



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Greenville Michigan

Newsletter

[Home](#)

[Welcome Message](#)

[Ministry](#)

[clergy](#)

[Church History](#)

[Links](#)

[Directions](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Newsletter](#)

[Announcements](#)

[Calendar](#)

[Forum](#)

[Newsletter](#)

If you would like to visit old newsletters [Click Here](#)



Volume 3, Issue 5 St. Paul's Episcopal Church December 2008

Dear Friends of St. Paul's:

Greetings of the Season to you and yours. It's beginning to look a lot like -----!

Our Church works to help us prepare for the gift of a Savior with the Season of Advent. Hard as it is, I hope you will take time to become spiritually healthy over these next three weeks; find space each day to ponder, wonder, dream, and hope. Think about those

wondrous gifts that have been given to you, treasure them, and if necessary refresh them. Put a log on the fire, play inspiring music, find good reading material, savor that glass of wine, and whenever possible let the best of your spirituality soar to new heights. What does your life need at this time for wholeness and health? Go for it!

The Church asks us to wait, to be aware, to make sure our lives and spirits are in the right place to receive Him, and that we not become totally consumed with our culture that transports us in a quite different direction. Put the brakes on when you can, and reflect on what we really want to celebrate - The Gift of Life, Joy, Peace, and Love. In the meantime, work on getting ready for a Wonderful Christmas.

Thank you for your pledges for 2009, and if you haven't returned your pledge card to the Church, you will be contacted by one of us. If we need to send a card to you, or if you would like to speak with a member of the vestry or the rector, please leave a message at the church, 616-754-3163. We would like to have all pledges in hand by December 21, so please help us with this goal.

Please remember the following people in your prayers:

- Greg Arsulowicz, facing difficult health challenges
- Alice Cesar, needing our love as she supports her mother's nursing home placement
- Father John as he learns about bladder infection
- Nathan Parish, recovering from a fall
- Bill Thiedeman, recovering from cataract surgery - For all of us battling "seasonal bugs."

A reminder to all: It isn't too late to get your Flu Shot!

May your Holiday Season be filled with all the wonder and beauty that is offered to us.

With love and thanks from the St. Paul's Team,
Sara Jane, Tina, Mark, and Father John+



Merry Christmas

Calendar of Events

December

Sunday, Dec. 14 th Vestry meets following worship

Sunday, Dec. 21 st Greening of the church with chili and soup lunch following worship

Wednesday, Dec. 24 th Christmas Eve, Feast of the Nativity at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 28 th Morning Prayer and Sermon with thanks to Jim and Donna

January

Sunday, Jan. 25 th Conversion of St. Paul, and Annual Parish meeting

Thanksgiving Day Baskets

The Outreach Committee would like to thank everyone for their generosity again this year in regards to our Thanksgiving Day Baskets. We were able to give 64 families (308 individuals) a full Thanksgiving meal that they may not have had otherwise.

I want to thank everyone who donated food and money and those who helped pack the boxes on Sunday and those who showed up early Tuesday morning to sling turkeys and load vans. Also, thanks to everyone who collected boxes, made the sign up poster, designed the card to put in the box so the families would know where they came from, and took pictures. A big thanks to the SPAM men for packing potatoes and shopping for food, and the parents who took time to come along (Jorgensen's might never be the same). I don't want to "name names" lest I forget someone - you know who you are! It could never be done without a big group effort.



For those of you who knew Vicki Zank, the woman who started this project years ago, wouldn't she be proud to know the project is still going strong at St. Paul's?

With much Thanks,
Beth Vogel and the Outreach Committee

History of the Yule Log

The Yule Log is traditionally a large log that is burned in a fireplace to celebrate the Christmas holidays. It has been associated with Christmas, Christmas Eve, the 12 days of Christmas and Winter Solstice.

In the past in Yugoslavia , the Yule Log was cut on Christmas Eve and then brought into people's homes to be decorated and doused with wine. In France , cutting the Yule Log was a family affair and featured singing. Both of these countries made offerings to the Yule Log and asked for blessings.

Some cultures now make cakes in the shape of logs to signify the Yule Log. Also, in the United States , some television stations broadcast a picture of a log burning in a fireplace accompanied by Christmas music on Christmas Day. For some television viewers, this picture takes the place of the traditional Yule Log.

Thanks to our SPAM Group and to Dylan Tanner

Our young men -SPAM - group certainly does some outstanding missionary work for our church. I would like to tell you about one young man and his mission.

Dylan Tanner makes up bags of health and cleanliness items for us to distribute to the folks who come in to the food kitchen for meals.

Dylan's dad travels a lot and brings home the little bottles and containers of health products from the various motels where he stays. A few other people have left some items at church and Dylan can use these. He so carefully sorts and bags these so they are reflective of men or women items. When the folks get these bags, they are so delighted to see what appears inside. They always thank us for them and I tell them

that a young man in our church gathers these for them.

So, I thank Dylan for his wonderful gift. If you have some items that Dylan can use, bring them on in and we will gather them for him. BUT, most of all, thank him for his generous time and thought.

Hilda Sorvari

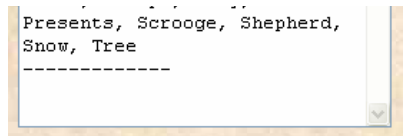
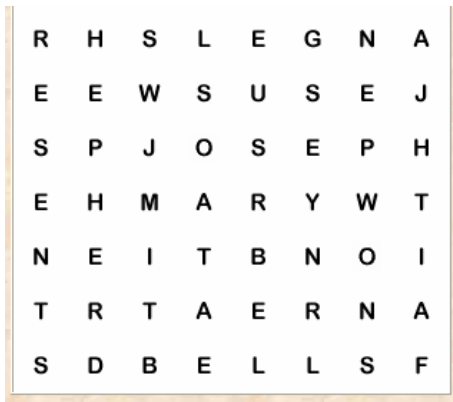
Bible Search: Christmas Time

All words listed below are in the puzzle - left, right, up, down or diagonally. Circle each letter of the word you find.

After you have found all the words, write down the leftover letters in the correct order to form the *mystery answer*.

P S C R O O G E

Angels, Baby, Bells, Faith,
Jesus, Joseph, Mary,



News from the Outreach Committee ...

In September Outreach gave \$200.00 to the Greenville Ecumenical Food Pantry located at St. Paul's Lutheran Church . The Lutheran Thrivent Fund was matching all donations for the month, so our money was doubled.

Please keep in mind the box in the back of the church is for your donations.

Following is a list of staples given at the pantry:

Peanut Butter	Crackers	Canned Tomatoes
Vegetables	Canned meat	Macaroni
Fruit	Pork and Beans	Oatmeal
Potatoes	Kidney Beans	Pancake Mix
Soup	Toiletries	Jelly
Spaghetti Sauce	Rice Cereal	Syrup
Juice	Stew	

Prayer for GI's

Please pray for the GI's and their families, including the following we lost in combat:

- Pablo Hurtado
- Rob Gambrell
- Geoffrey Grant
- Andrew Adams
- Richard Skinner **Troops Box**

Our church has sent items to the following GI's:

- Edward Jayck
- Stephen Blas
- George J. Santa Ana
- J.M. Bell Guarding

If you would like to make cookies or fudge to sent to a GI, please contact Pat Zank @ patricaz@subgobal.net.

Giving is a Way of Life

Written by Al Schoolcraft

Here we are in our Stewardship drive in the season where everybody will be asked to give to any number of needy charities, and here I come asking for more to be given.

After you have given to your favorite holiday charity and sent in your pledge card, how about thinking about these programs?

- The local food pantry (not the Food Kitchen which provides lunches and dinners every Tuesday) is always in need. If you aren't able to buy some food items on sale while are shopping, how about grabbing a couple cans of soup or other items you have in your pantry that you had set aside for a rainy day and bringing them in to put in the box near the main entrance?

- The other box near the entrance is for our troops who are fighting for freedom in Iraq . A list of items needed is posted on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. We have a parish family who finds the time and money to package these items and send them to military units in the fighting zones.

-If you are all spent out, how about going through your library and bringing in some good books that the soldiers could enjoy, a good mystery or a funny book, like the Cosby books? They will love them

- The inter-church Food Kitchen is always in need of a few bucks or some cans of food. Again, if you are all spent out, how about volunteering to assist in the food preparation or serving on one of the Tuesdays during the holiday season or later this winter? Hilda Sovari can assist you on how this is done and find a day where you can help, maybe as a family.

Having to receive charity is sometimes difficult, but giving is really the fun part of this holiday season!!

Thank you for giving and helping.

Christmas Trivia Questions

- In the song "All I Want For Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth", why do I want my two front teeth

- In the traditional song "Go Tell It on the Mountain", what are you suppose to go tell on a mountain?

- True or False: Joseph was the one that told Mary she was going to have a baby.

- In the Christmas song, who did I (the narrator) see kissing Santa Claus under the mistletoe last night?

- In the song "Winter Wonderland", who do we pretend the snowman is?

Answers posted further down

\$\$\$\$\$\$ I t's Your Money \$\$\$\$\$\$

Written By Jerry Hall

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times." So starts the book, 'A Tale of Two Cities', by Charles Dickens.

These words could just as easily apply today. Gasoline is selling below \$1.50 a gallon / there are some empty houses in town due to foreclosure, people today have a lifespan that is more than twice as long as those of a century ago / some companies are laying off workers. I guess your glass is half full or half empty, depending on your point of view.

With the Christmas season upon us, I hope you have followed the advice of previous columns and planned ahead. Perhaps you set up a Christmas Club account at your bank or bought things on sale during the year so your expenses are more spread out. No matter what, set a gift budget and stick to it. Doing so will avoid a "January Surprise", when the bills come in.

Many of us entertain during the season and food is a major cost. Here are some internet sites that will lower your food costs. If you don't have a home access to the Internet, remember the library does and it costs you nothing.

These are examples, be sure to try similar manufacturer's sites for coupons, free products and rebates.

Use the search engine with names like Rite Aid or Walgreens.

Coupon Clearinghouses:

- www.coolsavings.com
- www.refundswweepers.com
- www.smartsources.com

- www.couponmountain.com
- www.dealcatcher.co
- www.currentcodes.com

Manufacturers's Web Sites:

- www.chickenofthesea.com

- www.colgate.com

- www.cottonelle.com

May your Christmastime be enjoyable and may 2009 find you improving your financial situation.

Christmas Trivia Answers

Answers to trivia questions on previous page:

1. So I Could Wish You Merry Christmas!
2. Our Jesus Christ Was Born!
3. False, an angel told her the news.
4. Mommy!
5. Parson Brown

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

December and January

THANK YOU FOR SERVING!

December:	14 th	21 st	24 th	28 th
COFFEE:	Robins	Cesar		Dombroske
GREETERS:	Kennedy / Ryan	Schoolcraft	Hoeflinger	French / Meyers
LAY	Helen Kay Kennedy	Hilda Sorvari	Julie Jakeway	Norma Atkeson
READERS				
January:	4 th	11 th	18 th	25 th
COFFEE:	Tanner	Butler / Hawley	Vogel	Atkeson
GREETERS:	Butler / Hawley	Jakeway / Schmitz	Helder / Kinnaird - Heether	Kassouni / Sorvari
LAY	Stacey O'Toole	Alice Cesar	Nurya Parish	Dare Cox
READERS				

Birthdays and Anniversaries

December January

Bob Walenga 2	Jenna Robins 1
Susan & Richard Rinehart 7	Steve Zank 3
Pat Moorhead 13	Noah Jager 13
Chris Coyne 15	Susan Rinehart 13
Phyllis Dawson 16	Tammy Ritter 18
Sandra French 16	Angela Ruff 18
Kate Wessel Walker 18	Beth Vogel 19
Tom & Marjorie Blinn 20	Our Mission Founded 20
Chris Ryan/Roger Simmons 21	Carolyn Zilch 23
Alice Cesar 22	Ruth Bedore 25
	Grace Elderkin 25
	Jim Wessel Walker 31

Brad Hoeflinger 30

Our Mission:

Through action, to share the Love of Christ, the Word of God, with one another and the world.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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If you have questions or suggestions regarding this page email

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