



Saint Paul's in-the-Pines

“As a diverse family we seek and serve God through joyful worship, love and respect for creation, promotion of social justice, and growth into the image of Christ.”

office@stpaulsinthepines.net

December 2009

www.stpaulsinthepines.net

Diocese of East Carolina
The Rt. Rev. Clifton Daniel, 3rd
Bishop
www.diocese-eastcarolina.org

Clergy
The Very Rev. John T. Frazier
rector@stpaulsinthepines.net

Vestry	
Senior Warden	Christina Barnett
Junior Warden	Bob Walborn
Clerk of the Vestry	Kevin Hasinger
Christian Education	Doreen DeJaynes
Hospitality	Patricia Jackson
Missions	Pam Perham
Pastoral Care	Pam Frawley
Stewardship	Jane Crabill
Worship	Leslie Flom

Committees and Staff	
Altar Guild Chair	Charity Swick
Treasurer	Donna Roraback
Parish Assistant & Epistle Editor	Robin Minnick

From Our Rector's Study

Greetings and God's Blessings upon you all,



Ah, the seasons. As I sit here composing this letter to you I am watching squirrels outside my office window. They are so busy digging and burying provisions for the oncoming winter. Squirrels are so "seasonal." They seem to be driven by the earth's tilted rotation and subsequent decreasing sunlight to prepare for the onset of colder weather. The squirrels seem to be annoyed by one another if territorial boundaries are not respected. Such intrusions lead to swift chases but only enough to show the limits of one's space.

How does the changing of the seasons affect you? Are you anxious this time of year? Are you quick to remind others of your space, your "to-do" space? We live in three worlds. We live in the commercial world of "The Holidays." We live in the natural world of this earth and its onset of the Winter Solstice that occurs on December 21st. And, you and I live as visitors on a temporal journey awaiting the coming of our Savior. This latter way of life is recognized during our Advent Season which began November 29th this year and is closed with the eve of the day of our Lord's birth, Christmas. Ah, the seasons. You see, we live in overlapping seasons. We live in the commercial holiday season, the global climate season and the already and not yet God inspired time of calmly waiting. We might be anxious about a list of gifts, decorations or upcoming activities. We also, like the squirrels, might be really concerned about what challenges winter might bring insofar as the cost for heating our homes, winterizing our cars, and having warm clothing. Such anxieties can sometimes put you on edge and may make you chase off those who love you as they ask for help or just want to be with you. The squirrel in you my say, "Don't they see that I'm trying to 'get ready?'"

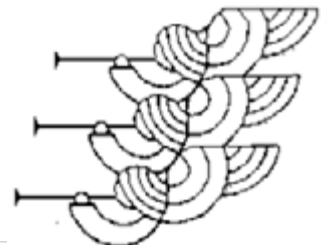
In the truest way that we live, waiting for our Lord, there is no anxiety. The coming of Christ is for all of us and there is enough of him to fill all of our hearts. We do not purchase the gift, he is the gift. The gift that he wants from us is already with us. It is our hearts. We give our hearts to Jesus so that he might fill them like Christmas stockings. Yes, 'Tis the Season. 'Tis the season to be still and know that God is God! God always was, always is, and always will be. Anxiety is born as a result of the coming together of limited time and much to do. In God's time these would-be parents of timing and doing never come together. Anxiety is never born.

I hope and pray that knowing there is a part of you that is calling you to be calm that you will attune your listening to that call. Use this Advent and Christmas to focus on God's whisper. God is calling you away from worrying and agitation. When the Israelites were between the Red Sea and Pharaoh's Army Moses said, "The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to keep still." (Exodus 14:14) You too must let go and let God.

Let's not allow the commercial holiday frenzy or the onset of winter make us squirrely. Let us hear the Psalmist as he reports God saying "Be still, and know that I am God!" (Psalm 46:10)

I wish you all a very blessed Advent and a Holy and Peaceful Christmas,

John+



We are the Church... ..

Let us hold in our prayers our government leaders and our Armed Forces on deployment; the millions of refugees worldwide in need of help; and our young people growing up in a challenging world.
For our families and friends who need our prayers -

Rev'd Lucy Talbott
Gloria
Cheryl French
Elemihl & Louise Strouse
Justin Boyle, John Buffinton,
Andrea Eubanks, David Seay &
Tim Williams,... serving overseas
Faith Swick
Brooke Larsen
Mary Lee Shanahan
Dan Ford
Dianna Hamer
Agnes Bally
Lori (Frawley) Buffinton
Mary Vickers
Dianne Helfrich
Saran MicLean-Hasinger
Mr. Billingsleas's daughter
Jimmy Teachey
CJ Wheeler (Gail's nephew)
Kim Jansen (Suzanne Tuttle)
Sydney Finau (Judy Krantz)
Diana Krautwald (Judy Krantz)

Christina's Corner, Christina Barnett, Senior Warden



Christmas Thoughts For All The Year comes to us courtesy of the Internet: http://www.slideshare.net/trinityblu/christmas-thoughts-for-all-the-year?from=share_email

CHRISTMAS is celebration; and celebration is instinct in the heart. With gift and feast, with scarlet ribbon and fresh green bough, with merriment and the sound of music, we commend the day--oasis in the long, long landscape of the commonplace. Through how many centuries, through how many threatening circumstances, has Christmas been cele-

brated, since that cry came ringing down the ages," Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11 KJV

Christmas is celebration, but the traditions that cluster sweetly around the day have significance only if they translate the heart's intention--the yearning of the human spirit to compass and express faith and hope and love. Without this intention, the gift is bare, and the celebration a touch of tinsel, and the time without meaning. As these attributes, exemplifying the divine spark in mankind, informed the first Christmas and have survived the onslaughts of relentless time, so do they shine untarnished in this present year of our Lord.

Faith and hope and love, which cannot be bought or sold or bartered, but only given away are the wellsprings, firm and deep of Christmas celebration. These are the gifts without price, the ornaments incapable of imitation, discovered only within oneself and therefore unique. They are not always easy to come by, but they are in unlimited supply ever in the province of all.

THIS CHRISTMAS mend a quarrel. Seek out a forgotten friend. Dismiss suspicion, and replace it with trust. Write a love letter. Share some treasure. Give a soft answer. Encourage youth. Manifest your loyalty in word and deed. Keep a promise. Find the time. Forgo a grudge. Forgive an enemy. Listen. Apologize if you were wrong. Try to understand. Flout envy.

Examine your demands on others. Think first of someone else. Appreciate. Be kind; be gentle.

Laugh a little. Laugh a little more. Deserve confidence.

Take up arms against malice. Decry complacency. Express your gratitude. Go to church.

Welcome a stranger. Gladden the heart of a child. Take pleasure in the beauty and wonder of the earth. Speak your love. Speak it again. Speak it still once again.

These are but inklings of a vast category; a mere scratching of the surface. They are simple things; you have heard them all before; but their influence has never been measured.

Christmas is celebration, and there is no celebration that compares with the realization of its true meaning--with the sudden stirring of the heart that has extended itself toward the core of life.

Then, only then, is it possible to grasp the significance of the first Christmas--to savor in the inward ear the wild, sweet music of the angel choir; to envision the star-struck sky, and glimpse, behind the eyelids the ray of light that feel athwart a darkened path and changed the world.

By the Editors of McCall's magazine, December, 1959

Trinity, Christmas 2009

Peace to you, your sister in Christ,

Christina

SUMMARY OF VESTRY MINUTES

The following is a summary of the vestry minutes of 17 November 2009

- Treasurer's Report – We are still running a deficit balance but much improved over last year. Anyone interested can see Donna Roraback for details.
- Stewardship – Jane Crabill is working with Robin Burrs to have all the "Time, Talent and Treasure" packets ready for pick up. They are in the back of the parish hall in an upright plastic stand.
- Christian Ed – The Adult, Sunday Morning Christian Ed group wants to use a book study format from time to time during the year. We will start with a small book recommended by Debbie Liebers in January. Debbie will get the books for us and we can send payment in later.
- Wardens – in the process of creating Vestry Call List. This list is very important when trying to communicate with everyone on our roster.
- A parishioner made a request that we adopt a family for this Christmas. It was motioned, seconded and passed. The parish will be given the details in the near future about the ages, genders and sizes of the children in the family as well as the parent.
- We are in need of a nursery worker again. The vestry wants to look at FTCC as well as run ads in the Fayetteville Observer. We are looking at hiring in January 2010.
- Fr John will be on vacation from December 28, 2009 to January 5th 2010.

The next vestry meeting will be December 15th at 6:00 pm.

Stewardship Campaign for 2010 — Jane Crabill, Stewardship Chairperson

I want you to think of this campaign as both “paying it forward” and “paying it back.” Going forward we want to have funds to pave the parking lot and to take care of needed repairs to the church building and to make it safer and better for our children and others. We want to invest in our children through Sunday school materials and a vibrant youth program. We want to continue enjoying the spiritual guidance of a fulltime priest and the music of an excellent organist and the administrative help of a talented parish assistant.

Looking back, we want to care for and preserve the beautiful stained glass windows designed and created by earlier parishioners. We want to honor St. Paul's in-the-Pines' tradition of outreach to the community and give back to each other through fellowship and pastoral care. We want to continue the example of supporting our diocesan needs as part of a larger community of Anglicans.

All of these things require money and time.

We should strive to meet three goals with the stewardship campaign:

1. 100% of regularly attending households pledging a weekly, monthly, or quarterly amount.
2. 100% of regularly attending households pledging to contribute time and talent to several of the church activities.
3. Progressing towards tithing if we have not already met this personal goal (tithing is to give one/tenth of one's income to the church.)

Stewardship packets should be ready to pick up at church on Sunday, December 6. Most likely you will be asked to turn them in two weeks later on Sunday, December 20. This is a short deadline but it is necessary for planning a 2010 budget. More information will follow in church announcements and bulletins.

Matthew 6:20

But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal.

The thing we most set our heart on is our highest treasure. The Lord himself is the greatest treasure we can have. Let us keep this passage in mind as we contemplate our giving for the coming year.

With love in Christ,
Jane Crabill
Stewardship Chairperson



Calling all Youth and Adults!

It is time to begin preparing for the annual Christmas Pageant!

Anyone interested in participating either in the play or behind the scenes, please see Sara or Gail. The play will be an offering to God and our St. Paul's family during the 10:30 A.M. service on December 20th. This has always been a wonderful gift to the congregation; please plan on joining us.

As for our Adult Christian Education classes, we are requesting that anyone who might have an interest in doing a particular study for the adults to please see Father John or myself. We would be glad to have your ideas. It could be a book study or a particular topic that one may want to know more about. Anything is possible with God's help and yours!

Just a reminder that our Adult classes are at the same time as the Youth. We begin gathering at 9:00 A.M. and start class at 9:15 A.M. Also keep in mind that anyone desiring to help in either the youth or adult classes, we would love to have you! Again you may speak with Father John, Gail or myself.

Peace for All,
Doreen

Volunteers
needed for
Brass Cleaning
on
Saturday
December 5th.



Notes, News and Events

Cumberland Oratorio Singers will be presenting their **Christmas Concert and Messiah Sing** at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church at 4:00 pm on Saturday December 12th No ticket needed.

St. Joseph's Episcopal Church

FIRST Craft Bazaar

To benefit the church youth group

Place: **St. Joseph's Episcopal Church**

Church Rectory

104 Moore Street, Fayetteville, NC 28301

December 5, 2009 11:00am to 4:00pm

"SAVE THE DATE"

**FAYETTEVILLE AREA OPERATION
INASMUCH (FAOIAM)
ANNUAL BREAD 'N BOWLS MEAL
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2010**

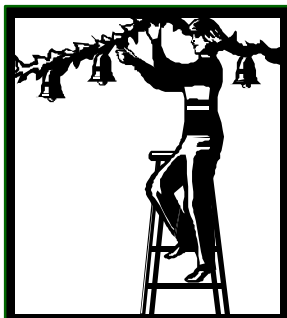
Lunch 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM; Dinner 4:30 PM - 7:30 PM

**Hay Street United Methodist Church
Proceeds to Support the FAOIAM Ministry
Details to Follow**

Here are some upcoming items to put on your Parish Calendar

(check the Parish Calendar page for exact times)

- ◆ **Brotherhood of St. Andrew Service & Breakfast ~ Sat Dec 5th ~ 10:00 am**
- ◆ **Gathering and Hanging of the Greens ~ Dec 18th & 19th**
- ◆ **Christmas Pageant ~ Dec 20th**



Greetings to all,

I mentioned in the September Newsletter that I was applying to Shalem Institute for Spiritual Direction Training. Well, I just received my "Congratulations" letter along with a very aggressive payment plan. I have prayed about this and I hear God telling me to move forward in faith even though I can't see how I can pay for this course (\$7,367.00). . Therefore, I am sending in the initial \$500.00 (non refundable) to begin the process. I extend to all of you that have become a part of St Paul's in the Pines family, from Vermont to Colorado, from Texas to Virginia and all points in between where this Newsletter finds its way either by mail or website the opportunity to be a blessing. Please pray about this and as you are moved to be a part of my Spiritual Direction to this community send any amount you can making check payable to **St Paul's in the Pines**. In the "for" section of the check write "**Continuing Ed.**" Mail it to:

St Paul's in the Pines -1800 St Paul Ave - Fayetteville, NC 28304

I will reply with a personal letter of thanks to each of you acknowledging your contribution however, I am unsure about the tax deductible status of your gift. Also, I will give continuing updates on how we are doing in the following Newsletters. It will be the "Continuing Ed Finance" section of the Newsletter. Spiritual Direction is a very important ministry and many appreciate their time with me as we discern how God is calling them. Please help me add value to this ministry. Let me thank you in advance for your thoughts and prayers. Your prayers I need most of all because all things are possible with God. Thank you so much.

Your Brother in Christ,

JOHN+



I was sitting at the kitchen table eating my lunch after work one afternoon, watching TV. I watch a variety of programs, but at that time of day I enjoy the food shows on the Food Network. Well, we all know how the commercials for Christmas have been advancing upon us. As annoying as that can be, I enjoy the 'sappy' ones that build on the truth that Christmas is a time for family – and for miracles.



Of course, Christmas has its one Big Miracle, but our family has noticed that many small miracles seem to find their way to our house at Christmas time as well. From finding a beloved lost object, to receiving an anonymous gift, being accepted at college, selling a house (just in time), or finding a wonderful job (hmm, what is she referring to?), little miracles happen at our house at Christmas. We have come to look for and expect them.

The commercial that aired at lunch that day reminded me that it is time again to look for our Christmas miracles. It was a feeling as comforting as a cup of cocoa drunk with Mom to the sound of a Christmas carol. I don't know *exactly* what miracles to expect, but I do know the sort of ones to look for as my family enters yet another period of transition. And what I hope – no, expect -- to find, is that God Blesses our plans, keeps us safe, and allows our plans not only to succeed, but to succeed abundantly. I know that sounds daring, and perhaps, to some, even a little arrogant. However, it's not that we are demanding God do certain things, but that we *know* that in His Love, He *will* do things to make our lives –our daily, mundane, human lives -- abundant. God has provided for us in times of trial, and – something we don't always remember – He provides for us in times of laughter as well. This is a year I expect the laughter, because I feel secure that God, in His Great Love, wishes us well in every phase of our lives. So I will watch for the miracles. I will look for them, and expect them, because the recognition of these miracles as they happen is a joy and a blessing in itself.

Thank you for letting me into your lives and making me a part of St. Paul's-in-the-Pines. Thank you for being part of my 2008 Christmas miracle. God Bless you all with a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

Blessings,
Robin the PA



We are the Church... .. (cont'd)

- David and Adam Hipwell — Afghanistan (the Jacksonss)
- Eric Harvey – Iraq (Robin Minnick)
- Mikey Brown, 4-yr-old with heart troubles (Larry Frawley)
- Jayne Cooper, terminal cancer (Jan)
- Dr. Dominic Strato — Afghanistan (Ed and Jimmy)
- Mike McMillan, brain tumor (Rich & Penny's neighbor)
- Robert Pellie, cancer (Pam & Larry's friend)
- Bea Roraback
- Nancy Eddy, Janice St. Onge's aunt
- Fr. Jim McReynolds, brain surgery (Dorothy Auer)
- Fred & Phyllis Huskey, accident (Ron's brother and sister-in-law)
- Dayatra Phillips (granddaughter of Dayatra Brown; from Mary Winder)
- Lynnette Ehler, cancer (JoAnne Lowder)
- Wanda Rose, ICU/bad fall w/ complications, ("Mom" & "Grandma" to the DeJaynes)
- Kendra Seay, (Christina Barnett)
- Alissa Watkins, 2-year-old, lung surgery (Penny's friends' granddaughter)
- Jan Peters



When I say good morning I mean to say:

G-od
O-ffers us His
O-utstanding
D-evotion to



M-ake us
O-bedient &
R-eady for a
N-ew day with Him.
I-nspire others please, and
N-ever forget
G-od loves you!

If you like it send it to others. God will bless you for doing just that!!!

HAVE A BLESSED DAY!

Sent by Christina Barnett: and from "Get in; Get on with it; Get over it and Get out" Candiapple Smith

December 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 Morning Prayer 8:15 am Women's Bible Study 1:00 pm	2 Morning Prayer 8:15 am Holy Eucharist & Healing 6:00 pm	3 Morning Prayer 8:15 am Cursillo Reunion Group 6:00 pm	4	5 8:00 am Brotherhood of St. Andrew
6 Holy Eucharist 8:00 am Christian Ed 9:15 am Children's Chapel 10:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am	7 Morning Prayer 8:15 am	8 Fr. John away	9 Morning Prayer 8:15 am Holy Eucharist & Healing 6:00 pm	10 Morning Prayer 8:15 am Cursillo Reunion Group 6:00 pm	11	12 8:00 am Brotherhood of St. Andrew
13 Holy Eucharist 8:00 am Christian Ed 9:15 am Children's Chapel 10:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am EYC 4:00-6:00 pm	14 Morning Prayer 8:15 am	15 Morning Prayer 8:15 am Women's Bible Study 1:00 pm VESTRY Meeting 6:00 pm	16 Morning Prayer 8:15 am Holy Eucharist & Healing 6:00 pm	17 Morning Prayer 8:15 am Cursillo Reunion Group 6:00 pm NEWSLETTER ARICLES DUE	18 Gathering of the Greens 6:00 pm	19  8:00 am Hanging of the Greens Community Watch 10:30 am-Noon
20 Holy Eucharist 8:00 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am with Christmas Pageant	21 Morning Prayer 8:15am	22 Morning Prayer 8:15 am Women's Bible Study 1:00 pm	23 Morning Prayer 8:15 am Holy Eucharist & Healing 6:00 pm Parish Assistant Away	24 Christmas Eve Christmas Eve Family Service 5:30 pm Christmas Carols 10:30 pm Service 11:00 pm	25  Christmas Day Christmas Day Service 10:30 am	26
27 Holy Eucharist 8:00 am Children's Chapel 10:30 am Lessons & Carols with Holy Eucharist 10:30 am	28	29	30	31	Jan 1	Jan 2
Church Office closed – Fr. John on vacation – Parish Assistant away						
						Sunday Jan 3

Birthdays & Anniversaries in December: 8th—Kendra Seay, Kendra & David Seay; 12th—Bill & Pam Perham; 15th—Jacinda Sergent; 18th—George Winder; 21st—Cindi Pettigrew; 26th—John & Ann Ashford, George & Bea Roraback (1955); 29th—Susan Lees; 30th—Catalina Crout

Note: If your birthday or anniversary is not included on this list, it is because the information is not in our database. If you would like it included, please notify the office.

Saint Paul's-in-the-Pines Episcopal Church

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



A Diocese in Prayer December 2009

Please pray for the following during the month of December

6th — St. George's, Engelhard: *The Rev'd Jim Lupton, Rector*

Worshiping Communities in the Diocese: *St. Francis, Goldsboro — Hispanic Worship*

13th — St. Peter's by the Sea, Swansboro: *The Rev'd Albert Eaton, Rector*
St. John's, Edenton

20th — Committees of the Diocese of East Carolina

27th — St. John's Fayetteville: *The Rev'd Steven Caldwell, Interim*

