



JANUARY 2012 TIDINGS
ST. PAUL'S REFORMED CHURCH
158 PHELPS LANE, NORTH BABYLON, NY 11703
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Pastor's Musings

While for society at large Christmas has come and gone, according to the church and its tradition, the final day of Christmas does not arrive until January 5th with the celebration of twelfth night and the arrival of Epiphany on January 6th. When people look at me with a blank stare when I bring this up, I'm always tempted to start singing that song that goes on and on about the 12 gifts given by "my true love;" but I always start to get confused after the 7 swans a-swimming.

In keeping with the church calendar and Christian tradition, we will observe the ending of the Christmas season and the start of the Epiphany season with an Epiphany Service on January 6th at 7:30pm.

The focus, as always on Epiphany, will be on the revelation of Christ's glory, as shown in the star of Bethlehem, and the appearance of the wise men to worship the Lord.

Following the service there will be a special time for refreshments and fellowship in Fellowship Hall. I invite you to join in celebrating and proclaiming the news that the Savior of the world has come.

Congregational Meeting

The congregational meeting for the receiving of the annual report and approval of the budget will be held on Sunday, January 22, 2012 at 12:15pm.

There will be a light brunch served in Fellowship Hall between the worship service and the meeting.

Congratulations!

At the congregational meeting held on December 11, 2011, John Alteiri, Edie Mazzullo, and Barbara Walters were elected to serve on the Consistory. They will be installed into office during the worship service on Sunday, January 8th.

stpaulsrefchurch.com

Our new web site is up and running! Be sure to check it out.

The new design makes it much easier for us to update the information on the site, so be sure to check back often to learn about what's happening at St. Paul's.

Want to know more about our faith?

If so, then be sure to join Pastor's seven week study on the Book of Psalms. The Psalms have been a part of Christian worship and spirituality since the beginning and continue to inspire, comfort, challenge and enrich Christians.

The study will be held from 12:15pm - 1:15pm on Sundays starting January 29 and ending March 18 (there will be no session on February 26). The sessions will be based on the reading in the "word alive" study guide, *Psalms*. To purchase a guide, please sign up on the sheet on the table in the Narthex. The cost of the guide is \$10.00, payable when they are distributed on Sunday, January 22.

This is an introductory study on the Bible, so ALL are invited to join in this exploration of the Bible and the especially rich treasure of the Psalms.

Please Pray for

The January Prayer Service will be held on Wednesday, January 18th at 7:30pm in the sanctuary. Let us gather and offer up prayers for those who have made their requests known to us.

Requesting Prayer

A special request of those who have placed people on our church prayer list, please take time this month to update the church regarding those listed by you on the list. As the new year begins we would like to have an accurate prayer list.

So that the list can be prepared for the Prayer Service, please have your updates to the church no later than Sunday, January 15th. Updates can be placed by e-mail, a phone call, or by filling out a prayer request form (which can be found in the Narthex). Thank you for your help.

January 6th

This day is known by many names, among them: little Christmas, three kings day and officially, Epiphany, which means manifestation or revealing.

St. Paul's will hold a special Epiphany Service on Friday, January 6th at 7:30pm in observance of this holy day.

Let us join the wise men in worshipping the King



Preschool

December was a short but busy month for the Preschool. The Preschool pageant was on December 10th and all enjoyed themselves, especially the proud parents. No December would be complete, of course, without the annual visit from Santa Claus. This year John Alteri was the visitor from the North Pole and it was hard to tell who enjoyed themselves more - John or the children. The Preschool would like to take this opportunity to thank Andy Beitter for playing Santa Claus for the past eighteen years. The children loved Andy and the children so looked forward to his visits. During his eighteen years, he made many children very happy. The month's events concluded with a trip to see the play "Frosty's Adventures". The Preschool was closed from December 23 - January 2nd for the holidays.

Next year the Preschool is trying something new. We are offering a 4 year old Preschool class that will be 5 days a week in the morning (2 ½ hours). This change was done because there had been several requests from parents for a 5 day program.

Please note that this program is only for the morning. St. Paul's Preschool does not have a full day Preschool program, for that would put it in the child care status. The 4 year old PM class will still only be three days a week (2 ½ hours) and the 3 year old AM and PM classes will still be three days a week for 2 ½ hours. Registration will begin in February for the 2012-2013 school year.

Barbara Leun, Preschool

Sunday School

Thank you so much to all those who donated gifts to the Family at the Suffolk County Coalition Against Domestic Violence! Your generosity will help make this Christmas a little brighter for this family in need. All the gifts were donated to the Coalition on Monday, Dec 19th.

The Sunday School was able to donate \$42.76 to UNICEF. Thank you to all those who collected for this mission.

Cheryl Lento, Sunday School Superintendent

Women's Fellowship

Caryn Westerberg will be hosting our next get together in her home on Friday, January 13th at 7:30 p.m. We completed our discussion on Esther and will begin a new topic. Emails will be sent out with directions to her home. I encourage everyone to join us. It is such a nice evening of discussion and fellowship. If you have any questions at all or need a ride, please contact Cheryl Lento.

Women's Study Group

The Women's Study Group enjoyed their Christmas Party on Tuesday, Dec. 20th. 14 people attended for lunch and Christmas carols by the piano with Phil Leun. They also discussed the history of some of the carols they sang.

Their next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 17, 2012 in Fellowship Hall. They will meet at 12:30 p.m. Please bring a bag lunch for yourself.....refreshments will be served. The Women's Group will continue their discussion on the book "God's Little Lessons for Women"

Youth Group

St. Paul's Youth Group held a coat drive from Nov-Dec. 55 coats, hats, gloves and scarves were donated to The Town of Babylon Food Pantry and will given to those in need in our own community! Thank you to everyone who donated. Many donations also came from our community too! Thank you to Cindy Lavorata and Ellen Stockert and the entire Youth Group for organizing this wonderful mission.

Calendars for Sale

2012 Calendars are on sale now in Fellowship Hall. Each month has a beautiful picture of God's creation along with a scripture passage. The calendars are \$7 each. If you would like to purchase a calendar, please see Cheryl Lento.

Fundraising

It's that gift-giving time of the year where many of us receive gifts that were well-intended but just missed the mark. If you don't know what to do with those gifts I have the perfect idea: donate them to St. Paul's to be used in next year's Chinese auction baskets. It could be something small like a coffee mug or something big like a gift set or gift certificate to a local restaurant. Whatever it is I am sure my awesome group of volunteers will be able to recycle your unwanted gift into an item that people will be buying tons of raffle tickets in the hopes of winning! If you don't have the space to store your unwanted gifts or are afraid you will put it away in a great spot and forget where that spot is come May let me know and I can add it to the collection I have already started amassing.

I will hold a Fundraiser meeting on Sunday, January 15th right after the service. Please plan to attend so we can brainstorm ideas for future fundraisers. Thanks!

Caryn Westerberg, Fundraising

Stewardship

If you have not turned in your pledge form or your time & talent sheet, you can still do so. You can put it in the collection plate, mail it into the church, or give it to me directly. I am at church most Saturdays and Sundays. This is a wonderful opportunity to make a commitment to give of your time, talents and treasures.

Thank you, Denise Miller, Stewardship

ENJOY SOME PEACE AND TRANQUILITY THROUGH OUR MEDITATIVE TAIZE SERVICE AT 5 PM ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 21ST. FOLLOW THAT UP WITH SOME FELLOWSHIP AT A COVERED DISH DINNER AT 6 PM. NOT SURE WHAT TO EXPECT? SPEAK TO PASTOR OR A MEMBER OF THE HEALTH TEAM. (MARY CUNNINGHAM, JOHN ALTERI, JULIA MILLER, LISA SLUSZKA OR LISA SLATTERY)



COVERED DISH DINNER - JANUARY 21ST 6 PM - THIS MONTH'S CHURCH DINNER WILL BE A POT LUCK! BRING A DISH TO FEED YOUR FAMILY AND SHARE WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY. DESSERTS ARE WELCOME AS WELL! FOR MORE INFORMATION SPEAK WITH LISA SLATTERY.

Missions

As my term on consistory comes to an end, I would like to take a moment to thank everyone who has helped either by joining this committee or by donating to one of our many missions over the last three years. Together we have all helped so many worthy causes and it would not have been possible without all of us working together, for the old saying is so true: Many hands make light work. With that being said, I know that the congregation will give the same support to Barbara Walters, who will once again take over the reigns as Missions Deacon when she is installed again in January. Barbara, I wish you all the best, and I know God will bless you and your decisions. I will remain on Barbara's Missions Committee and invite you all to join me as we extend St. Paul's outreach into the community and around the world.

At this time I would like to extend special thanks to Ann and George, who have helped with food drives, suppers and so many other things. Thanks to Cindy and the Youth Group for their help with coat and food drives, school supply and eyeglass collections, the CROP Walk, suppers and much more. To Martha, Jane, Allison, and Julia for also doing the CROP Walk. To Ellen, Barbara and Karen, for always being there when I need you for anything. Thanks to Cheryl, Denise, Edie, and Pam for always lending a hand. Finally to my Bella, who is always by my side, during every community food drive, CROP walk and beyond. For every night I had to bring her to a late consistory meeting at church, I am so grateful to have such a wonderful daughter. If I have forgotten anyone, please forgive me, for I am all too human.

God bless you all in 2012!

Respectfully submitted, *Laura Lombardi*, Missions Deacon

BELLA WILL BE PERFORMING WITH THE BROADWAY PLAYERS MUSICAL THEATER COMPANY IN MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE V, A BENEFIT CONCERT FOR THE MAKE-A-WISH FOUNDATION ON FEBRUARY 4TH AT CENTRAL ISLIP HIGH SCHOOL. TICKETS ARE \$10, \$25 AND \$50 AND THERE ARE TICKETS AVAILABLE FOR THOSE WHO CAN ONLY ATTEND "IN SPIRIT." THE BROADWAY PLAYERS WILL BE PERFORMING SELECTIONS FROM "MARY POPPINS." THEIR GROUP WILL ALSO BE PERFORMING A HIP-HOP ROUTINE. ALSO FEATURED AT THE SHOW WILL BE THE CENTRAL ISLIP HIGH SCHOOL CONCERT CHOIR, SJB DANCEWORKS, THE JC LYNN JUNIOR DANCE COMPANY, AND THE CENTRAL ISLIP HIGH SCHOOL SHOW CHOIR. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND TO PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE, PLEASE VISIT [HTTP://WWW.BROADWAYPLAYERS.COM/INDEX.HTML](http://www.broadwayplayers.com/index.html) AND CLICK THE TAB THAT SAYS, "PURCHASE TICKETS." (THIS WILL BE ADDED THIS EVENING, PER THE SHOW DIRECTOR.) THANK YOU FOR HELPING US HELP MAKE-A-WISH.

Worship Committee:

I hope you all are enjoying a blessed Christmas and a joyous New Year. Our Christmas celebration will continue on Friday, January 6 when we will celebrate Epiphany with a special Worship Service at 7:30. The service will be followed with refreshments in Fellowship Hall.

We will hold our 10:30 Worship Services on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Cindy Lavorata, Worship Committee Chair

Cookie Craft Sale

Thank you to all who baked for our annual cookie sale; Jane Costantino, Sophia King, Pam Lavorata, Debbie Leun, Jen Stempel and Caryn Westerberg. A total of 31 cans of delicious cookies were sold. Thank you Mimi for taking care of the sale of the craft items, wreaths and cookies.



I want to extend a very special thank you to Allison Costantino. Allison with the help of Julia Miller and Delaney Lavorata has been taking care of the messages on the front sign. Thank you for doing such a great job!

Youth Group Coat and Hat Drive:

Thanks to the generous donations of the C0ngregation, Preschool and Community, seven bags containing 56 coats and many hats, scarves and gloves were collected. These items were delivered to the very appreciative folks at the Babylon Food Pantry. Just in time for the cold weather, these coats will keep our neighbors warm this winter. Thank you; thank you for your help.



Minutes Of The Meeting Of December 12, 2011

Board of Elders: (Pastor Strauch)
The Elders meet this past week and reviewed the roles. 10 people were moved from the active list to the inactive list. This leaves 66 active members. Eighteen were dropped from the inactive roles. We now have 56 inactive with a final membership of 124 members.

Pastor's Report:
Pastor is planning a bible study to begin the last week of January on the book of Psalms. It will be an 8 week program. Pastor's study course completed last week. He will be looking into other options for next year.

Congregational Annual Meeting:
The meeting is scheduled for January 22 with reports due January 8th.

Update on Natural Church Development:

The health team is not meeting this month. There is a Taize service scheduled for January 21st. A pot luck supper will follow. No date has been scheduled for the follow up survey with Jon Norton yet.

Website Development:

The website went live this morning. The site is www.stpaulsrefchurch.com The consistory is very appreciative of the time and effort Jackie put into this. The new computer has been ordered which will be very beneficial to the upkeep of the website.

Stewardship: (D. Miller)
No additional information was received so there are no changes from what was previously handed out.

Property: (S. Olsen) No report.

Family Care: (M. Ciejka) No report but Maria volunteered her assistance to Edie.

Finance Committee: (B. Milligan)
There is still an assessment payment and an annuity payment for Pastor due by the end of the year. With the balance in the general fund Denise anticipates having enough money to get through the end of the year. The budget prepared by the finance committee was presented. Denise highlighted a 4% increase has been proposed for the church employees. (Pastor, Organist, Sexton and secretary). Funds for a babysitter and for a substitute pastors for three services (half of the scheduled 6 days off) and organists were added back in. The consistory agreed to submit the budget to the congregation at the meeting in January. The next fund raising meeting will be held January 15th. A new counters list has been distributed.

Worship: (C. Lavorata)
We are three weeks into Advent. The final week the candle will be lit by some of our more senior members. The Christmas Eve services are set for 5 and 11 pm. On Friday, January 6th at 7:30 pm there will be an Epiphany service followed by refreshments. A worship committee meeting will be set up for January.

Mission: (L. Lombardi)
The mission for December is the Gift for the Christ Child. Laura is trying to coordinate assistance for Barbara Walters following her cataract surgery.

Pre-School Committee: (B. Leun)
Barbara is coordinating with Marissa and Denise to improve the tuition collection procedures. The preschool is proposing extending the 4 year old am program to 5 days a week for the September 2012 school year. A proposal was made to set the 5 day tuition to cover staffing. The motion was made by D. Miller and seconded by C. Lento. Registration for the fall year will begin in January. The Christmas Pageant went well. The current enrollment is 55.

Christian Education: (C. Lento)
We have 14 children in the Sunday school program. A confirmation class has begun in which there are two children. The Sunday school will participate in the Hanging of the Greens service on Sunday. The Women's fellowship will meet Friday the 13th at Caryn Westerberg's house. The Women's group will have their Christmas party on the 20th at Barbara's house. The Youth Group collected over 50 coats – over 7 bags worth! The eye glasses collected will be held to try to coordinate a visit from the Lions Club to accept the donation. The Sunday school mission is buying presents for a needy family.

**Prayer List (updated
12/11/11)**

Grace Adams Requests

Prayers for: Glenn Adams
Paul Meyer

Maria Ciejka Requests

Prayers for: Gregory Ciejka
Vincent Ainis Louis Ruggiano

Jane Costantino Requests

Prayers for:
Elaine Nickolan & family

**Cunningham – Beitter
Requests Prayers for:**

Andy Beitter
Mary Marshall
Aysegul Yildiz – Meyveci
Bob Novak Sal Morande
Barbara Hicks
Katie Cunningham
Albert Capraro
Coombe Family

Tom Cunningham Requests

Prayers for: Steven Somma

Mary Ellen Cunningham

Requests Prayers for:

Mary Rozmus
Ted Rozmus
Craig Keller

Pat Dyer Requests Prayers

for: Jennifer Dyer

Erika Farrell Requests

Prayers for: Marilyn Ernst

JeanAnn Felice Requests

Prayers for: Patrick Piegari

Gebbia Family Requests

Prayers for: Louise Rakoczy,
Jason Anthony

Karen Isaksen Requests

Prayers for:
Karen Isaksen
Kathy Gerbino
Kim Mullen

Gary Giambalvo
Anthony Giambalvo
Mary Halasey
Eric Isaksen & all cancer
patients

Madeline Kerstein Requests

Prayers for: Kerri McCaffrey
Barbara LaPoma

Carolee Krauss Requests

Prayers for: Doris Liehethuth
Robert Rohmann

Cindy Lavorata Requests

Prayers for: Nicholas Grazzo
Joseph Romano
Matt Holly

Louise Lehman Requests

Prayers for: Irma Ardolino

Barbara Leun Requests

Prayers for: Charisse Spearman
Michaela Wangner
Theresa Anino
Kathy Scottoline
Richard Kurd
Josephine Esposito
Tiffany White
James McGarrity
Dorothy Stephanelli
Janet Fellingham
Phyllis Silvestri

Laura Lombardi Requests

Prayers for:

Ciara Lombardi
Jessica Lynn Tarnovska
John and Marie Deliso
Ivy Brooks
Steven Kaplan
Elizabeth Vegerano
Jo-Ann Pitt
Denise Alba

Jean Matzinger Requests

Prayers for: Elise Gulbrandsen

Eddie Mazzullo Requests

Prayers for: Carlos Rodriguez

Denise Miller Requests

Prayers for: Patricia Geoglegan

Julia Miller Requests Prayers

for: Concetta Dorsey

Betty Milligan Requests

Prayers for: Jean Divan

Linda Pantaleo: _ Teresa Fox

Bob Scammacca

Ann Poletti Requests Prayers

for: Bob Mellyn
Sarah & Walton Bell

Robert & Diane Reimer

Requests Prayers for:

John Muller
Lois Muller
Terry Badolato
Stephan Reimer
Barbara Walters
Desiree Rose Brooks
Shannon Brooks

Bob Russell Requests Prayers

for: Christopher Russell

Bob & Stephen Russell

Requests Prayers for:

Prim Stahl

Martha Skrivanek Requests

Prayers for: Pat Srnac

Kaitlyn Slattery Requests

Prayers for: _Max Schletter

Ellen Stockert Requests

Prayers for: Deborah Stockert

Ralph Carlson
The Gundel Family

Edna Stokes Requests Prayers

for: Barbara Luthy

Tallman Family Requests

Prayers for:

Walter Tallman
Paris Tallman
Allan Tallman
Christopher Tallman
Arline Tallman
Mary Tallman

Joy Torrey Requests Prayers**for:** Sissy Macaluso**Katherine and John Vitollo****Request Prayers for:**John Vitollo
Diane Weber
Gordan Emmons
Corinne Kinzer
Doris Bischoff**Hazel Wagner Requests****Prayers for:** Beverly Mooney**Burt Venendaal Requests****Prayers for** Alice Venendaal**Barbara Walters Requests****Prayers for:**Migdalia Haredia
Marion Neenan
Robert Renolds
Marcia Brill
James Haredia
Grace Adams
Megdalea Jolene Miller**January Calendar**

1	9.15am	Choir Rehearsal	17	12.30pm	Women's Study Group
	10.30am	Worship Service			
6	7.30pm	Epiphany Service and Refreshments	18	7.30pm	Prayer Service
8	9.15am	Choir Rehearsal	21	5.00pm	Taize Service
	9.30am	Sunday School: Gr 5 - 8		6.00pm	Covered-Dish Supper
	10.30am	Worship Service	22	9.15am	Choir Rehearsal
	10.30am	Sunday School: Preschool - Grade 4		9.30am	Sunday School: Grades 5-8
14	9.30am	Consistory Meeting: Year Review and Planning		10.30am	Worship Service
				10.30am	Sunday School: Preschool - Grade 4
15	9.15am	Choir Rehearsal		12.15pm	Congregational Meeting
	9.30am	Sunday School: Grades 5-8	23	7.30am	Consistory Meeting
	10.30am	Worship Service	29	9.15am	Choir Rehearsal
	10.30am	Sunday School: Preschool - Grade 4		9.30am	Sunday School: Grades 5-8
	12.15pm	Fund Raising Meeting		10.30am	Worship Service
				10.30am	Sunday School: Preschool - Grade 4
				12.15pm	Bible Study