all be a little scared if a heavenly being suddenly appeared in front of us.

However, in addition to the appearance of the angels it is not difficult to imagine that all of these people had other parts of their lives that were causing them to be fearful. They were afraid of failure, rejection, inadequacy, and the future. Do any of these, sound like familiar fears to you? Well that is what we will be discussing during Advent. What can we learn for the fears that these characters in our Christmas story face and how Jesus who is our Prince of Peace has come to save us from our fears.

Of course we will also be celebrating many of our Advent traditions. The children and youth will present the Christmas story in worship on December 18th. We will worship together on Christmas Eve with our favorite carols, the Christmas story, and candlelight at 7:00pm.

Christmas is on a Sunday this year and we will be joining together in worship with our

brothers and sisters at First Presbyterian on Sunday, December 25th at 10:30am at First Presbyterian. Mark your calendar now with that change in location and time. This will be a casual service with music and communion. The following Sunday on January 1st, we will host the Presbyterians here at St. Paul's at 10:00am with a service that will celebrate the New Year.

It is my prayer that during this season of Advent we may all have the opportunity to prepare ourselves for the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ, our Prince of Peace.

Peace

Pastor Hannah



Special December Birthdays



12-6 Norina Martin

12-13 Faye Eley

12-14 Pastor Hannah

12-16 Carl Yager

If you are over 80 and would like your birthday listed, contact the church office



If you would like to donate flowers for the altar any time during the year, please call the church office at (419) 447-1743.



Mission Report

November Mission Giving:

Third Sunday Ingathering Offering-
\$ 85.00 First Call for Help distributes these funds to those in need in our Community.

United Methodist Student Day Offering
\$210.00 Thanks to all who made donations!

Thanksgiving offering brought in
\$175.00 Money goes to F.A.C.T

Shoe Box Gifts for Operation Christmas Child-Gary Bigley delivered 27 shoe boxes to the drop site in Tiffin the week of November 14th. Thanks to those who filled boxes with gifts for needy children around the world!! Monetary donations for postage were a big help, also!

Angel Tree tags are in place as I write this article. Tags are made available through the Salvation Army each year. Please take a tag from the tree and purchase a gift for a local child in need! Thanks for your help!

Sharing Kitchen workers will be needed for the 22nd. Workers need to arrive at 8:30 am and leave by 1:00 pm. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the door of the kitchen annex. We need at least 5 workers for this day.

- Kathy Daniel for Missions Committee



Table Favor Committee

The Table Favor Committee will meet on Tuesday, December 6th at 12:30 p.m. Please note the time change. We have a detailed project for Christmas favors that will require more time and patience.

DECEMBER ACOLYTES



If your son or daughter is in Third Grade and older and would like to acolyte, please contact Jill Lindhorst at 419-443-0273 Please consider helping us!



Newsletter deadline for the January Newsletter is December 16^t, 2016.

Please email to secretary@tiffinstpauls.org

Special Worship Schedule



Christmas Eve: Saturday December 24th at 7:00pm at St. Paul's

Christmas Day: Sunday, December 25th at 10:30am at First Presbyterian

New Year's Day: Sunday, January 1st at 10:00am at St. Paul's



Advent Bible Study: "Sing We Now of Christmas"

Join us this Advent for an online bible study based on some of your favorite Christmas Carols. We will learn the story behind the songs and the scriptures that inspired them. Each week will include a song, scripture, prayer and a few questions for you to reflect on. Take time this Advent to prepare for the coming of Christ with us through these Christmas Carols:

- Little Town of Bethlehem
- Angels We Have Heard on High
- What Child Is This
- Away in a Manger
- Joy to the World

Three ways to participate:

1. Follow our church on Facebook and click on the link when it is shared each week.
2. Receive a link via email. Let Pastor Hannah know if you would like an email link.
3. Receive a paper copy in your church mailbox. Let Pastor Hannah know if you would like a paper copy.



UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT

Dress rehearsal for the St. Paul's Children's **Christmas Program** is **Sunday, December 11, 2016**, immediately after Sunday School with a light lunch provided-- **Noon- 1:30 P.M.** Parent and grandparent volunteers welcome, especially with younger children. (Adults are also included for lunch!) Costumes provided.

Sunday, Dec. 18, 2016 is the **Christmas program**. Children and teens need to arrive by **9:00 A.M.** and be outside the choir room at 9:05 sharp!

Those not singing and not playing bells need to arrive by 9:35 A. M. and meet along with their parents, by the costumes, outside the parlor for last minute instructions and a brief prayer.

Christmas Eve the children will be playing **bells**. Children and youth playing bells need to be in the parlor at **6:30 P.M.**
Thanks for all your help!



I've Been Wondering

Check out our new blog site (www.tiffinstpauls.wordpress.com) to see some of the answers to questions member of our community have asked through "I've Been Wondering." We will also share new answers on our facebook page. If you have a question for "I've Been Wondering" email Pastor Hannah (tuckerhe1@gmail.com)



CHRISTMAS ANGELS

The Missions Committee has once again decided to have the Angel Tree at St. Paul's. The Angels are located on the tree near the elevator.

We have 20 children who are in need of a gift this year. The names were given to us from the Salvation Army.

The guidelines are the same as last year, are printed on the back of each angel. Please return the gifts to by December 12th. If you are returning it on a Sunday put it under the tree, if it is during the week please leave it in the church office. Thank you for bringing joy to the children once again this year. If you have any questions please contact Sandy Arnold 419-447-6145 or email her at hitman@bright.net