

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH, MIDLAND
EPHIPANY
SUNDAY, January 6, 2013
*When you see this sign, please stand as you are able.

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The ancient ones saw it this way:
in the beginning the Holy One allowed the light,
“Let there be light,”
And from Spirit’s being, a radiance emerged
that lit creation’s path toward its sacred future.

The scientists see it this way:
in the beginning, from the darkness and emptiness
of nothingness,
an unaccountable explosion of radiation
expanded outward in all directions,
which now our instruments can measure.

The first disciples saw it this way:
Jesus, too, allowed the light
to brighten dark death’s reign,
announcing a new creation,
brightened by justice for all.

The magi, lovers of the starry skies, saw it this way:
the heavens all pointed to an uncreated light,
now formed in a baby’s eye, earth’s native Star,
worthy of wonder and a gift-laden visit.

**All: We might look at it this way:
that same light that shone in Jesus
shines now through us,
and this festival of epiphany is real—
or not—
depending on whether we allow
an eternal shining to light our path
into a future that awaits
our distinctive stamp.
Let there be light. Amen**

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**OPENING HYMN #81 As With Gladness Men of Old*

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

**INTROIT: Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,
I can feel God's mighty power and God's Grace.
I can feel the brush of angels' wings
I see glory on each face,
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.**

OPENING PRAYER

One: O Holy One,
we dwell in darkness
when we are away from you:
ignorant of our true nature,
unaware of life's blessings,
disconnected and isolated
from the dance of the cosmos
and the blessing that we are.

We dwell in light
when we open to you:
aware that we are made in your image,
blessed by the opportunity of being alive,
at one with all that is,
enveloped by you,
luminous in all creation,
beyond all thought,
yet present in our "yes" to life.

**All: May the light of Christ
shine within us, among us,
and from us,
wherever darkness reigns. Amen**

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**HYMN # 87 I Am the Light of the World*

THEME CONVERSATION

LORD'S PRAYER WITH CHILDREN

(The children may go up to Sunday school now)

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS VU# 932(sung)

**Holy, holy, holy are you, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are filled with your glory,**

Hosanna in the Highest!

Blessed is the one who comes in your name.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION (SUNG TWICE) VU#933

Christ has died. Christ is risen.

Christ will come, come again.

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (said by all)

We have come to your table O God.

**May the bread and the wine remain always for us symbols of your love
and of your light on our path and in our world.**

We Hear the Wisdom of the Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (SAID BY ALL)

May we hear these ancient scriptures with trusting faith and gentle hope, with creative enthusiasm and honest doubt, rooted in the teachings of Jesus and grounded in your love. May we hear your call in scripture today. Amen

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Isaiah 60: 1-6

Matthew 2: 1-12

SPECIAL MUSIC Karen Family Singers

SERMON

We Respond to God's Word

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS

HYMN VU# 83 Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

**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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We Go Forth to Serve

**HYMN # 96 Will You Come and see the Light*

**COMMISSIONING/BENEDICTION*

** CHORAL AMEN Hallelujah Amen #974*

Postlude

NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

A special welcome to all new friends as we gather to celebrate God's presence in our lives. If you are a guest, visitor or newcomer, please make yourself known to us. If you have any questions, our greeters would be delighted to help you. Please put your name, mailing address and email address in our guest book so we may have a record of your visit. **Please join us for coffee after the service in the gym compliments of the Stewardship committee.**

Ministers: All the People of God with the Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam
Lay Reader: Max Wagg
Director of Music: Paul Sloan
Pre-Service Music: Rick Taylor
Administrator: Judy McConnell
Custodian: Mary Ellen Petticrew

Captain of the Greeters for January - *Tom Barber*
Dirk Alberts will be delivering the DVD's for the month of January.
Bea Nayduk will be in the Nursery today.

DVD library of past services is located on the bookshelves in the middle row of the church towards the north side of the sanctuary. If you are unsure, please ask a greeter or Sheila Thompson. The DVD's are copies of past services and are available for anyone who may have missed a service, or enjoyed one so much that they'd like to watch it again, or share it. DVD's can be picked up and returned at your convenience.

Thank you to **Karen Family Singers** for their ministry of music during our service today.

Bible Study will resume on Wednesday January 9th 11:30am to 1pm in the parlour, come join us! Bring a bag lunch, coffee and tea will be provided, all are welcome!

Fellowship Club: Will not be meeting in January, but will resume on Tuesday Feb 5th See you then!!!

Poinsettias: We have poinsettias at the front of the church that have not been picked up, if you would like one or know of someone you can deliver one too, you are welcome to take one with you today. Thank You!

Par & Giving Envelopes: If you have not received a set of envelopes or you would like to go on PAR (your donation deducted automatically from your bank account each month) please contact the church office at **705-526-6077**. **We encourage anyone giving on a regular basis to use envelopes or PAR so they can receive a tax receipt at the end of the year!!!**

2012 Annual Meeting & Report: budgets, and 5 year plans should be into the office, if you have not submitted the above information please do so asap. Committee reports are due by January 14, 2013. Thank You! **The Annual church meeting will be held in February, the date to be announced in the near future.**

Submitting your **pledge card** helps your Stewardship Committee with financial planning for the 2013 year (it's not too late you can still submit your pledge). Please submit your card to the church office or put on the collection plate! Don't forget about **PAR a convenient way to support your church** call church office for more info at 526-6077.

Lay Visitor cards are on the back window sill for any of our visitors who need more cards. Thank you to all our visitors for the very important work they do for the church!

Pop Cans and Boston Pizza Receipts! Don't forget to bring in your Boston Pizza receipts we get a % of each bill, the box is on the radiator near the large stairs going down to the gym. Pop cans go to help Habitat for Humanity and the container in the coat area near the minister's office.

IN CASE OF A PASTORAL EMERGENCY YOU MAY CALL KAREN AT HOME AT 705-355-0224 OTHERWISE PLEASE CALL CHURCH AT 705-526-6077. KAREN NOW HAS HER OWN EMAIL ADDRESS: MINSPUCMIDLAND@GMAIL.COM. YOU ARE INVITED TO EMAIL KAREN DIRECTLY AT THIS EMAIL ADDRESS.



JANUARY Birthdays!

Happy Birthday from your family at St. Paul's

January 1	Naw Doh Joyce Ellis Judy Stiles
January 2	Donna Earl Eh Moo Soe
January 3	Diane Patchell
January 7	Barbara Nicholls
January 8	Kathryn Foot Helen French
January 9	James Clark
January 10	Joy Edwards
January 12	Barb Thompson Ken Woods
January 13	Sefi Held
January 14	John McCullough
January 20	Leta Collins
January 21	Kathleen Eplett
January 22	Michael Nihill
January 27	Abigail McFadden Isabelle McFadden Colin Whiteside
January 28	Judy Hazell
January 29	Lorelei Blane-Smith

**January 30 Elizabeth Brotherton
Jean Coryell
Gail Wilcox**

Schedule by Room - Weekly and Monthly Activities at St. Paul's

Monday	Drop In Centre	8:00 – 10.30 p.m.	Gym
Monday	Beavers	6:00 – 7:00pm	Gym/Choir Rm
Monday	Cubs	7:00 - 8:30PM	Gym/Choir Rm
Monday	Vox Huronia	7:00 – 10:00 pm	Sanctuary
Monday	Yoga	5:00 - 8:00 pm	Rm # 10 (Spring & Fall)
1 st Monday	M&P	7:00 pm	Parlour
3 rd Monday	The Circle	7:00 – 9:00	Parlour
3 rd Monday	Communication	7:00 - 9:00	Parlour

Tuesday	Co-op Nursery School	10:30-11:30	Gym
Tuesday(not 1 st)	Scouts	7:00 to 9:00 pm	Gym
1 st Tuesday	UCW Executive	9:30 a.m.	Parlour
1 st Tuesday	Fellowship Club	7:00 – p.m.	Gym
2 nd Tuesday	UCW	12:30-4:00pm	Parlour
2 nd Tuesday	Worship Committee	11am	Minister office
2 nd Tuesday	Property Committee	7:00 - p.m.	Chapel
4 th Tuesday (Sept, Nov, Feb, June)	Official Board	7:00 – 9:00 pm	Parlour

Wednesday	Co-op Nursery School	10:30-11:30	Gym
Wednesday	Bible Study	11:30- 1:00	Parlour
Wednesday	Theological Studies Groups	7:00 – 9:00 pm	Parlour
2 nd Wednesday	Scout Executive	7pm	Old Choir Rm

Thursday	Co-op Nursery School	10:30-11:30	Gym
Thursday	Little Treble Makers	4-5pm	Rm #10
Thursday	Children's Comm Choir	6:30 – 8:30pm	Rm #10
Thursday	Pathfinders	6:30-8:30pm	SS Rm#1
Thursday	Venturers/Rovers	6:00 – 9:00	Log Cabin
Thursday	Church Choir	7:00 - 9:00 pm	Chapel
1 st Thursday	Order of Eastern Star	4:00 – 11pm	Gym
2,3 rd & ,4 th	Thursday Guides	6:30 – 8:30pm	Gym
3 rd Thursday	Outreach Committee	2:00 – 4:00pm	Parlour

Friday	Co-op Nursery School	10:30-11:30	Gym
Last Friday mth	Faith Formation Family Night	5:00 – 9:00 pm	Gym

Saturday	7 th Day Adventist	9:00 am-1pm	Chapel
4th Sunday	Faith Formation-Education	11:30-1:00pm	Upstairs Sunday

School Room

If you are interested in more information on any of these Committees and groups, or see changes that need to be made, please call the church office at 705-526-6077.