



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Grace Notes

December 1, 2024

www.stpaulsrva.org

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TODAY @ ST. PAUL'S

Nursery | 8:45 AM - 12:30 PM | For children 3 - 5 years old. The worship service can be heard within the Nursery. A changing table is available.

Children's Chapel | Children 3 years and older are invited to participate in Children's Chapel. We'll leave following the Gospel reading and return at the Passing of the Peace to take Communion with our families.

Rector's Bible Study | Today @ 9 am | Norwood Room | Join our clergy and volunteers as we explore the readings for Sunday worship. This informal setting offers the opportunity to ask questions, get to know others, and learn how to navigate the often- tricky and mysterious world of scripture. No prep work required.

Worship Practices Pop Up | Today @ 11:30am in the Sanctuary | When do we stand? When do we kneel? When do we make the sign of the Cross? What do these actions mean, and when, and why, do we do them? Join Charlie in these short, micro workshops as we explore the movements involved in our faith and some of the basics of our worship service. All you need is your own spiritual curiosity and a desire for your worship experience to be more meaningful.

New Hearing Assistance Units Now Available on Sunday Mornings | Hearing assistance is now available for free during church services. You can choose between an earpiece to amplify sound or if you have a T-Coil switch on your hearing aids, you can use a neck loop to send the signal directly to your hearing aids! Please ask an usher for assistance and the special receiver you will need to use.

Advent Lessons and Carols | Today @ 4:00 pm | The Saint Paul's Choir will present a Service of Lessons and Carols for Advent. The service was originally celebrated at King's College, Cambridge, and includes old liturgical forms that vividly express the Church's preparation for the coming of the Lord Jesus both in the festival of Christmas and in the consummation of the ages. The service alternates lessons from the Old and the New Testaments with carols and hymns, finally climaxing in St. Matthew's Gospel, in which the angel brings the news that Mary will bring forth a son, "and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us." A festive reception will be held after the service. Childcare will be provided.

EVENTS and HIGHLIGHTS

Evening Prayer | Join us on Facebook Live Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6pm for Evening Prayer.

Reading Ahead! | If you would like to know Sunday's readings in advance, you can visit lectionarypage.net. Once you are at The Lectionary Page website, simply choose the month and date for this Sunday. For September through November, St. Paul's is using the readings in Track 1. These readings are also the subject of the Wednesday Brown Bag Bible Study and our Sunday morning Rector's Bible Study.

Winter Worship Wednesdays & Simple Soup Supper | December 4th, 11th, & 18th | Worship @ 6:00 PM | Supper @ 6:45 PM | Join the St. Paul's community during the Winter/ Advent season for worship, conversation, and a simple soup supper. These services are intended to be quiet and reflective in nature, providing space to slow down during a busy season. Following each service, we will gather for a warm meal and warm conversation.

EVENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

Winter Wander | Sunday, December 8 | Noon - 4:00 PM |

St Paul's will offer tours of our historic church and a warm welcome to visitors as part of a tour of sites in the Court End neighborhood of downtown Richmond. To volunteer as a greeter or to learn more, please contact Bo Cresswell bcresswell@stpaulsrva.org.

Youngish Adult Christmas Party | Thursday, December 12th

| 6pm-8pm | Join us for a festive evening at Matthew and our Rector Charlie's home in the Fan. We'll have heavy hors d'oeuvres, some holiday themed games, and sing Christmas carols! Please RSVP to Bo Cresswell bcresswell@stpaulsrva.org for more information.

Faith and Action Forum: Ending Gun Violence | Sunday, December 15th | 11:30am - 12:15pm |

Faith and Action Sunday Forum: Ending Gun Violence. Join us to hear policy experts and advocates talk about strategies at for reducing gun violence in Virginia and the nation. Contact Shawn Weneta (shawnweneta@gmail.com) for more information.

Woodville Holiday Dinner Needs St. Paul's Volunteers | Thursday, December 19th @ 4pm |

Woodville Elementary School needs St. Paul's volunteers to help out with the famous Woodville Holiday Dinner. There are a few different volunteer roles and shifts available! Please sign up at https://www.evite.com/signup-sheet/5683477033779200/?utm_campaign=send_sharable_link&utm_source=evitelink&utm_medium=sharable_invite and plan to arrive 10 minutes before your volunteer shift starts. If you have any questions, please reach out to Cameron Korb, CIS Site Coordinator at Woodville (ckorb@cisrva.org).

Community Engagement Seeking Nominations for Steering Committee |

The Community Engagement Ministry is seeking nominations for three to five individuals to serve on the Community Engagement Steering Committee. This committee oversees the five Community Engagement focus areas: Racial Justice and Healing, Downtown (including Emmaus), Environmental Stewardship, Education, and Beyond Richmond (including Global Missions). New members are nominated annually for three-year terms. Nominations are due Sunday, January 5th, and new members will be announced

on Sunday, February 2nd. If you are interested - or have a recommendation for a nominee and have received that person's permission to be nominated - please contact Sheena Mackenzie (sheenam510@gmail.com) for more information.

Christmas Memorial Flowers - Deadline December 17 |

As we prepare to beautify the church for Christmas worship, you are invited to remember or honor a loved one by making a donation for this purpose. Those wishing to contribute to Christmas flowers and decorations in memory of a loved one or in honor of someone may do so by sending your check to the church office by Tuesday, December 17. Include with your check the name of the person(s) for whom the gift is given and also the name of the person making the donation, with Christmas Decorations in the memo. Gift donations begin at \$25. Please email Carter Johann at cjohann@stpaulsrva.org or call the office at (804) 643-3589.

Calling All Christmas Bakers |

The Pastoral Care Team plans to share the joy and hope of Christmas with members of the St. Paul's community who are homebound or dealing with other pastoral issues. We are looking for volunteers to bake 2 dozen mini muffins (recipe to be provided) to be included in the Christmas care bags we will deliver on Dec. 21 and 22. Muffins need to be delivered to the church on Saturday, December 21st by 9 a.m. Please contact Michaelle Justice at michaelle.justice@comcast.net if you would like to bake!

Emmaus Item Spotlight |

Emmaus Item Spotlight | The cold has officially arrived and so it's time to stock up on hats and gloves for our Emmaus guests. We will distribute these items well into the spring, so we would love to build up a good supply to last through the chilly days ahead. Please drop gently used items at the church office or visit our Emmaus wish list for a variety of new hat and glove options.

Check out our Library |

The St. Paul's library is located in the Parish House and displays a rotating selection of books for all ages on timely topics. Our collection contains contemporary materials which support St. Paul's mission and ministries. To check out one of the 600+ books, simply use the sign-out sheet on the desk toward the back of the library. Contact the Bo Cresswell bcresswell@stpaulsrva.org with any questions.

Lunchbox Bible Study | Wednesdays | 12 - 1 p.m. | Are you interested in a weekly study of the Sunday Bible readings, led by a member of the clergy? During this lunchtime gathering we will share and reflect on the readings for the upcoming Sunday. How do these passages speak to us in our daily lives? How do they inform our prayers and our relationships? Our study will be informed by some references to commentary and/or historical Biblical context, but this is primarily an opportunity for conversation. For more information or a Zoom link please contact Bo Cresswell bcresswell@stpaulsrva.org.

Online Wednesday Morning Reflections | Wednesdays at 10 am -10:30 am (Zoom) | Consider a time of quiet in your week. On Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. members of St Paul's gather on Zoom for quiet reflection. The format consists of reading one of the upcoming Sunday's readings and twenty minutes of silent meditation. Contact David Hoover (davidwhoover56@gmail.com) for more information.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

FIRST AND THIRD SUNDAYS

Children's Sunday School | 9 am | Room 112

Youth Faith Formation | 9 am | Room 110 | Jabriel Hasan, our Youth Coordinator, has something special planned for our youth!

Family Group | First and Third Sundays | 9:00 - 9:50 am in Room 206 | The Family Group has returned. Pre-Covid, this group met for support, and fellowship that included book discussions, and conversation around topics of concern to families. No two families are alike, and all are welcome. Please join us for spiritual conversation, book discussions, and fellowship with other families. Drop off your children and youth, grab a cup of coffee and head upstairs to room 206.

SECOND SUNDAYS

Children Sing Faith | 3:30pm - 4pm in the Choir Room 117 | An opportunity for children and youth to experience the joy of singing in worship. We will learn age appropriate music that will be sung during the family worship service. We will meet on the Second Sunday at 3:30 PM for 30 minutes before Family Worship Service. For information, contact with Linda Willis (lwillis@stpaulsrva.org).

Second Sunday Family Worship Service | 4pm in Scott Hall | Join St. Paul's families and clergy for a late afternoon worship

service designed for children and families. Drawing from the Book of Common Prayer, this is a casual and engaging intergenerational service with communion. Children and families are active participants in all aspects of this service. Everyone is welcome! Contact Linda Willis for more information. (Linda's email)

Second Sunday Supper | December 8th at 5:00 p.m. in Scott Hall | Join us for a festive potluck dinner hosted by our Children, Youth & Families ministry. Dinner guests are invited to bring side dishes and desserts to share; the main dish will be lasagna. All are welcome to attend and enjoy cookie decorating and carols! Beer and wine are available for a suggested donation of \$5.00, as well as lemonade, water and iced tea. To learn more, please contact Bo Cresswell bcresswell@stpaulsrva.org.

FOURTH SUNDAYS

Family Breakfast | 9am in Scott Hall | Join us for a festive and delicious family breakfast this Sunday! Enjoy this time with friends old and new. Everyone is welcome.

EVERY SUNDAY

Nursery | (Children 3 - 5 years old) Staffed 8:45 am - 12:30 pm, the worship service can be heard within the Nursery. A Changing table is available.

Children's Chapel | Children 3 years and older are invited to participate in Children's Chapel. We'll leave following the Gospel reading and return at the Passing of the Peace to take Communion with our families.

Family Worship Space | St. Paul's is committed to creating an inclusive worship experience for every child. Families are invited to join their young children at the Family worship space in the front of the sanctuary. This carpeted area with pillows and games allows our youngest members to fully participate in the service. Our ushers will be happy to direct you.

Worship Bags and Book Cart | Every child is welcomed to utilize the worship bags in the narthex. Our worship bags contain drawing paper, crayons and children's bulletins, ensuring that all of our families are part of St. Paul's vibrant worshipping community. Our book cart is regularly updated and contains books for children of all ages. Please return bags to the narthex and books to cart.

Newsletter | Stay updated on all of St. Paul's offerings for our children, youth and families! Please contact Linda Willis (lwillis@stpaulsrva.org) to receive the Family Newsletter directly to your inbox.

We give thanks to God...

...for the beginning of a new Church year as together we hope, anticipate, and await the Advent of our Lord Jesus Christ coming into our hearts and world.

...for hidden graces and gifts of short days and long nights.

...for the generosity of all who have made a pledge to support St. Paul's 2024 Annual Giving Campaign "Committed to Caring" to generously support our vibrant ministries and mission to proclaim Christ to the heart of the city.

We pray for God's mercy...

...for the Universal Church, especially the ministry of the Baptized; Presiding Bishop Sean, Virginia bishops Mark and Gayle, all bishops, priests, and deacons; those working to care for God's creation, according to the Diocese of Virginia's Cycle of Prayer; Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan, according to the Anglican Cycle of Prayer.

...for the nation, especially those recently elected preparing to govern and hold authority in Richmond, the Commonwealth, and the nation and in thanksgiving for the service of those transitioning out of public offices; all who are struggling to pay utilities, coping with food insecurity as winter begins, and unable to provide for their children.

...for the world, especially the ceasing of violence and warfare in the Middle East, Ukraine, Sudan, and other war-torn regions; all refugees, immigrants, and asylum-seekers; the Diocese of Central Tanganyika and the village of Mwitikira, Tanzania; the reduction of harmful carbon emissions.

...for Metropolitan Richmond, especially families, including single-parent families, adoptive families, foster families, and households that are communities of friends; elderly persons living in their own homes, in retirement communities, and in nursing institutions; East End school community, including Woodville; our Emmaus guests.

...for those who are sick in body, mind and spirit and all for whom prayer has been requested, especially Robert Alexander; Paige Whitley, daughter of Allison and Kevin Whitley; John Martin; Tad deBordenave, brother of Mary Page Jones; Penny Yeargan, sister-in-law of Ginny Campbell; David Romaine; Fletcher Banner; Elizabeth Wilkerson, friends of Denise Williams; William G.; Andrea Dobson, niece of Anne Dobson & Tim Baird; Alex; Fran Bolin, friend of Jane Nelson; Kristen Gibson, sister of Michele Stehle; Susan Dyke, cousin of David Romaine; Bob Hafford, brother of Kathryn Hafford; Roberto Mercado, uncle of Lydia Mercado; Hank Hobbs; Ron Romaine, David Romaine's brother; Jim Pullman, friend of David Romaine; Mary Ramsey, friend of Celia Luxmoore; Georgia Jonkman, mother of Crystal Jonkman; Susan, friend of Lindy Wright; Jimmy Yeargan, Ginny Campbell's nephew; Ruth Lokey, Beth O'Leary's mother.

...for eternal peace of the departed, especially Charlotte Tyndall, mother of Lynn Kotrady; Alton Ayer, father of Thomas Ayer; those who have died due to warfare, violence, disaster, or disease; those whom we love but see no longer.