

*December is Action Packed!*

Don't miss a bit of this newsletter! The season of Advent and Christmas is full of opportunities to join in fellowship, to enjoy the talents of our members, to celebrate, to contemplate, to learn, to laugh, to cry, to give, and to give thanks. The St. Paul community is alive with the spirit! Join us in this special time!

**Christmas Eve Services**

Of course, Advent will culminate with special worship on Christmas Eve. We will welcome the Christ Child with a family service at 6:00 p.m., including a play presented by our St. Paul children. At 9:00 p.m., we celebrate with music and lessons featuring music from the St. Paul Ringers and St. Paul Singers.

*A St. Paul Christmas  
A Concert and Carol Sing*

*With:*

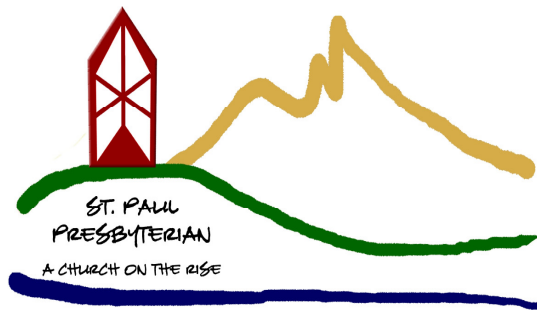
*St. Paul Singers & Chamber Orchestra  
Featured Soloist Lindsey French  
Directed by Travis Jürgens*



**SUNDAY,  
DECEMBER 18  
7:30 P.M.**

**Tickets: \$5/Adults**

**\$2.50/Children**



**Blue Christmas  
Tuesday, December 20 - 7PM**

This is the longest and darkest night of the year and Christmas is not a happy time for everyone. Many are struggling with unemployment or underemployment. Some have sad memories of past Christmases and some may have lost a loved one this year and it makes the season a blue one. This quiet Christmas worship lead by Pastor Jewell is designed to bring comfort and healing to those who are in such circumstances. Come worship and invite a friend.

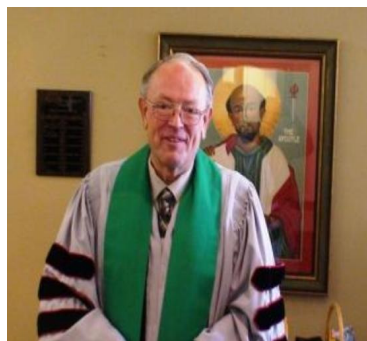


**Annual Congregational Meeting**

Part 1 of the St. Paul congregational meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 8 after worship. The purpose of the meeting is to receive the 2012 budget and to elect new elders and deacons. Please put this meeting on your calendar and plan to attend.



## PASTOR'S PAGE



### **Advent: A Season of Hope That Has Depth**

The temptation of our society is to jump right to Christmas after Halloween (or All Hallows eve). I hear people complaining that it isn't even Thanksgiving yet and we already are bombarded with Christmas decorations and advertising.

But then again we tend to have the same problem in the church. We want to skip over Advent and go right to Christmas. We want the celebration but not the time to prepare. But when we do, we lose the power of the Christmas message. My prayer is that we take Advent seriously. Not to be a kill-joy but to really enhance the Christmas celebration when it comes. That way we can truly enjoy it and relish it rather than thinking, "thank God its over."

Advent is a season of anticipation and hope. St. Augustine wrote:

**Hope has two beautiful daughters. Their names are anger and courage. Anger at the way things are, and courage to see that they do not remain as they are.**

If our Advent season of Hope is to have depth then we need to claim St. Augustine's two daughters of hope.

Anger: in this season there is a lot of anger. The Occupy Wall Street and the Tea Party movements both tap into a deep seated anger at our government and frustration over the disparity of rich and poor and inequities in our society and the money given to big banks whose greed caused the housing bubble and recession while the rest of the society pays the cost. That anger is important for us to feel and tap into as we look around us in this season. But if we only live there, as both the Tea Party and Occupy movements do, there is no hope.

For there to be hope we need to embrace Augustine's other daughter of Hope, Courage. Today as I write, the special super budget com-

mittee of congress appears to be ready to throw in the towel and give up on reducing the deficit. But neither side seems to have the courage to step out of their pre-determined party lines to find a new way, the courage to risk their political life to birth a new reality.

The same can be true for churches and for individuals. We need to take some hard looks in the mirror as a church and as individuals to see who we really are and ask difficult questions about where we need to go. Such an examination may bring "anger" to spur us forward to new things, to find the "courage" to grow, to risk letting go of the old ways to birth a new thing. After all isn't birthing a new thing what Christmas is all about?

What do you see in your mirror and where will it lead you?

Yours in Christ,

*Stan*

### ***Stan's December Schedule***

*Stan is here beyond Sundays:*

He will be in the office **Mondays and Wednesdays** in December.

Stan will be on vacation December 27—January 3 with his family in Iowa.

*If you need something please call or e-mail:*

Stan's Westminster Home: 303-421-5568

Stan's Cell: 720-209-6700

[Stanjewell@MSN.com](mailto:Stanjewell@MSN.com) or [s.jewell@stppc.org](mailto:s.jewell@stppc.org).

### ***Staff email contacts:***

Gayle Fidler: [g.fidler@stppc.org](mailto:g.fidler@stppc.org)

Travis Jürgens: [travis.j@stppc.org](mailto:travis.j@stppc.org)

Kristen Jürgens: [Kristen.j@stppc.org](mailto:Kristen.j@stppc.org)

# OUR CHURCH AT WORK

## NOVEMBER SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- The 2012 Stewardship Campaign pledges were 8% greater than in 2011.
- The 2012 Budget was adopted.
- Three hours have been added back into the Office Administrator's job to allow for work on the church financials.
- The 2011 Deacon Minutes were reviewed and accepted by MOB (Ministry of Belonging).
- Dates for the **Congregational Annual Meetings** were set: **8 January 2012** after service, to receive the 2012 Budget and elect new deacons and elders; **12 February 2012** after service, to receive the annual reports from groups in the church (due in office no later than 16 January 2012)
- Annual Joint Deacon/Session/Staff meeting and dinner: Sunday, 11 December 2011 at 6 P.M. New deacons and elders also invited!
- Memorial Fund monies spent for refillable Advent, Christ, and Communion Table candles as well as a handheld microphone.

## FROM THE DEACONS

Dear Fellow Christians,  
 We greet you in the name of our lord and savior, Jesus Christ. The Deacons are gearing up for all our Christmas celebrations. We wish each of you a very blessed and Merry Christmas.



Group 2 is taking volunteers for our Sunday Morning Servant program in December. Please sign up or call Judi Garvey-Lefebvre at 303.220.1055 or Jeanne Hizer at 720.535.4348.

### **Pastor Nominating Committee – November 2011**

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has begun its work in the selection of a new pastor for St. Paul. The committee members are: Andrew Fuiks, Cleve Dixon, Deanna Gordon, George Bamu, Beth McCarthy (Secretary), Cyn Hardy (Vice Moderator), and Martin Cobb (Moderator).

The PNC is supported by Presbytery's Committee on Ministry represented by Don Crawford who will guide and provide counsel. The first meetings were held November 15 and 29. The PNC is reviewing church members' responses to the 12 Questions meetings and will develop a consolidated list to be forwarded to Session.

Thanks to the 12 Questions Team: Tom Moe, Beth McCarthy, Sue Warner, Cyn Hardy, George Bamu, Dave Goss and Don Crawford (Presbytery) for their hard work, many hours, patient listening and dedication to St. Paul's future. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.

Though PNC proceedings are confidential, the committee will keep the congregation informed as to the progress and status of the selection process through the newsletter and during worship service.

### *Year End Giving*

We want to finish the year strong financially. If you are behind in your giving for the year, now is the time to do your best to catch up. Also some of our members had to reduce their pledge during the year because of financial stress. If God has blessed you with a better financial year than you planned when you made your estimate of giving last year, an extra gift in gratitude to God would help make the difference for those who had to cut back. We are all in this together.

### OCTOBER FINANCIAL INFORMATION

	<u>October</u>	<u>Year to Date 2011</u>
Total Church Income	\$16,136	\$177,059
Mortgage Expense	\$ 4,129	\$ 41,874
Church Expenses	<u>\$13,936</u>	<u>\$151,785</u>
Total Church Expenses	\$18,065	\$193,659
Net Gain/Loss	\$(1,929)	\$(16,599)
Net Gain/Loss without Mortgage Expense	\$2,200	\$ 25,274

## CHURCH ACTIVITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

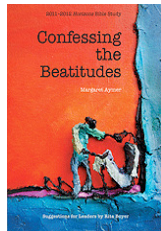
### Elderberries

Please join the Elderberries group in celebration of the Christmas season on Thursday, 15 December 2011, at noon at Mama Louise's Italian Restaurant, Orchard and Parker Rd. This fun group is open to anyone 50 and over. Please let Gayle Fidler, in the office, or Judi Garvey know if you'll be attending by Tuesday, 13 December, so we can get the correct count to the restaurant. Buon Natale!



### Agape—Presbyterian Women

On Thursday, 8 December, we will continue with the Horizons Study, "Confessing the Beatitudes." Sue Robertson has books for anyone interested for \$8.00. If you have any questions or for a book, see Sue.



### Books & Brunch

There will be no Books & Brunch in December. Happy Holidays to all and we'll see you in January 2012!

### Mid-week Gathering

Mid-Week Gathering are beginning a new discussion for Advent, using Christmas Is Not Your Birthday, by Mike Slaughter. Please join us Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. for a fellowship-filled potluck dinner or come to discuss this call to experience the joy of living and giving like Jesus from 6:45-7:30 p.m.



### College Age Reception

Do you have a college age "kid?" Are you a twenty-something? Do you avoid church because there's never anyone there your age? Ministry of Belonging would like to invite you to a reception with your peers, after the 9:00 pm service on Christmas Eve. We'll provide cookies & punch in the Celebration Center, conversation & mingling are up to you. Come and see old friends and maybe meet some friends you don't know yet. Don't be shy, you can send all us "old folks" home & have the place to yourselves. Email [muphinsmom@comcast.net](mailto:muphinsmom@comcast.net) that you're coming so we can make sure to have enough cookies.



## *MANY, MANY THANKS!*

*Thank You* — Thanksgiving baskets and turkeys were given to nine families. Three additional families came in the week of Thanksgiving for food from our pantry. **Thank you to the following helpers:** Lynn Siedelmann, Sally Garwood, Sheila Moskowitz, Greg Hopkins, Mary Wise, and especially to Faye Salvatore, for organizing and preparing baskets as well as giving them to the families. Thanks, too, to the Girl Scouts, who contributed food through their food drives twice, and to Barb Trautman from Smoky Hill High School, for two boxes of food.

*St. Paul, Amen. You are awesome!* Thank you for contributing towards the poor children's fund in strife torn countries through UNICEF. We collected at St. Paul \$189.70. The proceeds will help with some of the most essential parts of survival for these children, such as drinkable water, food, disease management and providing school supplies for education them so that they will not fall victim to radi-c elements.

### *Hearty Applause for Those Who Decorated The Church!*

The Ministry of Worship would like to publicly thank those folks who helped decorate the church, both inside and out, for the Christmas season:

**Tom Moe**  
**Scott Carlson**  
**Beth McCarthy**  
**Lucy Carlson**  
**Sheila Moskowitz**  
**Alea Carlson**

**Dave Goss**  
**Cleve Dixon**  
**Christina NJWE**  
**Nancy Dixon**  
**Sue Hatfield**  
**Gavin Carlson**

**Rick Hatfield**  
**Marsha McConnell**  
**Colleen Green**  
**Judi Garvey**  
**Kaia Carlson**



Please give them a hug or handshake for making the church a festive place for us all!

## MISSION and OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

### Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child is in full swing. Thank you for your participation and contribution toward this worthwhile effort of bringing a little bit of joy to these children in underdeveloped countries, through Samaritan's Purse. There is still time to pack a shoe box with gifts for a girl or boy and it to the church no later than 9:00 a.m. December 3.

On the 3rd we will go to the warehouse to help pack the boxes for shipment on Saturday, 3 December. Meet at the church at 9:30 a.m. to car-pool to the warehouse and work from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Please note that helpers must be at least 13 years old to work at the warehouse. Call Sheila Moskowitz for more information, 720.530.8936.



### CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

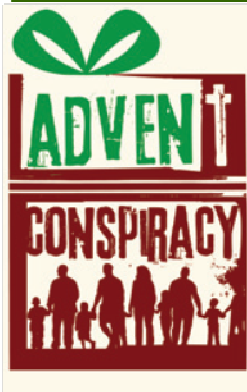
The Christmas Joy Offering is the last of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly. It is an opportunity for our congregation to support causes specifically designed to bring Good News of Great Joy to the poor in circumstance or spirit. Undesignated gifts to this offering will be distributed equally to the Assistance

Program of the Board of Pensions and to support student scholarships at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.

The Ministry of Witness will be giving Moments for Mission for the offering on December 4 and 11. Special envelopes for this purpose will be enclosed in our bulletins on December 18 and Christmas Day.

### Mitten Tree

Help the Mitten Tree warm the hearts and hands of many children in need this Christmas season. St. Paul is teaming with the Aurora Inter-church Taskforce to help supply toys, hats and mittens to those in need. This year we are asking for everyone's help again. If you have the ability to donate an unwrapped toy, mittens, hats or warm clothes please bring it to the Mitten Tree in the narthex. Our goal is to deliver the donations a before December 18 this year to help out this great need and cause. Tim Cummins plans on taking the donations again this year unless we have others that want to see a great organization at work fulfilling a great need in the Aurora community.



**The story of Christ's birth is a story of promise, hope, and revolutionary love. How did it turn into a season of stress, traffic jams, and shopping lists?**

The Advent Conspiracy is a movement. It's tens of thousands of Christians around the world throwing the kind of birthday party Jesus loves. It started in 2006 with just four churches. Today there are Advent Conspirators in over 20 countries, celebrating Christmas more deeply and blessing others. We also participate by giving gifts of safe drinking water, supporting efforts to end hunger and helping build homes for families in the Denver area; all offered in Jesus' name.

**The conspiracy is based on four simple ideas:**

**Worship Fully.** Christmas is about Jesus. Full worship isn't about more church services. It's about everything, everywhere.

**Spend Less.** Christmas is about turning love into a human, not a thing. Americans spend \$400 billion on Christmas—we think a better party is possible.

**Give More.** Christmas is about God giving himself away to the people he loves. Why don't we do the same?

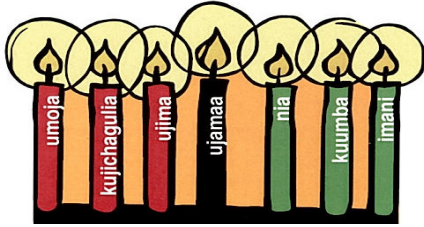
**Love All.** Christmas is about love without borders or boundaries. We're here to help your love be the same.

When you give just a little of that money to clean water projects (Living Water International), animals (Heifer International), Habitat for Humanity or the PC(USA) Hunger Program; the impact is enormous.

***Look for the Advent Conspiracy table in the Narthex and pick up materials for giving love instead of stuff.***

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### KWANZAA



The Celebrating African American Heritage Task Force invites all to participate in our upcoming Kwanzaa events December 26 - 30. Kwanzaa speaks to the best of what it means to be both African and human as it emphasizes the dignity of the human person, the well-being of family and community, the integrity of the environment and our kinship with it, and the rich resource and meaning of African culture.

Kwanzaa was created by Dr. Maulana Karenga in 1966. Dr. Karenga believed that two basic groups of African people exist: Continental Africans, those Africans on the continent; and the African Diaspora, Africans living away from the continent. He observed many in the Diaspora had been stripped of their language, values, principles, cultural, and spiritual practices when taken from Africa. It was Dr. Karenga's belief that reawakening to the positive African core values, practices, and history would serve to raise self-esteem and self-worth.

Each day we will celebrate one of the principles of Kwanzaa which include unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith. The Kwanzaa events schedule:

12/26	6 p.m.	Peoples Presbyterian Church
12/27	7 p.m.	Providence Presbyterian Church
12/28	7 p.m.	Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church
12/29	7 p.m.	Capitol Heights Presbyterian Church
12/30	6:30 p.m.	North Highland Presbyterian Church

For directions to any of these churches, please visit Presbytery's website: [www.denverpresbytery.org](http://www.denverpresbytery.org). Our Kwanzaa events conclude a yearlong series of educational events and celebrations, recognizing and valuing the diverse gifts of African Americans in our worship community. We hope to involve all of our congregations, seeking the broader inclusion of people from all cultures, providing greater awareness of one another, and creating yet another opportunity to understand and embrace Denver Presbytery's full identity.

***Please join us Tuesday, December 27, at Providence Presbyterian church in Parker, or join any of the celebrations that week.***

### HIGHLANDS COLLEGE RETREAT

**JANUARY 1-3, 2012**

**TAKE IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL**

Come home to Highlands! Maybe Highlands was a spiritual home to you for many years; maybe you are looking for a place to connect with others and God. Now that you've moved on to the "Next Level" beyond High School, make Highlands your home away from home for a season of faith, fellowship, and fun. Take time during winter break to reconnect with old friends and make some new ones. Highlands College Retreat will feature uplifting Christ centered worship, great keynotes with a strong spiritual message, time for fellowship, recreation, and just hanging out with friends in a beautiful and relaxing setting.



Music by David Lamott, an award winning songwriter and itinerant peace activist, with ten CDs and 2000 concerts on four continents, author, and experienced retreat and conference workshop leader.

**Where:** Highlands Presbyterian Camp and Retreat Center in Allenspark, CO

**When:** January 1-3, 2012

**Registration Deadline: December 20th**

**Who:** Young Adults 1-6 years out of High School

**Early Registration Cost:** \$160 / participant (if paperwork and payment is received by Dec 10th)

**Late Registration Cost:** \$185/ participant (if payment and paperwork is received after Dec 10th)






**Check-in is from 4:00—6:00pm on Sunday, January 1st at the Retreat Center**

**Departure will be at 11:00am on Tuesday**

**Meals and Lodging...**All participants will be housed in Highlands comfortable and modern, 104-bed Retreat Center. Meals include dinner and snacks on Sunday night, 3 meals and snacks on Monday and Tuesday brunch.

**Generous Scholarships Available, <http://www.highlandscamp.org/camperships.html>**

# DECEMBER 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 OFFICE CLOSED	3 9:30 a.m. Operation Christmas Child to warehouse
4 9:00 a.m. Christian Education 10:00 a.m. Social Time 10:15 a.m. Worship w/ Lord's Supper 11:30 a.m. OLM worship 11:45 Ministry of Worship	5 7:00 p.m. St. Paul Ringers  	6 5:00p.m. Jr. Girl Scouts 6:30p.m. Anglers 7:00p.m. Boy Scouts 7:00p.m. Daisies	7 6:00p.m. Midweek Gathering 6:00p.m. Girl Scouts 7:30 p.m. St. Paul Singers  	8 7:00 p.m. Agape Women	9 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30p.m. Girl Scouts	10 4:00 p.m. OLM Men of Integrity
11 9:00 a.m. Christian Education 10:00 a.m. Social Time 10:15 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. OLM worship 6:00 p.m. <b>Elders/Deacons/Staff joint mtg./dinner</b>	12 Noon Volunteer Lunch 6:00 p.m. Ministry of Discipling 7:00 p.m. Ministry of Belonging, Ministry of Service, Ministry of Witness 7:00 p.m. St. Paul Ringers	13 7:00p.m. Boy Scouts	14 6:00p.m. Midweek Gathering 6:00p.m. Girl Scouts 7:30 p.m. St. Paul Singers  	15 <b>NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE</b> 12:00 Elderberries	16 OFFICE CLOSED	17 4:00 p.m. OLM Men of Integrity
18 9:00 a.m. Christian Education 10:00 a.m. Social Time 10:15 a.m. Worship w/ Lord's Supper 11:30 a.m. OLM worship 7:30 p.m. <b>Christmas Concert!</b>	19 7:00 p.m. St. Paul Ringers  	20 7:00p.m. Blue Christmas/Longest Night Service	21 6:00p.m. Midweek Gathering 6:00p.m. Girl Scouts 7:30 p.m. St. Paul Singers	22	23 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30p.m. Girl Scouts	24 <b>Christmas Eve Services:</b> 6:00 p.m. 9:00 p.m.
25 <b>Christmas Day</b> 10:15 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. OLM worship	26 <i>Per Capita—Have you made your payment? The assessment is \$25 per active member. Call the office if you aren't sure whether you have paid.</i>	27	28	29	30	31
<b>2011 Giving. NOTE:</b> If you wish to have your giving for 2011 recorded in 2011 on your giving statement from the church and not carry over into 2012, please have your giving in to the church by Wednesday, December 28 so it can be deposited and recorded on December 29. The church office is not open on December 30 or 31.						

## **Worship Schedule for December**

**Worship Time 10:15 a.m.**

December 4: **Advent 2**—*A Dickens Christmas: The Spirit of Christmas Past*  
Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13, Mark 1:1-8  
Communion Sunday

December 11: **Advent 3**—*A Dickens Christmas: The Spirit of Christmas Present*  
Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11, Luke 3:7-14  
Reception of New Members

December 18: **Advent 4**—*A Dickens Christmas: The Spirit of Christmas Yet To Come*  
Matthew 25:31-46  
Communion Sunday

December 20: **Blue Christmas / The Longest Night – 7 PM** Tuesday Evening  
See the article on Page 1

December 24: **Christmas Eve Services – Candle lighting at the end of each Service**  
**6 PM - Family Service**

Chancel Drama by the children of the church

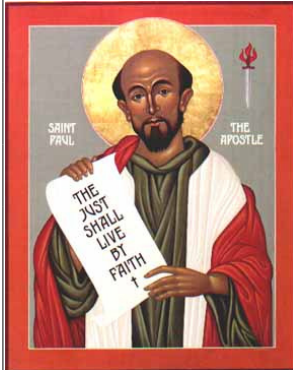
**9 PM - Isaiah's Celebration of God With Us**

St. Paul Ringers and St. Paul Singers

December 25: **Christmas Sunday**—*Celebrating God's Transforming Presence With Us*  
Isaiah 52:7-10, Hebrews 1:1-4, John 1:1-14

### **New Year's Day!**

Ministry of Belonging and Ministry of Worship invite you to a laid back, comfy breakfast and worship on Sunday, January 1. Wear your favorite sweats, slip into your new bunny slippers, join us in your best footie pajamas as we enjoy pancakes & all the fixings and then come together for a worship service of Lessons & Carols. No stress, no makeup, and a guaranteed hangover cure should you need one. (OK, maybe not guaranteed) What better place to spend the "morning after" than with your family at St. Paul?



**ST. PAUL  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
18901 E. HAMPDEN  
AURORA, CO 80013**

Phone: 303.693.3434  
Web: [www.stppc.org](http://www.stppc.org)  
Email: [office@stppc.org](mailto:office@stppc.org)

#### Sunday Morning Schedule:

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

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