**DECEMBER**

**Sunday, 1ST FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

8:00 am Praise Team Rehearsal

9:30 am Choir Rehearsal

10:00 amWorship Service/Communion

 Sunday School

11:30am-noon Pageant Rehearsals:

 Speaking Roles - Sanctuary

6-8pm Senior & Junior Youth Groups

**Monday, 2nd**

7:00 pm Advent Bible Study – Choir Room

**Wednesday, 4th**

9am-2 pm Scrappers

1:00 pm Advent Bible Study – Choir Room

6:30pm Men of St. Paul’s

**Thursday, 5th**

11am-9pm **Applebee’s Dining to Donate**

7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

**Saturday, 7th**

9:00 am Praise Team Rehearsal

**Sunday, 8th  SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

8:00 am Praise Team Rehearsal

10:00 amWorship Service

 **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

 Sunday School

11:30am-noon Soup Swap

 Pageant Rehearsals:

 All Students - Sanctuary

**\*\*\*Deadline Last Scripts fundraiser\*\*\***

**\*\*\*Deadline for Poinsettia Orders\*\*\***

**Monday, 9th**

7:00 pm Advent Bible Study – Choir Room

7:30 pm Consistory

**Wednesday, 11th**

1:00 pm Advent Bible Study – Choir Room

**Thursday, 12th**

7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

**Saturday, 14th**

9:00 am Praise Team Rehearsal

9:30-10:30am Pageant Rehearsals:

 All Students - Sanctuary

**Sunday, 15th THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

8:00 am Praise Team Rehearsal

9:30 am Choir Rehearsal

10:00 amWorship Service

 Christmas Pageant

11:30am Soup Swap!

 Christmas Candy by Donna

**\*\*\*SYG Retreat registration & Deposit due\*\*\***

**Monday, 16th**

7:00 pm Advent Bible Study – Choir Room

**Wednesday, 18th**

9am-2 pm Scrappers

1:00 pm Advent Bible Study – Choir Room

**Thursday, 19th**

7:30 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal

**\*\*\*\*TIDINGS DEADLINE\*\*\*\***

**Saturday, 21st**

9:00 am Praise Team Rehearsal

**Sunday, 22nd FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

8:00 am Praise Team Rehearsal

9:30 am Choir Rehearsal

10:00 amWorship Service/Christmas Lessons and Carols

 Sunday School

1:00 pm Caroling

 Senior & Junior Youth Groups

5:00 pm Advent Potluck Dinner

**Monday, 23rd**

7:00 pm Advent Bible Study – Choir Room

**Tuesday, 24th CHRISTMAS EVE**

5:00 & 8:00 pm Candlelight Services

**Wednesday, 25th MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

**Thursday. 26th** Church Office Closed

**Saturday, 28th**

9:00 am Praise Team Rehearsal

**Sunday, 29th**

8:00 am Praise Team Rehearsal

10:00 amWorship Service

 **FISH**

**\*\*\*\*DEADLINE FOR ALL 2019 DONATIONS\*\*\*\***

**Monday, 30th FISH**

**Tuesday, 31st FISH**

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**February 29th - Applebee’s Flapjack Fundraiser**

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

December 8

Your vote is needed for Matthew Murphy as our next Pastor AND for approval of the 2020 Budget. Copies of the proposed 2020 Budget are in the Narthex and Church Office.

**2019 FINANCIALS**

 October YTD

Expense $14,765.43 $239,130.96

Income 15,065.08 184,589.16

$299.65 -$(54,541.80**)**

**DEADLINE FOR ALL 2019 DONATIONS**

**IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29TH.**

**DECEMBER’S BENEVOLENCE**

Our December communion offering will be given to Ronald McDonald House.

**THANK YOU!**

A great big thanks to:

All who participated in Fall Clean Up.

Barbara Paley for coordinating building improvements/repairs.

Nick Bamond & Dave Gopal for putting up the trim in the Social Hall.

**2020 CALENDARS**

Are available in the narthex, church office and social hall. Take an extra one or two and give them to your neighbors, family or friends.

**HEAD USHERS FOR**

**December**

1 Team #1

8 Dave Hastings

15 Grace Kothari

22 Julie Park

24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

 5 pm Bob Burnett

 8 pm Rob Ramsen

29 Beckie Rumen



Photo Book of St. Paul’s Church Windows is available through Shutterfly. <https://link.shutterfly.com/e/wZt0WgHqTX>

This is not a fundraiser but something you may want to purchase as gifts or for yourself to enjoy

## C:\Users\Carol\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\IE\B83SEAFA\children-and-youth[1].png

## SUNDAY SCHOOL has begun. It is for children ages 3 years old through 6th grade. Sunday school begins with worship at 10am in the sanctuary. The children are dismissed to their classes after the junior sermon.

## Registration forms need to be completed and returned to Church Office or Sunday School Teacher.

**WANTED:** 12 volunteers to teach one Sunday School class per month for the next 8 months. (3 people have volunteered!) This is an opportunity to share your time and talents with our youth.

**DECEMBER’S PRAYER OF THE MONTH**

Father God, we thank You and praise You today for the miracle of Your Son's birth. Thank You for bringing great JOY to the whole world! Thank You for giving us the assurance that because You came to us in the form of a human, we who believe in Jesus can know with absolute certainty that we'll spend eternity with You. We thank You, Lord, for the many reasons we have been given a merry Christmas. And we rejoice for each blessing. New life. New love. A home. A job. New opportunities. Second chances. And more. We know, Lord, that You bring the sun and the moon and set the stars in motion. You tell the ocean where to stop and the snow when to start. And we thank You for the mighty gift of Your creation. Thank You, Father, for spiritual leaders and faith-filled friends who keep encouraging us when we are close to giving up. And although we have many reasons to rejoice today, Lord, we also know December 25th can be not-so-merry for a whole host of reasons. We pray for those who are experiencing loss during Advent: relational, financial, spiritual and physical. We pray for those who are coping with loving a prodigal and our friends and family members whose hearts are far from You. We pray for those dealing with unemployment and addictions and chronic sickness... and unending pain and frustrations of all kinds. Thank You, Lord, that You are The Wonderful Counselor and Prince of Peace, even in the midst of our not-so-merry circumstances. Finally, Lord, we ask You to grant us peace. Peace in our homes, peace in our churches, and peace in our hearts, when the world all around us spins out-of-control. Help us to stay focused on You, this Advent season and always. Thank You for loving the whole world enough to send the greatest gift, Your Son, so that we might truly have a very merry Christmas. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

~Steph Raquel, from “A Christmas Prayer for the Merry… and Not-So-Merry”, Prov. 31 Ministries

**SENIOR YOUTH GROUP**

Mission trip paperwork and deposit should be turned in but in the event any youth is interested in attending and has not turned in the deposit, speak to Jeff ASAP, or call/text at 732-407-4326. Retreat payments and paperwork are due on 12/15…we will be going to Harvey Cedar’s Bible Conference Center February 7 - 9, 2020.

Please consider supporting our upcoming fundraisers, Applebee’s Dine to Donate on 12/5, the last Scrip gift card order is going in, and soon we’ll be promoting our Applebee’s breakfast (the proceeds will be split with the church).

In December, we will have a regular meeting on 12/1 however our 12/15 meeting will be postponed to 12/22. On 12/22 we will be Christmas caroling in the afternoon and then attending the Family Advent Dinner that evening! We might plan an additional fun activity in between Christmas and New Year’s…stay tuned!

All youth 12-18 are welcome to come to our meetings on the 1st & 3rd Sunday’s of the month from 6-8 PM!Text @d3k7fd to 81010 to join the St. Paul’s Senior Youth Group.

**JUNIOR YOUTH GROUP**

Any questions, please call Sean Sullivan at 732-565-3669

**A CHRISTMAS BLESSING**

May love come alive within your heart

As Christmas time draws near.

May hope fill each room you decorate

And bring joy to those you hold dear.

May peace be before you at every meal

And faith ring through every song.

For Christ is alive, the light of the world

May he bless you all season long.

**CHRISTMAS CAROLING**

Sunday, December 22 @ 1PM

YOU are invited to join us as we go Christmas Caroling to our homebound. If you would like the carolers to stop at your house, please call the church office at 732-828-0020.

**FISH HOSPITALITY PROGRAM**

Our Education Building will be used by FISH Hospitality the week of December 29th through January 5th.

YOUR help is needed to:

Unload the beds & set-up rooms (Sunday after worship)

Provide a dinner meal (all nights)

Transport residents to the shower (all weeknights)

Sleep over one night (all nights, one male and one female volunteer needed!)

Please reach out to either:

Dawn Ramsen

732-492-9976

r4withjoy@yahoo.com

Jeff Rumen

732-407-4326

jrumen@msn.com

## MUSIC AT ST. PAUL’S

**Choirs continues Advent/Christmas preparation**

On Sunday, Dec. 22, the Adult Choir will lead a service of Lessons and Carols, where six readings about the coming Messiah are interspersed with carols and anthems. Our rehearsals throughout December will be mainly devoted to preparing for this special service.

If you are interested in singing, it’s not too late! We are also looking for readers to help with the service!

**Children’s Pageant Preparation**

On Sunday, Dec. 15th, the Sunday school children will present a Christmas pageant.

Children’s Choir will resume on January 5.

**Have a question or comment about our music ministry?** Want to get involved?

Contact Emily at esensenb@hotmail.com

**SCRAP BOOKING**

Do you have photos you don’t know what to do with? Join our Scrapbooking/Crafting Club. We meet two Wednesdays a month in the social hall from 10am – 2 pm, $5.00, bring your lunch. Call Donna Lucid to RSVP or with any questions at 908-331-1758.



**THANK YOU**

**Thanks to all who helped in any way to make our fall pallet painting fundraiser a huge success. Everyone left with awesome pallets and we were able to raise $380 for the church.**

**See you in the spring!**

**Nikki & Debbie**



**FELLOWSHIP HOUR**

HOSTS NEEDED:

You are responsible for providing treats, juice for the children and milk for coffee.

Coffee, cups, plates, napkins, plastic utensils and sweeteners are provided.

SIGN UP TO HOST

@ coffee hour or contact:

Julie Park 732-545-4266

mj1park@optonline.net or

Tracy Rucinski 732-545-6982

traysee7413@yahoo.com.

**SCRIPT FUNDRAISING** is an opportunity for the Youth Group to raise money by selling Gift Cards at no additional costs to our supporters. Each Gift Card is assigned a rebate percentage that goes directly to the Youth Group upon purchase. Gift Cards are available in everyday categories including groceries, gas, retail, restaurants and movies. Please consider using them for your monthly purchases or as a gift during the upcoming holiday season. Order forms are in the Narthex and Church Office.

**LAST CHANCE TO ORDER IS**

**DECEMBER 8.**

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**CHRISTMAS CANDY**

**BY DONNA**

Candy by Donna will be available for sale and orders taken on Sunday, December 15 during coffee hour. Proceeds to benefit SYG Mission Trip ’20.

**ADVENT BIBLE STUDY**

Have you ever thought about the intricate details of the first Christmas? How Mary handled the startling message from the angel Gabriel? Why God sought fit to first appear to the lowly shepherds, and choose a manger in Bethlehem? Or what it would have been like to stand before a multitude of angels?

God was intentional in every detail of his plan to bring his son into the world. Through Mary, an everlasting ***hope*** would come to the nations. Through the little town of Bethlehem, the birth of our Savior would become a reality and be our prince of ***peace***. Through shepherds, God would exalt the humble and show us that He is the sovereign shepherd of ***love***. Through angels, God would send good tidings of great ***joy*** that would come to all people, everywhere.

The humble events surrounding Christ’s birth glorify all that our Savior is. From the stable to the cross, He redeemed us from sin to give us life. Just as his birth introduced grace and redemption for all people then, the invitation continues for us today. This undeserved gift is truly what the wonder of the first Christmas is all about!

*And the angel answered and said to her [Mary], “The Holy Spirit will come*

*upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also,*

*that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.”*

- Luke 1:35

**Come join us for an Advent Bible study on Wednesday’s at 1 PM and Monday’s at 7 PM. All meetings will be in the Choir Room in the basement of the sanctuary. A guide will be provided, come with an open heart, ready for fellowship!**

**ADVENT FAMILY DEVOTIONAL**

A daily Advent Devotional is available for all interested. They are available in the back of the church. Please take one per family to participate in our church wide month of joy and thanksgiving for the birth of our Savior! This devotional can be used by itself or as a supplement for the Advent Bible study.

**Consistory Minutes**November 18, 2019

 **In Attendance:** Sean Sullivan, John Garback, Nick Bamond, Dr. Grace Kothari, Matt Park, Dave Hastings, Debbie Kovacs, Jeff Rumen, Beckie Rumen, Debbie Paley

Meeting called to order at 7:33pm.

October minutes were approved by consistory; motioned by Jeff R./seconded by Sean S.

We discussed the terms of Pastor Matt’s contract and reviewed Scenario B. Items to be included are parsonage utilities (electric, gas, sewer, water) and a relocation cost to help with moving and housing expenses during his transition. Short-term disability falls on his healthcare; we will purchase long-term care for Pastor Matt at a maximum cost of $3100 per year. We will research sick leave to make sure we are complying with NJ law.

Dave Hastings is currently working on the contract.

We discussed some UCC contract recommendations and agreed to include:
1) Death benefit – 90 days of salary/benefits from date of death
2) Capping mileage at $2500 per year

All contract additions approved by consistory; motioned by Jeff R./seconded by Debbie K.

Congregation vote is set for Sunday, December 8th.

Dave will contact Pastor Matt about an official start date. Debbie P. requested 1/1/20 start date for tax records. Dave will invite Pastor Matt and his family for advent dinner on 12/22.

**2020 Budget:**

The changes from the 2019 budget are as follows:

-Good Day rent increase annually as per contract.
- Insurance expense increased to reflect new insurance company
- Switch Pastor Rich for Pastor Matt in salaries/etc
- Office supplies – increase from $6000 to $6500 in the event that Pastor Matt needs a laptop
- Snow Removal – 2019 YTD is $2600; change line item to $5000 for 2020
- Salaries:
 Motion to raise Emily’s salary to $35,000; motioned by Beckie R./seconded by Dave H.
 Motion to raise Carol’s salary to $16,600; motioned by Sean S./seconded by Tracy R.
 Motion to raise Debbie’s salary to $6,240 plus admin job for 3 months ($1200); motioned by Beckie
 R./seconded by Debbie K.

Budget approved by Consistory; motioned by Debbie K./seconded by Beckie R.

**Finances**

- October’s financials show a gain of $299.65.
- Our water bill was unusually high this quarter in the amount of $2177.51. This was due to two toilets running upstairs in the education building. Dick McDowell took care of the repairs.
- October finances approved by consistory; motioned by Jeff R./seconded by Tracy R.

- Fundraisers:
1) TD Bank is offering $10 donations to the church for anyone who currently has an account. They are offering $50 donations for new accounts. Debbie P. looked into this to see if other banks are offering anything similar. TD Bank appears to be the only one offering donations.
2) American Recycling Resources asked us if we would like to keep a dumpster on our property to collect clothing items. These would then be sent to a third world country and we would be compensated based on the amount collected. Debbie spoke to town hall regarding this clothing bin; we can have it on our property but the company needs to pay a $50 zoning permit. We will wait for Pastor Matt before making a decision and Debbie will get specifics on profit/frequency of pickup.
3) Pallet Night fundraiser brought in $380.
4) Soup Swap fundraiser brought in $285.

**Consistory**Communion
- December 1 – Team 1

Communion Offering/Benevolence
- October’s Communion Offering – Fish ($952)
- November’s Communion Offering – Embrace Kids Foundation
- December’s Communion Offering – Ronald McDonald

 **Ministry Teams**
Church & Family
- Jeff R. will work on a Thanksgiving letter to be sent out from consistory

Spiritual Life
- We will offer $200 to Pastor Rich for preaching on 11/17

Education
- We currently have 22 children registered for Sunday School.
- We are still in need of more volunteers who are willing to take one Sunday/month to relieve our Sunday School teachers. So far three people volunteered to help (however two individuals were from consistory). We need to actively recruit teachers. Our current teachers are LuAnn B., Tracy R., Julie P. (ending in December), Jen Olsen, and Neil Marotta.

Property
- Pastor Matt asked for the carpets in the parsonage to be removed and to check for leaks (these were checked, all were cosmetic issues; leaks previously fixed). He would also like wallpaper removed if possible. Some congregants offered to do some of the work and they will evaluate this week. We will have a cleaning service once all parsonage repairs take place.
- We will ask Rob Ramsen to look at the toilet in the ladies’ room in the social hall – needs new wax seal.
- We plan to have a Fall Cleanup Day on Sunday, November 24th
- Debbie P. will ask Ed Lucid to clean up woodwork in Pastor’s office

Future Dates
- Consistory – December 9

Meeting adjourned at 9:03pm, Jeff R. closed the meeting with a prayer.

**BREAVEMENT**

Our sympathies to the family of Donald Petry, who died 11/18: the family of Elsbeth Rapolla, who died 10/29, and the family of Judy Harland (Emily’s grandmother).

**MEMORIAL FUND**

WAYNE MITEK’S ninth year of his eternal rest

 Kathy Mitek & Family

***Letters…***

*Dear St. Paul’s Family,*

*Thank you so much for thinking of me this Halloween!*

 *God be with you,*

 *Sean Wesen*

![C:\Users\Carol\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\IE\1N44CRHZ\minestrone-soup[1].jpg]()

**SOUPS ON!**

December 8

On Sunday, December 8th you will have a chance to exchange $5 for a quart of home

made soup.

If you are willing to make some soup there is a sign up in the narthex or contact Pam Sarch @732-501-5837.

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DINNER

December 22 at 5:00pm

We are seeking volunteers for our Advent Dinner. Please email or call the church office to sign up.

ST. PAUL’S CHURCH

Founded in 1872

So. Main St. & W. Lakewood Ave.

Rev. Richard H. Weyer, Pastor Emeritus

Emily Sensenbach-Gopal,

Director of Music

Church Office 732 828-0020

FAX # 732 828-0027

stpaulschurch@optonline.net

www.stpaulsmilltownnj.org

Please leave a message if no one is available.

Church Secretary Mrs. Carol Lagowski

Office hours: 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Financial Secretary Mrs. Debbie Paley

 (address inquiries to church office)

Please address all financial inquiries to the Church Office.

 **2019 CONSISTORY**

Elders:

Melanie Dwyer

Karen Gourley

David Hasting

Lois Jessen

Grace Kothari

Matt Park

Jeff Rumen

Nikki Wesen

Deacons:

Nicholas Bamond

John Garback

Debbie Kovacs

Tracy Rucinski

Beckie Rumen

Sean Sullivan

Don Wesen

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Save time and prevent mistakes by writing your parishioner number on your checks and envelopes. Example: 002W

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Please notify the church office if any of the following changes occur in your household: address change, phone number change, email change, marriage, separation/divorce, death, birth, adoption, adult child(ren) moving out, or a family member being moved to a rehab. or nursing home.

We would like to keep our membership list up-to-date, but we need YOUR cooperation to do so!

ST. PAUL’S CHURCH

62 South Main Street

Milltown, NJ 08850

(732) 828-0020

**DECEMBER, 2019**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Dec. 1 - Communion

Dec. 1 & 15 – Senior Youth Group

Dec. 4 – Men of St. Paul’s

Dec. 4 &17 – Scrappers

Dec. 8 – CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

 Soup Swap!

Dec. 9 – Consistory

Dec. 15 – Christmas Pageant

 Christmas Candy

Dec. 22 – Carols & Lessons

 Christmas Caroling

 Family Advent Potluck Supper

Dec. 24 – Candlelight Services

**TIDINGS**

**Worship Service 10:00 a.m.**

**Sunday School 10:00 a.m.**

**DATED MATERIAL**

November 26, 2019

