

Thank you for Serving!		
	Today – December 14	Next Sunday – December 21
LITURGIST:	Christmas Cantata	Ashley Johnson
USHERS:	Dan & Ann Rhudy	David Johnson & Debbie Lawrence
ACOLYTES:	Daphne Arthur	
SECURITY TEAM:	Tom Bell & Jim Mattox	Tom Bell & Jim Mattox
ALTAR TEAM:	Ronald & Geraldine Hollandsworth	Ronald & Geraldine Hollandsworth

This Week at St. Paul		
Sun, Dec 14	Frank Wickham & JOY Classes	9:00AM-9:50AM
	Worship Service-Third Sunday of Advent	10:00AM
	Christmas Cantata	
	Youth Holiday Party, FH	1:00PM
	Den Meetings, AB	2:00PM
Mon, Dec 15	Baby Shop, Clients Pick Up Orders	9:30AM-12:00PM
	Church Council, JOY Classroom	7:00PM
Tues, Dec 16	Hand Bell Choir Rehearsal	7:00PM-8:00PM
Wed, Dec 17	No Wonderful Wednesday	
	Life Recovery Ministry, AB	7:00PM
Thurs, Dec 18	Preschool 3’s Gingerbread Man Christmas, FH	11:15AM
	Kiwanis Christmas Party, FH	3:30PM-9:00PM
Fri, Dec 19	Preschool 4’s Christmas Program & Party, FH	11:15AM

Next Week		
Sun, Dec 21	Frank Wickham & JOY Classes	9:00AM- 9:50AM
	Worship Service-Fourth Sunday of Advent	10:00AM
Wed, Dec 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	7:00PM
	Office Closed	
Thurs, Dec 25	Christmas Day – Office Closed	
Fri, Dec 26	Office Closed	



Saint Paul United Methodist Church
220 West Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073
Phone: (540)382-2410 Fax: (540)382-1373
Web: www.stpaulvaumc.org
Church office hours Monday – Friday 9:00AM – 3:30PM

 Like us on Facebook
 Public page - <https://www.facebook.com/stpaulcburg>
Private page - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/stpaulvaumc>
<https://www.youtube.com/c/StPaulUMCChristiansburgVA>

St Paul envisions
**“Growing into a most Vibrant, Joyful Christian Community,
Unified in Loving Service to our Neighbors, for the Glory of God.”**
--Vision Statement, approved by Church Council, 2018—

Third Sunday of Advent		
<u>December 14, 2025</u>	<u>Christmas Cantata</u>	<u>Ten O’Clock</u>
<i>Please ask an usher for assistance for handicap access.</i> <i>Please turn your cell phone off or mute during worship.</i>		

***Please stand for these acts of worship as you are able.**
Welcome! Today our musicians and singers take charge with our annual Christmas Cantata!
Let’s sing and be glad! May the joy of the Lord fill you as we worship!

Gathering & Prelude	“Carols and Carols”	Traditional Carols
Welcome		Pastor Mike Derflinger
Lighting of the Advent Wreath		The Family Names of Family here

*Call to Worship
Leader: Holy Spirit, You who hovered over Mother Mary and who with her brought about the birth of the Messiah, you are welcome in this place!
People: Bring your gladness and power upon us as we worship You! Because with You, all things are possible!

*Carols
♪245 “The First Noel”, vv. 1,2
♪202 “People Look East”, vv. 1,4

*The Apostles’ Creed 881 **Traditional Version**

Recognition of our Acolytes

<u>2025 Acolytes</u> Daphne Arthur Ezra Arthur	<u>Newly Trained Acolytes</u> Edgar Kersey Owen Kersey
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Nolan Arthur
Ellie Johnson
Isaac Johnson
Coble Keaton

Isaiah Mallory
Rose Mallory

Announcements

Please offer your recommendations for 2026 Communion offerings.

You may leave your insert in the pew

Offertory Prayer

Gracious God. in this season of expectation and gift-giving, we bring our gifts as expressions of joy. May these and all of our giving bear witness to your good news: that the blind still see, the lame still walk, and the poor still receive care. Use these offerings and us as signs of your coming reign of love, as lights in the storm, and as carriers of joy. We do this In the name of Jesus, our hope and our Redeemer. Amen.

Offertory

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

*Doxology

Christmas Cantata

“A Child Is Born....All is Well”

Created by Russell Mauldin and Sue C. Smith

Presented by Saint Paul Chancel Choir

Featuring Community Children’s Choir

“Sing We the Song of Emmanuel”
with “Angels We Have Heard on High”

“Everything Changes Now”

“A Child Is Born” Underscore

“All Is Well”

“A Cradle in Bethlehem”
with “O Holy Night”

“Rejoice with Exceeding Great Joy”
with “Go Tell It on the Mountain”

Solo: Todd Fitch

Featuring Community Children’s Choir

“Manger Throne”

Solo: Robert Chafin

“Gloria Underscore”

“Gloria” (“Our Savior Found Us”)

Solo: Sherry Bishop

Solo: Brian Porter

Finale: “Sing We the Song of Emmanuel”
with “Angels We Have Heard on High”

*Closing Carol

♪246 “Joy to the World”, all vv.

*Benediction

*Postlude

“Angels We Have Heard on High” Traditional French Carol

If you are new to St. Paul, please let us know you are here by filling out the attendance pad in the pew. How may we serve you? Check the boxes which apply to you and leave it in the pew, and leave us a best contact phone and email. Thank you.

Chancel Choir Members

Karen Birchfield	John Eanes
Joyce Bishop	Todd Fitch
Sherry Bishop	Barry King
Riane Bolin	Sherri King
Robert Chafin	Brian Porter
	Bonne Vaught

Narrator: Ross Mecham

Sound: Gary Sparks & Brad DeGeorge

Community Children’s Choir

Daphne Arthur	Edgar Kersey	Rose Mallory
Ezra Arthur	Owen Kersey	Braxton McClaugherty
Anna Bolin	William Kersey	Zoey McClaugherty
Ellie Johnson	Isaiah Mallory	Jillian Miller
		Piper West

Youth Helpers

Nolan Arthur and Isaac Johnson

Stewardship Campaign for 2025

36 families in 37 households comprising 56 people for a total of \$176,944.
You can turn in an Estimate of Giving Card for the remainder of 2025. Thank you.

December Stewardship

AMOUNT NEEDED FOR DECEMBER \$29,379. We have four Sundays in December.
December Offering Counters: Ashley Johnson, Ken Skidmore

TOTAL DECEMBER STEWARDSHIP	12/07	Total
General Fund – Offerings and Loose Plate	\$4,290	\$4,290
General Fund – Online Giving	\$1,605.12	\$1,605.12

SPECIAL OFFERINGS	12/07	Total
Communion Offering (MCEAP)	\$135	\$135
Baby Shop	\$60	\$60
To Our House	\$450	\$450

To give an offering, you may place your gift in one of the offering plates located at the front of the sanctuary, or in the narthex (entrance). You can also mail it to the church office, or give online.
We invite you to use the offering envelopes in the pew. God bless you!

Worship Attendance December 7, 2025				
In-Person Adults	Children’s Church	Livestreaming (Real Time)	YouTube (Recorded)	Total Worship
63	7	11	59	140

Mike Derflinger, Pastor, mikederflinger@vaumc.org, 540-631-4469
Carol Slaughter, Administrative Assistant, office@stpaulvaumc.org, 540-382-2410
Carolyn Mills, Organist & Director of Choirs, organist@stpaulvaumc.org
Robin Raines, Custodian, rainesrobin88@yahoo.com

PRAYER LIST – Team John is our Caring Team this week
SPUMC Congregation, friends, family members and neighbors

Cancer Patients: Tommy Flinchum, Shirley Hodge, Gary Sparks
Roger Adkins, Loran Albin, Rob Bedford, Stephanie Boyd, Jennifer Canevari, Tina Cooper, Jamie Epperly, Skip Fenton, Tommy Harris, Ruth Jones, Sue Lough (godmother to Beth Brown’s daughter), Danny Lucas, Greg McCoy (Rusty McCoy’s brother), Dana Nelson, Susan Perry (Margie Vitale’s sister), Billy Proffitt, Sasha Simpkins’ mother

Parkinson’s: Jim Clark, Clara Sowers

Alzheimer’s: Susan Chase, Roger Woolwine
Gerald Mills

Health Issues: Dubby Charlton, Ed & Sandra Hayes, Sherri King, Brian Porter, Tabitha Rust
Sherry Burke, Susan Burnett, Barbara Clevenger, Missy Foster-wife of Dotte Foster’s grandson, Jonathon Hudson (leg amputation) and wife Julie, Tim & Jackie Rosche (Jackie has dementia), Tina Smith, Wayne Spencer, Al & Louise Whealton, Mary & Don Wiggett, Sue Williams

Hospitalized: Jordan McCoy, pneumonia

Stroke: Bob Chapin, Vickie Charlton, Bonnie Cochran, Jordan McCoy

Pregnancy: Eliza Kerr (December)

Unspoken: Amy Bishop, Lauren Craighead-prayers for calmness in a time of stress

Recuperating from Surgery at Home: Stephanie Turner

Youth & Children:
Dalton Close & the Close Family, Dalton is 16, diagnosed with Stage 4 Diffuse Midline Glioma, Claire Shores, 3, leukemia

Additional Prayers: for the Johnson Family, for our Nation.

If you wish to place someone on the prayer list for prayer only, please contact the church office, or write their name on the attendance pad with “prayer” after their name. If a person would like to receive ministry from our caring teams (cards, phone calls, visits, food, etc.) please list an address/phone number for our caring teams. Thank you!

You can schedule a visit with Pastor Mike in your home or in the church office. Please call the church office or speak with Pastor Mike to arrange a visit. Phone call visits can also be scheduled for your convenience.

Birthday Celebrations this week – Travis Cole & Joyce Grubb on December 14th; Rebecca Graham on December 15th; Rusty Holladay and Priscilla Rollins on December 16th; Ricky Goss on December 19th; Marsha Simpson on December 20th.
Happy Birthday to all!

Flowers are placed on the altar today in loving memory of Wes and Bob Birchfield.
~ Karen Birchfield and Family

The 2025 Advent Devotionals from The Society of St. Andrew are on the table in the narthex. There are some also at the other two entrances to the sanctuary – at the lift and the side door.

Youth Group!
Our Youth Holiday Party is TODAY at 1pm in Fellowship Hall.
We will have a structured painting event, and youth will need an old t-shirt to wear for acrylic paint. After the painting event, we will have a pizza and karaoke party. *All youth and children are welcome!*

Next Sunday is our Christmas service.
Join us for a morning of worship, carols, and a message celebrating the birth of Jesus our Lord and Savior. Invite a friend and neighbor! We invite you to wear the festive colors of the season of white, green, red, gold, and blue. Let’s make the extra effort to fill the Lord’s house with praise and carols and worship!
Our Christmas Eve Candlelight will be at 7pm.
No offering will be received this year.
All are welcome! Invite a friend!

Our Nurture Team has decided to do a Bible study on *The Chosen* on Wonderful Wednesdays beginning January 14th. Nurture asks that you would watch Season 1 Episode 1 entitled “I Have Called You By Name” on your phone from *The Chosen* App (free) or on Amazon Prime, then we will have the devotional and talk about it on Wednesday. We will do this after eating (6:30-7:00). Our WW meal continues to be 6:00-6:30. Make plans now to be part of this! Thanks to Sherry Bishop for facilitating!
~ Nurture Team

A leaky roof was discovered in the kitchen about a month ago. Trustees have agreed and signed a contract with Lilly Home Improvement Inc. Total cost will be \$9840.00 of which half (\$4920.00) has been paid. There is a large tote placed in the kitchen floor to catch water, please do not move. Work is to begin 12/10/2025, weather permitting. If any questions just ask.
~ Patsy, Trustee’s Chair

Please remember our members in assisted living:

Ruth Boothe, Rm 308, Kroontje Health Care Center, 1000 Litton Ln.,
Blacksburg, VA 24060, Cell: 919-906-5097

Wayne & Dolores Brockenbrough, Apt.217, English Meadows, 3400 South Point Dr.,
Blacksburg, VA 24060

Susan Chase, rm.106, Commonwealth Senior Living, 201 Wheatland Ct.,
Christiansburg, VA 24073

Bonnie Cochran, rm. 208, Commonwealth Senior Living, 201 Wheatland Ct.,
Christiansburg, VA 24073

Kathy Davis, 328 Fieldstone Ln., Blacksburg, VA 24060
(540-250-2163 - mail cards to Rachel Link, 1534 Catawba Rd., Blacksburg, VA 24060)

Marg Modlin, 3719 Knollridge Rd., Salem, VA 24153

Wilma Snuffer, Q6, 3939 Daugherty Rd., Salem, VA 24153 (Hospice called in)

Margaret Woolwine, rm. 235, English Meadows, 3400 South Point Dr.,
Blacksburg, VA 24060

Roger & Brenda Woolwine, Manchester Commons – Woodside Place,
6351 West Lake Road, Erie, PA 16505 (Brenda’s Cell Number: 540-320-0986)

And our dear friends and neighbors:

Former Pastor: Rev. Art & Willie Wingfield, 650 N Jefferson St., Apt. 218,
Roanoke, VA 24016

Mary Childress, rm. 113, Commonwealth Senior Living, 201 Wheatland Ct.,
Christiansburg, VA 24073

Your Input is Needed!

One idea Council has for 2026 is to expand our impact with our monthly Communion offering. Currently, each month this offering goes to MCEAP. This is an important ministry in the community and to members of St. Paul.

Council proposes that the Communion offering in January be given to MCEAP. Then, beginning in February 2026, we would designate the monthly Communion offering to other ministries but including MCEAP in future months, too. Are there other ministries and missions you would like to see receive our monthly Communion offering? You can suggest local, regional, national, or international programs and our ministries, too. Wherever humankind needs help.

Please leave your completed insert in your pew. You can also mail it to the church, or give it to Brad. This insert will be in the December 7th and 14th bulletins. Council will meet on December 15th to consider all entries as they make their decision. The 2026 Communion offering calendar of recipients will appear in the January newsletter. Thank you.

My suggestions are:

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