

Advent

Advent Choral Festival featuring Indianapolis Pro Musica with brass & timpani

Sunday, December 11 at 4:00 p.m.

Bask in the ethereal choral music of Arvo Pärt, John Tavener, Josquin des Près, Monteverdi, Stravinsky, Victoria and Handel. In the midst of this candlelight venue join in singing the majestic hymns of the season.

Christmas Eve

Saturday, December 24

3:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist with the Christmas Story & Carols

This casual, celebratory service is open to everyone and ideal for families with young children. *Nursery care available.*

5:00 p.m. Festival of Lessons & Carols

Organ prelude begins at 4:30 p.m.

Lessons telling the story of Christ's birth are read, while carols and anthems sung by the Choir and congregation resound the message of Christmas. *Nursery care available.*

11:00 p.m. Festival Choral Eucharist

Choral prelude begins at 10:20 p.m.

St. Paul's Choir celebrates the Feast of the Nativity with music for brass and organ.

Christmas Day

Sunday, December 25

11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist & Carols

6:00 p.m. Archway Holy Eucharist

New Year's Day

Sunday, January 1

11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

6:00 p.m. Archway Holy Eucharist



Renewal of Ministry & Welcoming of a New Rector, The Rev. John Denson, Jr., D.Min, was held Sunday, November 13.

Thanks to all who planned, prayed, participated and made this great celebration possible. An mp3 of the service is available online at stpaulsindy.org/sermons. Request a CD with Barbara Haberman, ext 25 or bhaberman@stpaulsindy.org.



photo credits: Ryne Webb

Sponsor Christmas music & flowers

Requests due by Monday, December 12

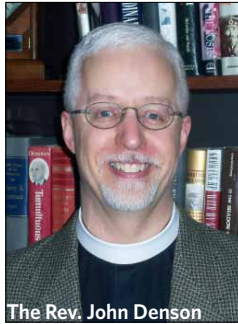
Sponsoring altar flowers or worship music for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services is a great way to honor loved ones. Thanksgivings and memorials are printed in all four worship bulletins. Donations of \$40 for music and \$50 for flowers are appreciated. Contact (music) Marilyn Vargo, ext. 12 or mvargo@stpaulsindy.org, or (flowers) Pamela Smith, ext. 25 or psmith@stpaulsindy.org.



Living in an Advent time

I find it more important than almost any time in life to be centered and focused on Jesus' constant love and presence. I can lose him in my impatience.

The rush to Christmas is on. Actually, it's been on for several weeks already. In the liturgical life of the church, however, we are in no rush at all. It is now the season of Advent which means that it is time to wait. We are waiting and watching, waiting and hoping, waiting and yearning. We wait not for the annual commemoration of the birth of Jesus. We wait for something much more powerful and profound. We wait for nothing less than Jesus to come . . . in the future and in this moment.



The Rev. John Denson

Advent, a season of about four weeks in length on the liturgical calendar, happens at many times in our lives. When a woman is pregnant and waits for the birth of her child, she is experiencing Advent. When a teenager sends off applications to colleges and waits for the responses to come, he is experiencing Advent. When an adult leaves a job interview and waits for the call that will tell her whether she has a new job or not, she is experiencing Advent.

As a family, the Densons have just completed an extended Advent. We've waited for 3 months to be reunited. The waiting ended on November 22nd, the day the moving truck arrived at our new home and Taylor arrived for the first time during his Thanksgiving break. We were together. Our personal Advent was over.

When I am living in an Advent time, I find it more important than almost any time in life to be centered and focused on Jesus' constant love and presence. I can lose him in my impatience. Since his presence is often not so obvious, I will often use this canticle from the Northumbria Community to remind me that I am not alone. It both makes the waiting easier and adds to my sense of expectation.

*Christ, as a light illumine and guide me.
 Christ, as a shield overshadow me.
 Christ under me;
 Christ over me;
 Christ beside me on my left and my right.
 This day be within and without me,
 lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.
 Be in the heart of each to whom I speak;
 in the mouth of each who speaks unto me.
 This day be within and without me,
 lowly and meek, yet all-powerful.
 Christ as a light;
 Christ as a shield;
 Christ beside me on my left and my right.*

Church Office closed December 26-30

As always, on-call clergy is accessible 24-7. If you have an emergency such as a hospitalization or death requiring the immediate attention of a priest, call 253.1277 and press 1.

Upcoming Adult Forums

Sundays, 10:15-11:00 a.m. • Parish Hall

Christmas Past with the Rev. Jean Denton

December 11: How did Christmas become what it is today in America? It's an interesting story. The Rev. Jean Denton will explore the roots of Christmas as we know it. Maybe we haven't "always done it this way!"

Note: This Forum will be held in the Lilly Room.



Christmas Future with the Rev. Jean Denton

December 18: Many of us find Christmas too commercialized. We wonder what message we are giving our children about this special day in the church year. This forum will offer a time to focus on what we would like for Christmas to be, and what we might be able to do to create a meaningful celebration.

December 25 & January 1: No Forum/Christmas break

St. Paul's lived through an extended Advent during the interim period. It would be nice to think that now, with a new rector in place, our Advent is over. The reality is that we've entered a new Advent together as we once again wait for the coming of Jesus and look toward the horizon of our future as a parish community. This is not an anxious waiting; it is an active waiting in which we do the work and ministry that will be energized by our faithful and joyful expectation.

And at the center of our waiting will be Jesus, under us and over us, beside us and within us. Jesus is and will light our path and shield us on our journey.

Christmas Dinner & Greening of the Church

Tuesday, December 20

Dinner served at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall

All are invited to come for the Christmas Spaghetti Dinner cooked by St. Paul's famous Advent Elves. Dinner includes all of the holiday trimmings, so come hungry!

Afterward, anyone who wishes is invited to stay and decorate the church for Christmas. Contact Pamela Smith, ext 25 or psmith@stpaulsindy.org to RSVP for dinner; \$5/person or \$20/family. Hope to see you there!



Can you help us decorate St. Paul's in anticipation of Christmas?

Financial Statement

as of October 31, 2011

2011 Pledge Total

\$707,362 from 313 households

Pledges Received

\$556,146

Year-to-Date: Expenses

Programs & Operations	\$ 1,433,643
Outreach	\$ 258,683
Diocesan Assessment	\$ 316,663
Capital or Fixed Assets	\$ 18,357
Total	\$2,027,346

2011 Annual Budget: Expenses

Programs & Operations	\$1,835,438
Outreach	\$ 336,602
Diocesan Assessment	\$ 394,995
Capital or Fixed Assets	\$ 37,150
Total	\$2,604,185

Renovation/Expansion Project

Total Cost	\$14,289,100
Amount Pledged ¹	\$ 8,315,811
Amount Received	\$ 6,437,338
Bonds Payable ²	\$ 7,650,000

¹ Includes \$1,457,000 of deferred pledges (such as bequests). Amount has decreased since the last report due to uncollectable pledges.

² This amount is lower than might be expected because several times Operations funded the bond interest, letter of credit and other fees, based on Budget rather than Actual. The excess of Budget over Actual is being used to reduce debt.

Vestry Meeting Summary NOVEMBER 2011

This summary is from unapproved Vestry meeting minutes (minutes are not presented for approval until the following meeting). Complete minutes are posted online at stpaulsindy.org/vestry and on the bulletin board just outside Conference Room II. To request a copy, contact Barbara Haberman, ext 26 or bhaberman@stpaulsindy.org.

OPENING

The meeting began with Psalm 146 (M. Stoner) and bible study (J. Denson).

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of October Meeting Minutes and the October 2011 Financial Report.

DISCUSSION/DECISION ITEMS

Communications Strategy Team – Team chair Erin Walls opened by referring to the Website Redesign Proposal, provided prior to the meeting. Approximately \$30,000 will be needed. They are applying for a grant for \$15K from the Center for Congregations and \$15K is in the 2011 budget.

2012 Budget – The 2012 budget draft shows an \$80K deficit. J. Denson/M. Jack led an extensive discussion as to whether St. Paul's decreases the amount allocated to outreach grants by that amount, as well as a conversation about deficit spending versus strategic growth programming and ministries.

Request to fund General Convention – The Diocese of Indianapolis requested approximately \$26K from St. Paul's to help cover the cost of hosting 2012 GC. \$15K had been included in the 2011 budget in anticipation of this request; approval was given for \$11K in additional funding.

Mission in Mombasa Scholarship – B. Jeglum asked if the Vestry would renew their scholarship for one pupil in 2012. Members agreed and she will set it up.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Rector – J. Denson referred to his written report, reminded all that Vestry members are needed to make follow-up calls to parishioners who have not responded to the 2012 Stewardship Campaign and noted that four individuals have applied for the Vestry class of 2015.

CLOSING The meeting adjourned with a prayer (M. Stoner).

Alternative Gift Market

Purchase your gift cards in Burrows Commons on Sundays, December 11 & 18

The Alternative Gift Market has local and international options, and gift cards to present to those you choose to honor with a donation in their name. Make your gifting choices on designated Sundays, or contact Karen Bumb Lauer, 291.2097 or karen.bumb.lauer@gmail.com.

Organizations supported through the Alternative Gift Market are:

Craine House — Alternative sentencing program for non-violent female offenders and their young children.

Dayspring Center — local homeless shelter for families.

Habitat for Humanity — an international, nonprofit Christian housing ministry.

Julian Center — local shelter for abused women and children.

Mission in Mombasa — supporting two children's orphanages in Mombasa, Kenya.



On your Christmas list: Mission in Mombasa?

MiM is an option at the Alternative Gift Market again. This is a gift that gives WAY beyond the recipient, as your contribution means that a child in one of our partner facilities in Mombasa, Kenya will go to school, eat three healthy meals a day, sleep in a safe, clean bed, and live in a caring, Christian environment. Talk about "bang for the buck!"

So many of us really do not need any more STUFF. Let this be the year of unencumbered gift-giving. You can't buy the wrong size, brand, or color! Visit the Alternative Gift Market and shop for these kids! Thanks and blessings to you for your support.

Craine House Boutique

Friday, December 9: 5:30-7:30 p.m. Patron's Party
Saturday, December 10, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 11: 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

The third annual Holiday Boutique to benefit Craine House is approaching! A new feature is the Patron's Party on Friday. Your \$10 ticket donation includes wine, hors d'oeuvres and early-bird shopping. Contact Gail McDermott-Bowler at 578.9291 to RSVP.

Items at the boutique include holiday and gift items such as crafts, jewelry, homemade jams and salsas, baked goods, quilts and knitted specialty items. The feature piece is spectacular Cathedral Window quilt made by St. Paul's Needle Arts Guild, to be sold via Silent Auction.

If you would prefer, we are also happy to receive monetary contributions which may be sent to Craine House, 3535 N. Pennsylvania, 46205. Thank you for your support of this event!

Discretionary funds as a source of parish outreach

Twice in the last few weeks, people have called St. Paul's on the verge of being evicted. The only reason they were able to stay in their apartments was because their rent was paid by the Rector from his discretionary fund.

As we move into the winter, the needs of many become more acute as they balance the burden of paying for rent, heat, electricity, food, and medications. Often, choices need to be made meaning that one bill gets paid while another is ignored. Sadly, in many cases the safety net provided by the state of Indiana and social service organizations is unable to cover all of the needs of families and individuals.

We have two discretionary funds at St. Paul's that allow the clergy to respond to emergencies: the Rector's Discretionary Fund and the Clergy Discretionary Fund (the latter is used by both associate rectors).

You can make a difference for people in need by making a contribution to these funds. All you need to do is write a check payable to St. Paul's, writing on the memo line "Rector's Discretionary Fund" or "Clergy Discretionary Fund." You can place the check in the offering plate on Sunday morning or mail it to the church office. All donations are tax deductible.

Thank you for your help in this important outreach ministry.

Yule Ball

Friday, December 16
7:00-11:00 p.m.

D.J. & Dancing
Heavy Hors d'oeuvres & Desserts
Drinks (alcoholic & non)
Pictures
Free Childcare

Bring your friends!
Semi-Formal Attire.
No cover. Donations of
non-perishable food for
Dayspring are welcomed.

Hosted by St. Paul's
Young Adult Ministry (20s-30s).
RSVPs appreciated to psmith@stpaulsindy.org.

This is a SPUDS (Spouses & Parents United Doing Stuff)
& YAMs (Young Adult Ministry) event.

Rector's Coffeehouse Office Hours

The Rev. John Denson has open "office hours" at Hubbard and Cravens (49th and Penn) every Tuesday from 7:30-9:00 a.m. and Thursday from 3:30-5:00 p.m. Please drop by for a chat or to talk about something that is on your mind. If he's working on his laptop, it's okay to interrupt!

John will not be at Hubbard & Cravens on the following days in December:

- Tuesday, December 13 (he'll be with the Northside Interfaith Clergy)
- Tuesday, December 27th (the church office is closed this week)
- Thursday, December 29th (the church office is closed this week)

Check the online calendar for any updates.

Terrific Thursdays

10:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall

This seniors' group meets weekly for engaging programs and lunch for only \$6. Friends and visitors are always welcome!

If you have questions, or want to volunteer to conduct a program for Terrific Thursdays, contact John Harkness (253.5136 or hark1629@gmail.com) or Barbara Schubert (705.0257 or baschubert36@yahoo.com).

DECEMBER 8

11:00 a.m. "Christmas at L.S. Ayres." Rachael Heger, from the Indiana State Library, will present us with a reminiscence of the L.S. Ayres Christmas traditions.

DECEMBER 15

11:00 a.m. "Christmas Caroling with Randy Frieling." Randy Frieling, St. Paul's Archway pianist, will entertain us with seasonal music and some familiar sing-along Christmas carols.

DECEMBER 22 & 29

No program/off for Christmas & New Year's.

Christmas Families Project An overwhelming success!

All children-in-need adopted after two weeks

What a tremendous response we had to the Christmas Families Project this year! Your generosity has provided for 24 families, totalling 83 children and youth.

The coordinator at IPS #15 was so grateful for our support that she said she wishes she could "come and give each person at St. Paul's a big hug."

This popular annual tradition is part of a strong tie between St. Paul's and Indianapolis Public School 15 established by parishioner Woody Litz, retired principal of the school. The neediest children are selected by the staff at School 15 who interview the parents and provide us with wish lists for each child in the family. Since all siblings are included, gifts are purchased for children in ages ranging from infants through 18.

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Ladies Advent Dinner

Tuesday, December 13 ~ 6:00 p.m.
St. Paul's Parish Hall



The women of St. Paul's invite you to join together this Advent season for a relaxing evening of sistership, dinner, carols and evening prayer.

Tickets are \$12. Ladies of all ages are welcome. RSVP by Tuesday, December 6. Transportation to the dinner and free childcare is available; let us know when you RSVP to Pamela Smith, ext 25 or psmith@stpaulsindy.org or online at stpaulsindy.org/adventdinner.

Charitable donations & IRA rollovers

All donations to St. Paul's must be received or postmarked by December 31 to count toward your 2011 tax year.

In addition, current IRA rollover legislation allows individuals age 70 1/2 or older to donate IRA assets directly to charity and not have them count as taxable income. To take advantage of this opportunity you must: use your IRA to make a charitable gift of up to \$100,000 a year, have the IRA withdrawal go directly to the charity you choose, and make your gift by December 31, 2011.

Recycle wrapping paper, Christmas cards & more!

Just a reminder that our recycling program has been expanded to include plastic, cans, glass & cardboard. The mixed-use bin is next to our Abitibi paper recycling bin the parking lot. Please continue to deposit paper, newspaper and magazines in the Abitibi bin, which earns money for our outreach ministry. Trash cans for recyclables can be found in each building on each floor. Containers are labeled; green is for mixed-use, blue is for paper.

Consider the practice of Centering Prayer

"Be still and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10

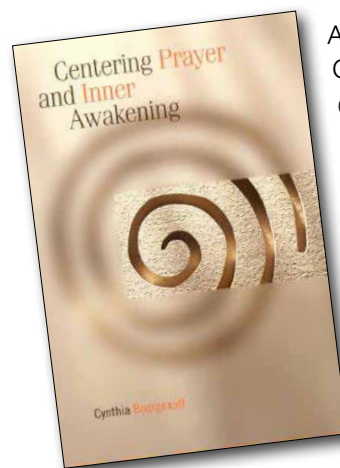
A Centering Prayer group meets at St. Paul's on the second and fourth Tuesday evening at 7:00 p.m. These meetings are open to anyone who is interested in learning more.

Starting on January 10 this group will begin a new book "Centering Prayer and Inner Awakening" by Cynthia Bourgeault. If you are a beginner to the practice, this is a great opportunity to learn this method of prayer.

For more information please contact Jan Johnson, 257.6178 or jjohnson1650@yahoo.com.

About Contemplative Prayer

We may think of prayer as thoughts or feelings expressed in words. But this is only one expression. In the Christian tradition Contemplative Prayer is considered to be the pure gift of God. It is the opening of mind and heart - our whole being - to God, the Ultimate Mystery, beyond thoughts, words, and emotions. Through grace we open our awareness to God whom we know by faith is within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than choosing - closer than consciousness itself.



About Centering Prayer

Centering Prayer is a method designed to facilitate the development of Contemplative Prayer by preparing our faculties to receive this gift. It is an attempt to present the teaching of earlier times in an updated form. Centering Prayer

is not meant to replace other kinds of prayer: rather it casts a new light and depth of meaning on them. It is at the same time a relationship with God and a discipline to foster that relationship. This method of prayer is a movement beyond conversation with Christ to communion with Him.

...by Thomas Keating

Dayspring Center pantry collection

December Wish List items: Cereal, Pop Tarts, Coffee

A donation basket can be found in Burrows Commons near the walkway doors.
Thank you for your continued support of this homeless shelter for families!

ABOUT Dayspring: Dayspring Center provides emergency shelter, clothing, and three nourishing meals-a-day for homeless families with children in central Indiana. Families turn to us as a last resort; some to escape domestic abuse, others have experienced financial collapse, medical problems, or other crises that caused them to lose their home.

Dayspring effectively works to combat and prevent family homelessness by first, meeting their most immediate needs for food and shelter, then working with each family to address the issues that led them to homelessness.

When it comes to homelessness, results are what matter most. Eighty percent (80%) of residents who complete the program at Dayspring Center move directly into permanent housing.



Parish Transitions

December 2011

We welcome those who have registered their baptism (BR) and/or transferred their membership to St. Paul's.

- Alane Summers from St. Andrew's, Valparaiso, Indiana

Our prayers go with those who have transferred to another parish:

- Margaret M. Winters to St. John's, Youngstown, Ohio

We welcome the newly baptized.

- Ellington Averette Thacker
- Lauren Grace Pedersen

We entrust to God's care those who have died:

- Laura Hague
- Milton Mondor

About our newsletter

Submissions for the January 2012 issue are due December 15.

Submissions to: Barbara Haberman, ext 26 or bhaberman@stpaulsindy.org

This newsletter is a monthly publication compiled and printed in-house. It is mailed the first week of every month, prepared for the post office with the help of volunteers and sent via bulk mail. In lieu of a paper copy, *Connections* recipients are invited to receive the newsletter electronically as a PDF. The current issue, and 12 months of back issues, are available at stpaulsindy.org.

St. Paul's Staff & Leadership

VESTRY

The Rev. John Denson, D.Min, Rector
John Walls, Senior Warden (2012)
Pam Douglas, Junior Warden (2013)
Michael Jack, Treasurer & Larry Johnson, Clerk
Anne Jongleux, John E. Pless & Ann Shupert, 2012
Beth Jeglum, Jessica Moland & Ryne Webb, 2013
Ted Randall, Pamela Smith, Mark Stoner
& Peter Thuesen, 2014

WORSHIP & MISSION STAFF

The Rev. John Denson, D.Min, Rector
(ext 14 or jdenson@stpaulsindy.org)
The Rev. Jean Denton, R.N., Senior Associate
Rector (ext 17 or jdenton@stpaulsindy.org)
The Rev. Les Carpenter, Associate Rector (ext 15
or lcarpenter@stpaulsindy.org)
The Rev. Bill Novak, Associate for Adult Formation
(251.1770 or novakjw13@gmail.com)
Frank W. Boles, Organist and Associate for Music
(ext 30 or fboles@stpaulsindy.org)
Robert Richter, Assistant Organist & Choir Master
(ext 29 or rrichter@stpaulsindy.org)
Dontie Fuller, Associate for Children's Ministries
(ext 23 or dfuller@stpaulsindy.org)
Erica Jeglum, Youth Minister
(ext 16 or ejeglum@stpaulsindy.org)
Randy Frieling, Archway Musician
(rjfrieling@anderson.edu)

MINISTRY SUPPORT STAFF

Lisa H. White, CPA, Controller (ext 21 or
lwhite@stpaulsindy.org)
Barbara Haberman, Associate for Communications
(ext 26 or bhaberman@stpaulsindy.org)
Marilyn L. Vargo, Assistant for Liturgy & Worship
(ext 12 or mvargo@stpaulsindy.org)
David Geoghegan, Sexton
Marvin Jackson, Sexton

AFFILIATE MINISTRIES

National Episcopal Health Ministries

www.episcopalhealthministries.org
Matthew Ellis, Executive Director (ext 16
or mellis@stpaulsindy.org)

The Children's Corner Preschool

www.stpaulsindy.org/childrenscorner
Judi Piccolo, Director (ext 28, 255.4303
or tccorner30@aol.com)



St. Paul's Episcopal Church
6050 North Meridian Street • Indianapolis, IN 46208

SUNDAYS at 7:45 a.m. • 9:00 a.m. • 11:15 a.m. • 6:00 p.m.
www.stpaulsindy.org

Worship Services at St. Paul's

Wednesday

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist & Healing Service

Sunday Worship & Formation

7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist (approximately 45 minutes) This spoken Eucharist uses traditional language from The Book of Common Prayer.

9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (approximately 1 hour) This Eucharist features our Intergenerational Choir.* Many children and youth attend this service, and its pace and energy help keep them engaged. For children ages 3-8, Kids' Word is offered as an alternative to the sermon. Sunday School and Adult Formation classes begin shortly afterward at 10:15 a.m.

10:15 a.m. Christian Formation for all ages (45 minutes)

11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist (just over 1 hour) This Eucharist is led by St. Paul's Adult Choir.* The liturgy has a contemplative quality and reflects the tradition of fine choral singing. Formation classes are held prior, from 10:15-11:00 a.m.

6:00 p.m. Archway (approximately 45 minutes) This evening Holy Eucharist is an experiential worship service, with simple piano music and a conversational sermon. For more information, contact the Rev. Les Carpenter.

**From Memorial Day through Labor Day, our regular choirs adjourn and the Summer Term Choir sings the 11:15 a.m. service.*

NOTE: Gluten-free communion wafers are available at all services.
Please inform the eucharist minister when you prepare to receive communion.

