

ST. PAUL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE ST. PAUL EPISTLE

MUSIC MAKES WORSHIP SPECIAL

As we approach Advent and Christmas, the music programs are beginning to prepare a lot of special music for the season. The vocal choir is preparing a great cantata called *Season of Wonders* by Joseph Martin, a wonderful work combining the story we all know and love with many familiar Christmas hymn arrangements and some original pieces as well.

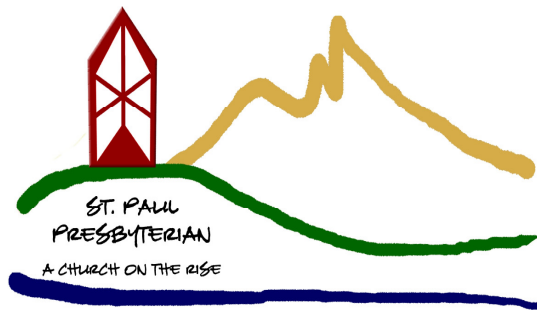


The bell choir is also going to prepare several pieces for a Christmas bell festival at Smoky Hill United Methodist on 19 December. Some of those pieces will also be a part of our later Christmas Eve service. These will include *Carol of the Bells*, which I promised Robin Ludchak we would ring this year!

If anyone wants to joins either of these groups for the season or forever, please feel free to hop into rehearsals. The doors to our music groups are always open! And now is the time to get into the beginning of the learning process with everyone else! The vocal choir meets on Wednesday nights, after the midweek gathering, from 7:30—9:00 p.m. The bell choir meets on Monday nights from 7:00—8:00 p.m.

We always have a good time preparing music for St. Paul and look forward to making wonderful music together for that baby boy!

— Misty



CONSECRATION

SUNDAY

8 NOVEMBER

Our stewardship campaign this year culminates in a Consecration Sunday on 8 November. Plan to be a part of this special day!

During worship, pledge cards will be distributed, and we will be invited to indicate on the card our planned 2010 pledge for both operations and building fund. We will then be invited to go forward to the table and offer our pledge to God. Our pledges and gifts will be consecrated to God's use.

Heather Cameron, a Presbyterian student at Iliff School of Theology in Denver, who served her internship with us this past year, will be the guest preacher.



After worship, a lunch catered by Bennett's Barbeque will be provided to the congregation. The Stewardship Task Team members have underwritten this meal as their gift to us. Enjoy a delicious lunch and enjoy the company of one another! A brief program will be offered and the pledge results will be announced.

Come be a part of Consecration Sunday on 8 November and in response to God's goodness offer to God your pledge of giving for next year through your church.



NOVEMBER 2009

PULPIT AND PEN

A Word from
Pastor Randy

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*These are days
you'll remember.
Never before
and never since,
I promise,
will the whole world
be warm as this.
And as you feel it,
you'll know it's true
that you are
blessed and lucky.
It's true that you are
touched by something
that will grow and bloom
in you.
These are days
you'll remember.*

*-Natalie Merchant, Rob Buck
10,000 Maniacs*

Greetings, Beloved!

Her name was Josephine. Friends called her Jo. I called her Grandma Jo-Jo. She was my maternal grandmother. She spoiled me rotten, as I was her favorite grandchild. And she was my favorite relative. No, she was my favorite person, period.

In her lifetime, she went from being the wealthiest woman in her town to the poorest, due to being widowed by two husbands and left with four young children. She used to winter in Cuba and Florida. She ended up taking in people's laundry. Money came easy, money came hard. So she didn't worry about money, or tomorrow, or how she would make it. She knew God would take care of her. She considered everything in life a gift, and enjoyed it all.

Grandma Jo-Jo modeled generosity. She was probably the widow Jesus mentions in Luke 21, giving generously out of her poverty. She was so poor she, in her words, "didn't have a pot to pee in or a window to throw it out." Yet, she was one of the most generous persons I've ever known. She always had a treat for me. She relished giving her grandchildren some treat, a trinket or treasure. She ended up giving away everything she owned. She enjoyed the thought of us enjoying it rather than her holding on to her stuff. But she was not just generous in giving money or things. She was generous. She had a generous spirit. She always had time for you. She was always interested in hearing someone tell their story. She gave her attention, her company, she gave herself. She had a generous spirit. Grandma Jo-Jo was simply a generous giving person.

You know someone like that. Someone taught you generosity. Someone modeled it for you. You witnessed the giving away of one-

self from someone. Who was it? How did they teach you generosity? How did they model it?

We are called to be and do a lot of things as a disciple of Christ. A foremost and foundational quality we are to live and model is generosity.

Why is generosity so important? It is a central characteristic of our Creator-our existence is due to God's generosity-and we are called to reveal God and share God with others. Generosity shows in whom we trust-in the God who gives us all or in what God gives us. Generosity is a sign of love and compassion for others, to which Jesus called us.

No doubt we are all generous, in different situations, in different ways. And no doubt we can all be more generous than we are. The average annual offering among Presbyterians, for church operation and mission and for building campaigns, is \$2,600 per household and about \$3,000 per regular worshiper. Our average giving per member, for operations and building campaign, is about \$750 per active member. While we are comparing households, regular worshipers, and active members, there is no quibbling with these numbers: we are well below our denomination's average, near half of it.

We can do better. We can practice our generosity within our church, and we can model it for others. We can teach others how to live generous, compassionate, loving, fearless lives. We simply have to choose to do so.

I encourage you to do just that. Our stewardship campaign culminates in a Consecration Sunday on 8 November. Be a part of this important day in the life of our church. Show yourself to be a person whom others will look to and think of as a generous Christ-like person. You will be a

Joy! *Pastor Randy*

CHURCH GROUP ACTIVITIES

Agape Circle

The November meeting continuing our discussion of Joshua, will be on Thursday 12 November. Join in as we learn more about the first prophet of the Old Testament. We welcome questions, suggestions, and ideas to improve and expand any time. Please call Joan Hodges at 303.690.2195 if you have questions

Books and Brunch

The 14 November book discussion will be *Wicked*, by Gregory Maguire hosted by Annelly Noble. Sally Garwood will lead the discussion. Call Annelly at 303.690.8841 to RSVP or to get directions.

Books and Brunch meets on the third Saturday of each month from 9:00—11:00 a.m. Each month we collect donations to send clean water packets to Axum, Ethiopia.

All women who like to read and discuss books are welcome.

Garden Club

The Garden Club will meet at the church at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, 28 November.

The Garden Club meets on the fourth Saturday of each month. All are welcome.

Gourmet Group

This month the Gourmet Group is going Mediterranean (togas are encouraged, but not required). We will meet at the home of Peter and

Sheila Moskowitz at 3665 S. Ceylon Way in Aurora (4 blocks from the church). Peter and Sheila will provide the main dish. The sign up sheet for other dishes will be in the Celebration Center. For more information, please call 303-766-9179.

Elderberries

If your years have made you wise, you will surely be a part of the lunch group at Red Lobster Restaurant 10854 E. Alameda Ave., at noon on Thursday, 19 November.

If you are 50+ you are an "Elderberry." We meet for lunch and fellowship on the third Thursday of each month. Call Diane Snively at 303.337.7820 for reservations or if you need a ride.

Scrapbooking

This month's Scrapbooking gathering, will be on Friday, 27 November at 7:00 p.m. at the church. We have plenty of room to spread out our materials and organize our creations. We meet on the last Friday of each month. Beginners are welcome. Join us!

Game Night!

The game of the month is Bunko!, a game for ages 7 and up. Be a part of the fun from 7:00—9:00 p.m. on Friday, 13 November. Bring a snack to share.

A sign up sheet is in the Celebration Center. For more information, call Sheila Moskowitz at 303.766.9179.

VETERANS DAY

11 NOVEMBER

Remember to honor our military veterans on Wednesday, 11 November. Our liberty and safety are protected by the men and women who serve in our military services, and to them we owe our thanks.



We have several veterans of the military services in our congregation. We also have two members who are currently serving in the military:

Erica Burrell	U.S. Navy
Kevin Wilcott	U.S. Air Force

THANK YOU

Our appreciation goes to two young neighbors who have completed assigned community service at our church. They worked hard and we benefited greatly.

Boy Scout Troop 1, which meets here on Tuesday evenings, are repairing our Celebration Center chairs. To date, they have repaired and strengthened with nuts and bolts 45 chairs. They plan to do all of our chairs over a brief period of time.

An unemployed man has been doing some work for us in exchange for some rent assistance. The man and his wife are both out of work, and they have two children. They are trying to find jobs here and there to be able to stay off the street. He has done good work for us, and we are thankful.

FAITHFUL DISCIPLES

FRUITFUL CONGREGATIONS

PRACTICE

EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY

These congregations know that generosity enlarges the soul, realigns priorities, connects people to the body of Christ, and strengthens congregations. Growing is a response we offer to God's call to make a difference in the world. People who give generously do so because they genuinely desire to make a positive difference for the purposes of Christ and because they want to align their lives with higher purposes.

They give because they:

- Love God
- Love the church
- Desire to grow in the love of neighbor



You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity."

2 Corinthians 9:11

OCTOBER 2009

TREASURER'S REPORT

OPERATING	October	Year-to-Date
Income	14,486	141,283
Expense	18,164	205,532
Difference	-3,678	-64,249

BUILDING MORTGAGE FUND		
Income	5,405	64,964
Expense	7,426	67,904
Difference	-2,021	-2,940

TOTAL		
Income	19,891	206,247
Expense	25,590	273,436
Difference	- 5,699	-67,189

Income includes:

8,150	Rental Income
62,798	Presbytery Grant & Assistance
135,299	St. Paul Offerings

CHURCH WANT ADS

DECORATIONS Share your excess beautiful home decorations with your church. We need tasteful pictures, knick-knacks, artificial flowers and plants, and any other decorations that you no longer use but are still beautiful and useful. Holiday and seasonal decorations are much appreciated, as is foyer furniture. Contact Gayle Fidler in the church office.

KITCHEN AND RESTROOM PAPER SUPPLIES Paper towels, toilet paper, hand soap, dish soap, hand sanitizer, coffee cups, and copier paper are always needed and greatly appreciated. Contact Gayle.

DOG SITTING Two families in the congregation are looking for someone to care for 1-2 gentle, friendly, house-trained dogs during brief absences, in your home or theirs, for compensation. Contact Pastor Randy.

BUILDING STEWARDS Volunteers to serve as building stewards, responsible for opening and closing the church on Sundays. Opening duties include: clearing walks, turning up thermostats, lights on, doors unlocked, and closing the building: turning thermostats down, lights off, locking doors. Several volunteers will enable a rotation of volunteers. Contact Pastor Randy to volunteer or for more information.

PRESBYTERIAN GIVING STATISTICS

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Regular giving per household, worshipping 2-3 times per month: \$2,600 per year.

Median giving for regular offerings by household: \$1,800 per year.

Median giving for capital campaigns by household: \$850 per year.

Average annual contributions for regular giving (capital gifts not included) per person in worship for congregations with 201-300 active members: \$2,100 per worshiper.

St. Paul Presbyterian Church, Aurora

Average total giving (includes regular and capital) per member in 2009: \$746.



Source: Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Research Services and St. Paul Church 2009 financial reports.

THANKSGIVING BASKETS

During the week of 23 November, we will be preparing food baskets for those who may not be able to otherwise afford a Thanksgiving meal.

Food is provided through Smoky Hill High School, but St. Paul members will be needed to pick up the food and to prepare the baskets for delivery to families in need.

If you would like to help, or you know of a family in need, please sign up on the sheets available in the Celebration Center, call Faye Salvatore at 303-617-6110, or call Gayle Fidler in the church office at 303-693-3434, by 13 November.



THANKSGIVING VES-PERS AND PIE

Our annual vespers service and pie social will take place at 6:30pm on Thanksgiving Eve, 25 November. Join our family of faith for a short service of thanksgiving, and then

we will gather afterwards to eat those wonderful pies you bring!

HANGING OF THE GREENS

The Ministry of Worship invites all of you to join us in the "Hanging of the Greens" on Saturday, 28 November from 9 — noon. This is a marvelous time of fellowship as we decorate our church for Advent and Christmas. Families are encouraged to join in as there will be a tree for children to decorate themselves! Snacks will be provided.

ADVENT POTLUCK and CRAFT WORK-SHOP

Sunday, 29 November is the first Sunday of Advent. What better way to get into the season than to join the St. Paul community in a potluck fellowship lunch and craft-making activities?

We will gather for lunch immediately following the worship service. Bring a potluck lunch dish and stay to make advent crafts. There will be several choices for all ages and skill levels.

POINSETTIAS

We will be decorating the sanctuary with poinsettias again this year and would urge you to consider "buying" one in-memory-of or in-honor-of family/friends. Please look for the order form in November bulletins.

LEAST COIN FRIENDSHIP TEA

Agape Circle will be hosting a "Least Coin" Friendship High Tea in memory of Shirley Ryan on Sunday, 6 December 2009 at 3:00 p.m. at the church. All ladies and girls of St. Paul Presbyterian Church, Old Landmark Ministries, and friends and family of Shirley are invited,

Shirley was our biggest fan and promoter of the "least coin offering," so we are pleased to remember her in this way.

It will be a delicious and delightful time as we learn about the origination of "High Tea" and what the "Least Coin" means to Presbyterian Women.

Ladies put it on your calendar now and bring your daughters. Hats and gloves are encouraged but not required.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Operation Christmas Child brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations worldwide through gift-filled shoe boxes and the Good News of God's love.

Plan now to pray for every child, pack a gift box, and give \$7.00 for shipping the box.

Plan, too, to join us at the box distribution center to deliver boxes and help pack them for shipping on Friday, 11 December, from 7 –10 p.m. All who are 13+ are welcome to help.

FABULOUS FLYING FLAMINGOS

The final total raised from this fundraiser was about \$600. Thank you, St. Paul, for providing for our music programs so generously and playing along! And much thanks to the drivers from the groups that kept those birds moving, and to Gayle Fidler for managing the whole thing with me! Not an easy job!



Some members have actually expressed the desire to purchase some of those flamingos (much to my amusement and horror). There are a handful that are still in good shape that I would be willing to part with for whatever you would choose to donate for them. Just call me or find me on a Sunday morning, and we'll work it out!

Next fundraiser—Talent show in February. Start thinking about it... Hey Bruce, do we get more Elvis???

LOOKING AHEAD

- 1 Dec *Ministry of Worship
- 2 Midweek Gathering
- 3 Deacon Meeting
- 6 Worship with Communion
- 6 Least Coin Tea
- 6 Session & Deacon meeting/
dinner
- 8 *Ministry of Witness
- 8 *Ministry of Belonging
- 9 Midweek Gathering
- 10 Agape Circle
- 11 Operation Christmas Child
- 12 Gourmet Group
- 16 Midweek Gathering
- 17 Elderberries
- 17 Session
- 19 Books & Brunch
- 20 Worship with Lord's Supper
- 20 Evening Christmas Celebration
- 21 Nominating Committee
- 22 *Ministry of Discipling
- 24 Christmas Eve Services 6 & 9pm
- 24 Garden Club
- 27 *Ministry of Discipling
- 31 Watchnight Service OLM

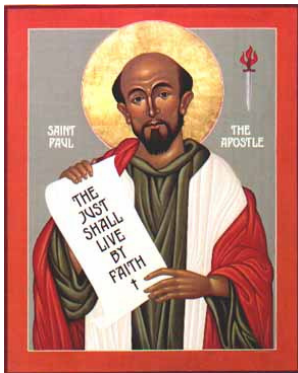
* All are welcome to ministry unit meetings. If you have questions about meetings, please call the church office, 303.693.3434.

THANK YOU!

To all who helped make the Harvest Family Festival a great success!

We appreciate our volunteers who helped set up and take down the activities and the those who helped during the event with games and outreach to the community. Thank you!

To the congregation members for supporting the Peacemaking Offering on World Communion Sunday. We collected \$442, of which \$110.50 went to Doctors without Borders.



**ST. PAUL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
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Randy Kittelson, Pastor

Sunday Morning Schedule:

Christian Education	9:00 - 10:00a.m.
Social Time	10:00 - 10:15a.m.
Worship Services	10:15 - 11:15a.m.

A Congregation of
the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.),
the Synod of the Rocky Mountains,
and the Presbytery of Denver.