Early Deadline!
Due to the Christmas holiday, the deadline for the Parish Notes dated January 2 & 9, will be Tuesday, December 16, at noon. Please send items to Kim Fry, Director of Communications, kfry@stpauls-church.org.

Pageant Hospitality Note
If you plan to come at 4 o'clock pageant, as it was last year, seating will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Except for the seats required for pageant participants, we must ask everyone to respect this “No Seat Saving” policy.

Breaking Up Christmas with Bluegrass!
As we all know, Christmas begins on Christmas Eve and lasts for twelve days. It does not start on Halloween, Thanksgiving Day, or Black Friday; nor does it end on December 25th. In bygone days throughout the South, it was customary to go from house to house during the twelve days: visiting, picking, singing, eating and drinking. Please join the Forest City String Band and a host of all-star guests for the third annual Breaking Up Christmas on Sunday, December 28, at 7:30 p.m. in Tucker Hall as we revel in bluegrass music, family, and friendship during the holiday fortnight. Bring your dancing shoes for the return of the Virginia Reel. Beer, wine, soft drinks and snacks will be served (contributions welcomed).

Christmas & New Year’s Worship

Sunday, December 21: The Fourth Sunday of Advent
7:45 a.m., 9 a.m., 11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, December 24: Christmas Eve
2 p.m. The Christmas Story for the Very Young, with Communion
(Live Nativity w/animals after the service)
3:30 p.m. Organ Noëls & Carol Sing-a-long
4 p.m. Christmas Pageant with Communion and Live Nativity Animals
(Service interpreted for the deaf community.)
8 p.m. Concert of Seasonal Music featuring soloists and instrumentalists
9 p.m. A Choral Service of Lessons & Carols for Christmas
10:30 p.m. Solemn Festival Eucharist of Christmas

Thursday, December 25: Christmas Day
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, a quiet celebration with organ music and congregational hymns

Sunday, December 28: The First Sunday after Christmas Day
7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist
10 a.m. Christmas Lessons & Carols w/Communion
(No services at 9 or 11:15 a.m. and no Parish Breakfast on this day.)

Thursday, January 1: The Feast of the Holy Name
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist in St. Martin's Chapel
Organ music, flute solos and congregational singing
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21

Holy Eucharist, 7:45 a.m.
The Rev. Richard Israel, Celebrant & Preacher
Holy Eucharist, 9:00 a.m.
The Rev. Gary Mitchener, Celebrant
The Rev. Richard Israel, Preacher
Holy Eucharist, 11:15 a.m.
The Rev. Richard Israel, Celebrant
The Rev. Gary Mitchener, Preacher
Sung Compline, 8:00 p.m. (joint service)
St. Alban’s Episcopal Church
2555 Euclid Heights Blvd, Cleveland Hts.

READINGS
2 Samuel 7:1-11,16; Psalm 89:1-4,19-26
Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

FELLOWSHIP
8 to 9 a.m. Parish Breakfast
10 to 11:15 a.m. Coffee Hour

CHRISTIAN FORMATION
FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH
Preschool Session, 9 to 11 a.m.
10 to 11 a.m.
Preschool: Advent IV: The Wise Men
Grades K-2: The Mystery of Christmas
Grades 3-6: Be Alert, Shepherds
Grade 7-12: Holiday Parties
Preschool Session, 11 a.m. to noon
Jr. & Sr. High Youth Groups, 6 to 8 p.m.

FOR ADULTS
No Adult Forum on this day.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

Holy Eucharist, 7:45 a.m.
The Rev. Gary Mitchener, Celebrant & Preacher
Christmas Lessons & Carols, 10:00 a.m.
The Rev. Gary Mitchener, Officiant
The Rev. Dan Knaup, Assisting
Sung Compline, 8:00 p.m. (joint service)
St. Alban’s Episcopal Church
2555 Euclid Heights Blvd, Cleveland Hts.

READINGS
Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 147:13-21
Galatians 3:23-25, 4:4-7; John 1:1-18

FELLOWSHIP
8 to 9 a.m. Parish Breakfast
10 to 11:15 a.m. Coffee Hour

CHRISTIAN FORMATION
FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH
No Church School Classes or Youth Groups
Preschool Childcare, 10 to 11 a.m.

FOR ADULTS
No Adult Forum on this day.

2015 Baptism Dates
In order to assist candidates for Baptism and their parents as they prepare for Holy Baptism, we wish to announce that Baptism will be administered, in accordance with guidelines in The Book of Common Prayer (p. 312) at the following times:
The Feast of the Baptism of our Lord:
January 11, 2015
At the Great Vigil on the
Eve of Easter Day: April 4, 2015
The Day of Pentecost: May 24, 2015
Because there is a long gap between Pentecost and All Saints, there will be an additional Baptism in the summer, normally the last Sunday in July.
Please call the Parish Office to make arrangements and to ask any questions you may have. You are reminded that a pre-Baptismal counseling session is required for parents and godparents — and for the candidates themselves, if they are adults.

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In Honor of Paul Winter
On Sunday, December 21, we will honor and thank Paul Winter for his service as St. Paul’s Youth Minister over the past three years. Paul gave generously of his time and talent, encouraging teenagers in their spiritual journeys and making St. Paul’s a safe place for everyone. From teaching confirmation class to leading Youth Group, to heading up our annual mission trips to Harlan, Kentucky, Paul has been an important part of our offerings and ministries. We will have a word of thanks during the liturgy at the 9:00 service and some extra goodies during coffee hour at 10 a.m. in Tucker Hall. Please plan to be with us to express our appreciation and gratitude.

Christmas Banners & Vestments
The fourth set of nave banners will make their debut on Christmas Eve and hang until January 4. The Christmas banners and matching vestments were created by Brenda Grauer and her team at In Stitches Center for Liturgical Art. They are the fabric interpretation of the Abstraction window, created by Caroline Swash in memory of Warren C. MacFarlane, Jr. in 1968. The window is the northern most of the clerestory stained glass windows (above the choir). The Banners and Vestments were commissioned by Margaret and Loyal Wilson in loving memory of their parents, Wilma S. and Herman Bartholomay, and Margaret F. and Dr. Paul Hays Wilson.

ACT II SHOP
The ACT II Shop will be closed on December 25-27, and on New Year’s Day, January 1. Watch Parish Notes for more info on opening hours and sales in the New Year!

The 2015 South African Calendars Are Here!
Mary and Richard Nodar will be selling the 2015 South African “Cape Peninsula” calendars in Tucker Hall on Sunday mornings in December. These calendars were specially designed to support the HIV/AIDS Anglican foster home in Masiphumelele, South Africa. St. Paul’s was instrumental in helping build two foster homes, “St. Paul’s House of Hope” in Ocean View, and a second Anglican foster home in Masiphumelele. Your purchase of a calendar helps provide a safe home for children from these two parishes.

Christmas Eve: Details, Details!
Here at St. Paul’s, we have two Pageants on Christmas Eve – one at the 2:00 p.m. service and one at the 4:00 p.m. service. They both tell the story of Jesus’ birth and his many visitors in the stable.

About the 2:00 Pageant – The 2:00 pageant is designed for young children, and takes place in Tucker Hall. It is shorter and less overwhelming than the 4:00 pageant. Everyone gets to participate and the main characters are played by members of the Junior High Youth Group. After communion, we process outside to see the live nativity with animals and sing “Joy to the World.” It is a delightful service.

About the 4:00 Pageant – All children three years old through 6th grade are welcome to participate (even if you sing in the choir!). Lots of adult helpers are needed as well! If you haven’t already, please sign up in the classrooms.

Costumes will be fitted on Sunday, December 21, during Church School (10 to 11 a.m.) in Tucker Hall. Angel and Shepherd tunics go home for ironing. Headpieces, animal masks and main character costumes remain at church. Rehearsal will be Thursday, December 18, at 4:00 p.m. in the Nave.

Plan to arrive at church at 3:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve and go to the appointed classroom in the South Wing.

Don’t forget your gifts for the Christ Child! – These will be taken to the Hispanic Ministry in Central Ohio for an Epiphany party. Please mark them either “boy” or “girl” and the appropriate age. Questions? Want to help? Contact Kate Gillooly at (216) 932-5815, ext. 212 or kgillooly@stpauls-church.org.

Advent @St. Paul’s
As we continue to mark the season of Advent at St. Paul’s, all are invited to join us in these observances:

Wednesday Vespers at St. Alban’s: St. Paul’s parishioners are invited to join the St. Alban’s-Agape community for Vespers on Wednesday, December 17, at 7 p.m. We will follow the Holden Evening Prayer service – a simple service of spoken and sung prayer with an emphasis on Mary’s song (The Magnificat) and images of Christ as the light that shines forth into the darkness. St. Alban’s is located at 2555 Euclid Heights Blvd., Cleveland Heights.

Join the Advent Book Group:
Parishioner Liz Young is leading a book group to discuss Seasons of the Nativity by Sybil MacBeth. Join us for refreshments, lively conversation, and some hands-on activities designed to nurture your spirit. The group will gather for one more session on Sunday, January 11, at 4 p.m. Books are available for purchase in the Parish Office for $15. It’s not too late to get started!

THE ALL-PARISH ADVENT CHALLENGE
Gospel Beginnings and Infancy Narratives — Join in reading the first chapters of each Gospel during Advent! It’s not too late to catch up on this challenge. Read these passages:

- Matthew 1 & 2
- Luke Chapter 1
- Luke Chapter 2
- Mark 1:1-12 and John 1:1-18

Then share your reflections with others on St. Paul’s blog: http://reflectionsfromsp.blogspot.com.

Like St. Paul’s on Facebook! www.facebook.com/stpaulsclevelandheights
INTERIM INTERJECTIONS

House of Bread: A Christmas Meditation

From the banks of the Tiber were heralds dispatched, Messengers sent with scrolls unfurled, With Caesar’s decree that all should be taxed, Every man, woman, child in the then known world.
And so it was from a Syrian plain Where Quirinius ruled with iron fist, That Joseph with Our Lady fain Would go to be added to the list
Of those oppressed by Emperor’s yoke. They left, confused and newly wed, With kindred, neighbors, village folk For Bethlehem, the House of Bread.
No throne, nor couch, nor bed nor cot No place the Son of Man his head To lay; his own received him not — In Bethlehem, the House of Bread.

A bovine trough, with fetid straw, A Rude, dank, cold and drafty shed, (He came, yes, to fulfill the Law) In Bethlehem, the House of Bread.
Then north met south and east met west, The sky illumined overhead: Verbum incarnatus est! At Bethlehem, the House of Bread.
With willing spirit, weaker flesh, We seek him, Virgin-born, our Head With joyful footsteps, hie to Creche, To Bethlehem, the House of Bread.
Our selves, our souls, our bodies sup At Christmas altars where we’re fed With Precious Host and Sacred Cup, O Bethlehem, blest House of Bread.

WHO WE ARE

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Our Mission
St. Paul’s is a living, evolving community of Christian people who worship together according to the Anglican/Episcopal tradition. We seek to know God and God’s will for us; to care for each other; and to support each other in the exercise of our ministries among our neighbors and in the wider world.

Parish Notes Deadline
The next issue of Parish Notes will be dated January 2 & 9. Deadline for submissions is Tuesday, December 16, at noon. Items may be edited for space and/or clarity.
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