



St. Paul's Epistle

St. Paul's United Methodist Church – Tucson, Arizona

**St. Paul's Staff
Wishes You a
Blessed Christmas
and
a Happy New Year!**

- Barbara Baitzer*
- Brent Burmeister*
- Karen Calfee*
- Hal Cowart*
- John Dolce*
- Jonathan Dolce*
- Peggy Jo Harwick*
- Liane Hoffsmith*
- Rick Hornback*
- Linda Kopp*
- Jennifer Kruse*
- Michael Luke*
- Angie McCarty*
- Carol McLaughlin*
- Jim Moffett*
- Wayne Nelson*
- David Ragland*
- Mike Salvagio*
- Mike Scionti*
- Billy Still*
- Lynelle Tyler*
- Juan Valencia*
- Linda Valencia*
- Nancy Walter*

**The Church Office will
be closed all day on
Monday, December 26,
for Christmas and
Monday, January 2, for
New Year's Day.**

**HarpFusion in Concert -
Sunday, December 11 at 11:00
AM & 5:30 PM
*Featuring St. Paul's Children's
Harp Choir***

This 15 member harp choir from the University of Arizona will be the highlight of your holiday season. Boasting of international and regional performances, HarpFusion promises the highest musical quality while warming your heart with stories that inspired their original compositions and arrangements. It will be a blessing to experience a world premiere piece of music, written for HarpFusion and St. Paul's Children's Harp Choir to perform together. You won't want to miss this opportunity to make your Christmas a true blessing.

**ADVENT and
CHRISTMAS AT
ST. PAUL'S
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH 2011**

**St. Paul's United
Methodist Church
Children's Ministry
Presents**

**"The W in Christmas"
- Sunday, December
18, 5:30 PM**

Christmas has the power to take us to another time when we were younger, hearing the message of Jesus' birth for the first time. Is it possible that as adults we can be transported to a time when we didn't have all the answers? When we had something to learn, receive and offer? Come and grow in your faith and love for the tiny baby, born in a manger, as our children tell us the familiar Christmas story at the annual St. Paul's Christmas pageant.

**Also on December 18
at 11:00 AM**

Join us during the 11:00 AM service for a special musical offering from St. Paul's Sanctuary Choir, along with our fabulous soloists and an orchestra. We will present a performance of Camille Saint-Saëns' Christmas Oratorio.

St. Paul's Epistle is mailed the first Tuesday of the month by St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 8051 E. Broadway, Tucson, AZ 85710.

Christmas Eve - Saturday, December 24

11:00 AM —Christmas Eve is a beautiful day to spend with your friends. Together we'll enjoy singing the Christmas carols we love, while being led in worship by choral music. Come relive the Christmas story again as if for the first time.

12:30 PM —Join us for a special meal, complete with ham and all the trimmings. No need for you to bring anything. Your presence is a gift to us. Please call 296-6149 to reserve your place.

7:00 PM--With a service that connects Old Testament prophesy to the New Testament Jesus, this service is sure to touch the hearts of children young and old. Grace Multiplied & beautiful candlelight will deepen our Christmas warmth as we gather around the manger, experiencing the tiny baby wrapped in swaddling clothes.

11:00 PM--At this late hour, we'll gather for a service of quiet meditative worship, enjoying the music of our Sanctuary Choir as we are offered the gift of the sacrament of communion. As we gather around the manger with candlelight, together we'll discover the true meaning of Christmas.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25—CHRISTMAS DAY

What better place to be than St. Paul's on Christmas morning? We'll worship at 10:30 AM and share brunch

at 11:30 AM.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1— NEW YEAR'S DAY

Stop Hunger Now's vision is to end world hunger in our lifetime. Stop Hunger Now's meal packaging program provides volunteers the opportunity to package dehydrated, high protein, and highly nutritious meals that are used in crisis situations and in school feeding programs for schools and orphanages in developing countries around the world. St. Paul's will be hosting a Stop Hunger Now Meal Packaging Event on Sunday, January 1, 2012 @ 10:30 AM.

Please mark your calendar NOW! We'll begin by having a **worship service** and then we'll package meals. We will also be serving a New Year's Day brunch. Can you think of a better way to start the new year? Watch for more details in the Sunday bulletins.

VOLUNTEER CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

All of you who have volunteered in any capacity at St. Paul's during the past year are invited to the Volunteer Christmas Luncheon. The luncheon will be held in Brummet Hall on Thursday, December 15, at 11:00 AM. There will be great entertainment and food. It's free! WOW! Please call the office at 296-6149 to sign up and let us know what area you volunteer in.

THANKSGIVING DINNER WAS A SUCCESS!!

Thank you to all who volunteered at our annual Thanksgiving Dinner! A total of **175** attended which was more than double last year's event. If you were unable to attend, there are more opportunities to build community at St. Paul's over the next few weeks...please see below:

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION MEALS AT ST. PAUL'S

--Christmas Dinner will be held on **Saturday, December 24** at 12:30PM.

We are looking for food donations, including cooked hams, as well as volunteers to help serve. **The food donation details and volunteer opportunities will be made available at the Christmas Dinner sign up table.** Nancy Walter will be coordinating this event and feel free to email her at Leadership@stpaulsumctucson.net or call her at 296-6149, ext. 17 if you have ideas or questions.

--Christmas Day Brunch will be held on **Sunday, December 25** at 11:30AM. St. Paul's is providing the meal, please join us!

--New Year's Day Brunch will be held on **Sunday, January 1, 2012** at 11:30AM. St. Paul's is providing the meal, please plan to join us! This brunch will be part of the Stop Hunger Now Event the same morning, which is highlighted in the Christmas section on the opposite page.

THANK YOU...

...so much for making The Wesley Foundation your 5th Sunday offering in October. Your support helps us maintain a vital ministry. This semester alone we've had over 140 students in worship. You have helped reach all of them. Thank you for all you do.
~Blessings DeeDee

...for your concern during my recent hospitalization. I am so appreciative of the visits from Billy and Hal, the phone calls, and all the prayers that

were sent my way. I am proud to be part of such a loving, caring community of faith.
~Blessings, Cheryl Smith

"FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY"

COMING SOON!

Have you ever taken a close look at where your income goes? Being aware of how you spend your money is the first of many steps towards gaining independence from debt and building for a prosperous future! Sign up for St. Paul's next session of **Dave Ramsey's "Financial Peace University"** on December 11 and/or attend a preview on December 18. Classes run for 13 weeks, beginning on January 8. The cost is \$99.00/couple for the course (partial scholarships are available). Childcare will be provided. Contact Mark or Nancy Goforth at magoforth60@earthlink.net for more information.

STRATEGIC TASK

FORCE UPDATES (3-4

Task Force Groups will be highlighted monthly)

--Stewardship Development
Leaders: Chris and Carla Ruhl. Thank you for a successful 2012 Stewardship Campaign! We received **26%** of the commitment cards and still hope to achieve our goal of receiving **54%** of all commitment cards back by the end of 2011. A total of **\$567,407** has been committed which is **59%** of our goal. You still have time to submit your commitment card; just put it in the Sunday offering plate. Thank you!

-- Developing Relationships between Parents and Children
Leader: Jenny Fletcher. Interested in

helping develop ways to strengthen the parent/child relationship? Did you know that children receive an average of 50 hours of spiritual learning each year from their church and that those same children have 3000 hours available each year to engage in spiritual learning with their families? Our first major objective is to help parents implement faith-based learning at home. If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Jenny Fletcher at 405-9060 or jenny.fletcher@cox.net

--A Welcoming Sunday Experience
Leader: Sam McCarty. Our St. Paul's Welcome Table was officially unveiled on November 27. It takes all of us to make St. Paul's a welcoming community for our visitors and each other. If you desire to be a trained welcoming volunteer, please contact Nancy Walter.

--John Dean Town: Look at all of the GOLD ornaments on our tree! You already bought 114 gift cards - THANK YOU!! Our goal this Christmas season is to help 200 JDT students with both school uniforms and supplies for the next year (400 ornaments). There is still time to buy John Dean Town gift cards. Each gift card costs \$15 and will buy school uniforms or school supplies for a child for one year. Why not give the gift of making a difference in a student's life? Please take a JDT ornament off the tree and take it to the JDT table between services and exchange it for a gift card and a GOLD ornament that you can hang on the tree.

SPIRITUAL SECRETS GROUP

Beginning Wednesday, January 11, at 6:00 PM, in the Covenant Room, the Spiritual Weight Loss Group will begin a DVD lecture study entitled "Nutrition Made Clear". In 36 lectures taught by dietitian and award-winning Professor Roberta H. Anding, we will explore the fundamentals of good nutrition and get a practical and personal guide to applying these fundamentals to our unique lifestyle. The cost for the course book is \$10.25. Please register for the group by sending an email to karen_calfee@stpaulsumctucson.net or calling the church office at 296-6149.

INVITATION TO STUDY THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

We invite you to join us for a 9-week study of this important New Testament letter. We will meet each Wednesday from 6-8 PM, starting January 11 and ending March 14, no meeting on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 22). Call Walt & Elaine Roberts (886-6080) for more information and registration. There is no cost, and babysitting is available. Hebrews

contains timeless truths and practical applications for today's Christians as well as those to whom it was originally addressed. It presents Jesus as God's full revelation of Himself and tells how Jesus fulfills the promises and prophecies of the Old Testament scriptures.

OPERATION HOSPITALITY

Operation Hospitality kicks off on December 9. We have nine nights this year and will host between 16 and 28 men each night. The dates are December 9, 10, 17 & 23 and January 6, 7, 13, 14 & 28. Contact Linda Jones at bamajones6@netzero.com if you have questions or would like to volunteer.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Again this year you have the opportunity to remember, honor or thank someone special by purchasing poinsettia plants. The price will be \$6.50 per plant; donations may, however, be in any amount. Orders must be received by **Monday, December 12**, to be listed in the bulletin on December 18! If you would like to order a plant(s) fill out the following form, attach a check and place it in the offering plate, take it to the church office during the week, or mail it to St. Paul's UMC.

Name of person(s) being honored, remembered, thanked (circle one or more):

(Please print all names clearly)

Your name(s):

Phone No.

2012 OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE

Help us save on postage costs by picking up your packet of 2012 offering envelopes on the patio on Sundays in December. If you don't have offering envelopes but would like to use them, please contact Linda Kopp at lkopp@qwestoffice.net or 296-6149.

Blood Pressure Clinic:
Between services on
Sunday, December 18, in
Brummet Hall.

OUR SYMPATHY...

...to Coralie Lukens on the death of her mother, Carol Latham, on November 4.

...to the family of Kitty Davies on her death on November 7.

Youth News

ACTIVITIES, PROGRAMS & RETREATS INFORMATION

CROSSROADS & JR.

HIGH SUNDAY SCHOOL

For Grades 6—8, **11:00 AM - Noon**, Shalom South, led by Betty Howard. Join us to get connected to God's Word with an in-depth study of the life of Moses, encouraging us to get with God and engage in a life-changing encounter with Scripture. Don't forget to bring your Bible – or see Betty for a Bible.

SENIOR HIGH SUNDAY SCHOOL

For grades 9—12, **11:00 AM - Noon**, in the Life Center Loft, led by Jamie Harwick. A youth chosen, in depth class, takes a deeper look into scripture, what it means to Live Courageously.

UMYF - GRADES 6 - 12

ALL YOUTH WELCOME! Sundays 12:30 – 2:30 PM, in the Life Center.

Believer, searching, growing; it's all good! Come as you are to worship, eat lunch, pray, play a game or two and have fun connecting with peers as we discuss "Topic Points for Teens." Bring your friends!

DECEMBER 11: Topic Points

18: UMYF Christmas Party

25: NO UMYF – Holiday

YOUTH / SPORTS FUNDRAISER

Get your skates out and join us! Or rent a pair at Skate Country on Wednesday December 14, from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM! \$4 gets you in and \$3 gets you skates (or bring your own). All entry fees will be shared between the two ministries. Thank you for your support and come have some FUN with us! Call Peggy Jo at 520-870-6825 for more information.

The next *Epistle* deadline is Tuesday, December 27, at 10:00 AM. It will be mailed on Tuesday, January 3, 2012. Please submit all *Epistle* articles to Linda Kopp at linda_kopp@stpaulsumctucson.net.

CONFIRMATION MENTORS NEEDED

This is your chance to inspire the life of a teen and share Christ's love in your own church community. Commitment Level in 4 areas: Training, Meeting, Personal Contact, and the Ceremony. *Volunteer application & background checks are required.* Call Peggy Jo at 520-870-6825 for more information.

YOUTH RUMMAGE SALE

Months of Saving! Storage available thanks to CoolBox - Donations are accepted year round for this spectacular youth fundraiser which funds the youth budget and youth mission activities. Please Call/Text Peggy Jo at 520-870-6825 to schedule a donation, pick up or with any questions. Thank you for your generous support!

UPWARD BASKETBALL & CHEERLEADING REGISTRATION FOR SPRING 2012

Upward basketball and cheerleading for boys and girls, Kindergarten through 8th grade, will start the new session with practice beginning on February 13, 2012. Registration for the Spring 2012 Session will begin at the awards celebration on December 10, 2011 and will continue through January 20, 2012. Evaluations will take place January 17 through January 20, 2012. Beginning December 10, 2011 you can pick up registration forms in the office or sign up online at <https://clubs.bluesombrero.com/stpaulsums>. Additional information may be obtained by contacting Rick Hornback, at rgandjb@aol.com or calling 520-909-9564.

CURIOUS ABOUT ZUMBA AT ST. PAUL'S?

St. Paul's UMC Sports Ministries Zumba Program is offering a free demonstration class on Wednesday, December 14, at 5:45 PM. The one hour program will be held in the Life Center Activity Room. In addition to a free class, you will be able to purchase up to two Zumba participation cards at \$10.00 off the regular price of \$45.00 for ten sessions. For further information contact Rick Hornback at 520-909-9564 or rgandjb@aol.com.

CHILD'S FIRST BIBLE

It's that time of year again, when we hope to create a special memory for all children 3rd grade – 5th grade by giving them the gift of their very own Bible. This year, Bibles will be presented on **Sunday, December 11, during the 9:30 service.** We hope to have each child's name printed in their Bible so it is necessary for you to let us know that your child has not yet received a Bible from St. Paul's and would like to be included in this year's presentation. Please respond to angie_mccarty@stpaulsumctucson.net with your child's full name as you would like it to be printed in their Bible.

PROPERLY REPORTING YEAR-END CONTRIBUTIONS

Sometimes confusion exists on when to credit year-end contributions. We have listed general guidelines for properly crediting contributions that occur at the end of 2011 and the beginning of 2012.

2011 Credit

- Checks written and deposited in church offering in December 2011 but "postdated" to January 2012.
- Checks written in December 2011 and deposited in the mail and postmarked in December 2011, but not received by the church until January 2012.

2012 Credit

- Checks written in December 2011 and deposited in church offering in January 2012.
- Checks written and deposited in church offering in January 2012 but "backdated" to December 2011.
- Checks written in December 2011 and deposited in the mail in December 2011 but not postmarked until January 2012 and not received by the church until January 2012.

CALLING EVERYONE WITH THE FOLLOWING CREDENTIALS:

RN, NP, LPN, CNA, EMT, PA, MA, certified caregivers and physicians. Your congregation needs your professional skills. Volunteers are needed to assist with the monthly blood pressure screenings. If you can help, please call the church office at 296-6149 and leave your name & phone number. Claudia Perry, RN, our volunteer Director for St. Paul's Health Ministry will contact you.

LYDIA CIRCLE WILL MEET on December 13 at 11:30 AM at the Long Horn Steakhouse located at 22nd & Harrison (in the Fry's shopping center).

ST. PAUL'S UMC SINGLES

Call Joan at 751-7663
Sunday, December 11— Potluck at 4:00 PM at Bill Monk's house. Call Joan to RSVP. Bring a dish to share.

SAVVY SENIORS

▶▶ **STRETCHING AND STRENGTHENING**

CLASS We meet on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 9:00 AM in the Life Center Activity Room. Our leader is Sam Freeman. A donation of \$1 per class is appreciated. The perimeter of the gym has a walking track so come early and walk – it's safe! New T-Shirts are available for \$11 each.

▶▶ **ST. PAUL'S**

WATERCOLOR CLASS

Our class meets Mondays from 10:30 – 1:30 PM in the A – Frame. Bring your lunch or a snack. Please call Nancy Anderson at 546-1533, or Laree Freeman at 749-3537 for more information.

▶▶ **THE BELLES OF ST.**

PAUL'S welcoming ladies, 50 years and older to join us for fun, food and wonderful fellowship ...

Chapeaux Rojas will be going to TEA at Loews Ventana Canyon Resort, 7000 N. Resort Dr, on Friday, December 16 at 3:00 PM. RSVP with Barbara at 296-9792.

Desert Roses annual potluck will be held on Thursday, December 29 at Sandy's house (2401 S. Prudence) at 11:30 AM. Bring a dish and the recipe. Contact Sandy by Monday, December 26, at 298-1460, for reservations and directions.

Glad Hatters will be going to Coco's,

6095 E. Broadway, on Friday, December 16, at 11:30 AM. Our hostess is Mary Clayton at 721-6821. **Sassy Sisters** annual Christmas party will be Saturday, December 17 at Jessie Zander's home. Co-Hostesses are Charlene Montoya and Loraine White. Time TBA. Contact Loraine White at 885-6626 for information.

▶▶ **WEDNESDAY MORNING AT THE MOVIES**

Our movie for Wednesday, December 21, is the classic Frank Capra film, "It's a Wonderful Life." James Stewart and Donna Reed star in this wonderful Christmas story. We'll see the colorized version at 10:20 AM in the Covenant Room. Bring 25¢ for refreshments. **CHEAP!**

▶▶ **BIBLE STUDY** The Bible Study Class meets Monday mornings in the Covenant Room at 10:30 AM. Lee Harter leads the class.

▶▶ **ELDER CIRCLES:** These are held the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 10:30 AM (after Sam's class). The circle will be held in Serendipity South. There are four components to the Elder Circles: life review, life repair, legacy and mentoring. All are welcome.

▶▶ **JANUARY HIKE:** We'll drive to a point southeast of Willcox to the trailhead and hike into Ft. Bowie. There will be mini-talks about the Apache wars in Arizona along the way. On the way back to Tucson, we'll stop in Willcox for lunch. More information will appear in the January Epistle.

