

**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH
Sunday December 8, 2013
SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT
CHRISTMAS PAGEANT AND WHITE GIFT SERVICE**

With the Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam

Director of Music: Paul Sloan

*When you see this sign, please stand as you are able.

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN: #68 All Poor Ones and Humble*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SAXAPHONE SOLO: "O Come All Ye Faithful" by Caleb Leis

CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)

One: Come! Come once again into this time of Advent and await the presence of God.

Many: We gather together to seek God's word and to remind ourselves of God's promise.

One: It is written that long ago, Joseph of Nazareth, promised in marriage to Mary, learned that she was expecting a child.

Many: Acting alone, he decided to quietly end his relationship with Mary.

One: Yet, he was not alone. God's messenger came to him in a dream and told him the good news.

Many: The child would be Emmanuel, God-with-us. His name would be Jesus, and he would bring the people back to God.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF PEACE

Thank You, God, for sending Jesus,
your gift of peace to the world.

Help us to work with him to find peaceful ways to solve problems in our own lives and in the world.

Let this candle remind us that the light of Christ is shining in our hearts and can spread from us to others
when we live in peace. Amen

(Sue Browning, Grace U.C., Sarnia, Ont).

RESPONSE: #6 vs 2

**A candle is burning, a candle of peace,
a candle to signal that conflict must cease:
for Jesus is coming to show us the way;
a message of peace humbly laid in the hay.**

OPENING PRAYER

**HYMN: #56 Jesus, Our Brother*

ANTHEM The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy

The Story of Jesus' Birth!

The Story of Jesus' Birth! ...Continues

CHILDREN'S CHOIR – "Away in a Manger"

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS

HYMN: #46 Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

**DOXOLOGY: #VU 541*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures high and low; give thanks to God in love made known: Creator,
Word and Spirit, One.**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

PLAY: **A White Gift for Jesus Today with** the Children's choir accompanied by Iris Leck on piano and Cayley Black on flute

PRESENTING OF THE WHITE GIFTS AND FOOD

HYMN: #75 While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SOLO: "A Child's Prayer" (W. H. Anderson) sung by Shayla Brown accompanied by Louise Leck

COMMISSIONING/BENEDICTION

* *RECESSIONAL HYMN: #43 Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

(please allow the choir to recess fully before leaving the sanctuary)

Welcome! Are you new to St. Paul's?

Whether you're just visiting or looking to stay, it is great to have you with us. Please make yourself known to our greeters, and pick up a welcome package. Please join us after the service for refreshments in our Great Hall, and find out more info about St. Paul's and get connected into the community. **What to expect** - The only thing we ask you to do is to relax. You are with people just like you. Whether you have been here many times or never been to Church before, you can anticipate an encouraging and enlightening experience. **Today we will be having our annual Christmas Pot Luck luncheon in the Great Hall following the service all are welcome!**

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Website: stpaulsmidland.org *Like us on facebook!*

Minister – All of the Congregation

Pre-Service Music

Administrator

Custodian

Rick Taylor

Judy McConnell

Mary Ellen Petticrew

Captain of the Greeters for December is Joan Lavin

Joan Lavin will be delivering DVD's.

Captain of the Counters for December is Heather Wilson

No nursery today!

****Congregational Meeting:** On Sunday, Dec. 15, 2013, immediately following the worship service, there will be a Congregational Meeting to discuss and vote on a proposal being recommended by the Official Board regarding short term staffing needs. All members and adherents are encouraged to stay for this brief meeting.

Thank you to the Circle for organizing the pot-luck luncheon today! We want to thank our wonderful children of the Sunday school for contribution to our service today. Each one of you has done a wonderful job. We would like to extend a big thank you to the volunteer Sunday school teachers for their hard work.

UCW Christmas luncheon Tuesday Dec 10th at 12:30pm in the parlour. Please bring finger foods to share, tea will be provided.

The UCW have a limited number of **2014 Church calendars** at \$5.00 each. Please call 705-526-8293 if you would like a calendar.

Bible Study – will meet at 11am next week. To celebrate the

season please bring along finger food to share.

Next Sunday we will welcome the **Bell A'Peal handbell choir** to our own Victoria Warwick.

our service. This choir is under the direction of our



Supporting our Community at Christmas!

Your Benevolent Funds at work – our Outreach committee is looking for Island Christmas hampers on Thursday Dec 19th at 1pm in the gym. We are please call the church office at 705-526-6077 or see Jim Sinclair at coffee time. St. Paul's will be helping out 41 families on Christian island this Christmas. **We have been doing this for many years and wish to thank our Outreach Committee for all their hard work in this wonderful outpouring of Christmas spirit.** On Christmas Eve our collection goes to the Benevolent Fund to help with food vouchers for people in our community and such projects as Christmas Hampers for Christian island along with other benevolent requests through the year.

volunteers to help sort and pack food for the Christian looking for 6-8 volunteers. If you are available

Christmas Eve luncheon December 24 at 1pm – Once again this year at St. Paul's we are offering a Christmas dinner for people who may not have a Christmas meal. **We have filled all the volunteer positions,** but we are still looking for the following items of food: **5 Turkeys cooked and stuffed. 2 - large boxes of Bistro (beef) 4 - kg bags of tossed salad, 2 X 4 litres of milk, 8 pies (do not need to be homemade) 2 cans of orange juice, and 3 dozen buns.**



Christmas Season Food Drive the last Sunday is today. The shelves need to be filled to provide through the winter months. Please count your many blessings and give to those in need. All donations of food will go to the Salvation Army food bank. Your donations of Non-perishable items are greatly appreciated.

Salvation Army - Angel Cards are here: Again this year we have angel cards which are on the bulletin board by the Easy Street entrance. Each card lists a child and their age and gender. If you take a card please return your **unwrapped gift to the church by December 13^h.** The cards have suggestions but you are free to buy an age appropriate gift of your own choosing. Thank You!

Price of tickets varies for each event and are available at Johnstone's Musicland and at the door.

COME OUT AND ENJOY THE MUSIC OF THE SEASON!



Thank you to everyone who ordered a memorial poinsettia. They will be in the sanctuary next Sunday and can be taken home after the Christmas Eve service. Thank You!

Stewardship Committee will meet this Monday at 5pm in the parlour.

Pledge Cards - work on our 2014 budget starts next week, please get you pledge cards into the church office as soon as possible! Thank You!

Advent Services



SERVICES FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON 2013

December 15th - 10am
Third Sunday in Advent

December 22nd – 10am
Fourth Sunday in Advent
Choir Sunday
Cantata by our choir

December 24th – 7PM
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Candlelight Memorial Service – Carson funeral home invites you and your family to our Candlelight Memorial service on Sunday afternoon Dec 8th at 1pm in their chapel. See poster or more info.

MUSICAL CONCERTS FOR CHRISTMAS 2013

TODAY SUNDAY DEC 8TH

VICKI THOMPSON CONCERT AT 7PM

TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED AT THE DOOR!

Thursday Dec. 12th

Brookside Music –

tickets can be purchased at the Cultural Centre

A Baroque Christmas Around the World- 7:30PM

Saturday Dec.14th

VOX Huronia Chamber Choir– 7:30PM

Sunday Dec 15th 2PM

Vox Choir – Carol service and fundraising for an ill young girl in our community.