

Thank you for Serving!		
	Today – December 28	Next Sunday – January 4
LITURGIST:	Claire Childress	David Johnson
USHERS:	Leslie & Sonia Badillo	Joe Cox & Marjorie Vitale
ACOLYTES:	Isaac Johnson	Edgar Kersey
SECURITY TEAM:	Tom Bell & Jim Mattox	David Linkous & David Johnson
ALTAR TEAM:	Ronald & Geraldine Hollandsworth	Connie Bell, Patsy Sparks, Judy Williamson

This Week at St. Paul		
Sun, Dec 28	Frank Wickham & JOY Classes	9:00AM-9:50AM
	Worship Service-Guest Speaker Priscilla Rollins	10:00AM
Wed, Dec 31	New Year’s Eve – Office Closed	
Thurs, Jan 1	New Year’s Day – Office Closed	
	Baby Shop, Pack/Sort	9:30AM-12:00PM
Fri, Jan 2	Office Open	9:30AM-3:30PM
	Baby Shop, Pack/Sort	9:30AM-12:00PM
Sat, Jan 3	Baby Shop, Clients Pick Up Orders	9:30AM-12:00PM

Next Week		
Sun, Jan 4	Frank Wickham & JOY Classes	9:00AM- 9:50AM
	Worship Service	10:00AM
Mon, Jan 5	Baby Shop, Pack/Sort	9:30AM-12:00PM
Wed, Jan 7	No Wonderful Wednesday	
	Life Recovery Ministry, AB	7:00PM



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



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--

First Sunday after Christmas

December 28, 2025

Ten O’Clock

Please ask an usher for assistance for handicap access.

Please turn your cell phone off or mute during worship.

***Please stand for these acts of worship as you are able.**

Welcome! We’re glad you’re here.

Gathering & Prelude **“O Sing a Song of Bethlehem”** English Folk Song

Welcome & Announcements Priscilla Rollins

*Call to Worship Liturgist Claire Childress

Liturgist: Beloved, we have waited, watched, and witnessed the coming of the Christ child.

As we gather today on the other side of Christmas, we might be tempted to ask,
“What now?”

People: We continue to wait and watch for the day that all the earth awaits.

Liturgist: In this season of Christmas, we remember that though Christ has come among us,
the good news of freedom for captives, flourishing for the poor, and power returned
to the disempowered does not reign in so many places.

People: We continue to wait and watch for the day that all the earth awaits.

Liturgist: With Mary and Joseph, we listen for God to show us how to protect and advocate
for the vulnerable among us.

People: We continue to wait and watch for the day that all the earth awaits.

Liturgist: As we gather to worship today, may God bind us together in love, empowering us
to live as followers of the Christ child who declare good news wherever we go.

**People: We gather today as people who wait, watch, and work for the day that all the
earth awaits. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

*Opening Hymn **♫140 “Great is Thy Faithfulness”, vv. 1,3** Liturgist Claire Childress

*Affirmation of Faith #881

Traditional Apostles’ Creed

Liturgist Claire Childress

Children’s Message

God Protects Us

Priscilla Rollins

Instrumental

“How Great Our Joy”

arr. by James Mansfield

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we would like to be among those who saw the coming of the Christ Child, those who dropped all that they were doing and traveled to worship the coming of God’s love into this world. We would like to be those who cared for God in infant vulnerability, who tickled and cuddled and comforted the growing child, that he might know love and safety.

And yet, merciful God, we must recognize all the times we are more like Herod. Whenever we, in our actions or in our inactions, find our own need for control more compelling than the needs of others for health and safety. Whenever we cling to the security of our privilege, rather than advocating for the rights of the oppressed. Whenever we are complicit in the harming of innocents for the sake of profit, or power, or because we fear to know, and to change, the injustices of this world.

Loving God, we confess our sins against you and one another, and pray that you will fill us with your light, that we may live our lives as true disciples in your name, without counting the cost. In the name of Christ, the one who showed us the way, we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Prayer of the Day and Concerns

The Lord’s Prayer

*Hymn

♫89 “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”, vv. 1,3

Old Testament Lesson:

Isaiah 63:7-9

Liturgist Claire Childress

New Testament Lesson:

Hebrews 2:10-18

Liturgist Claire Childress

Gospel Lesson:

Matthew 2:13-23

Liturgist Claire Childress

Message

King Herod The Great

Priscilla Rollins

*Hymn

♫240 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”, all vv.

Offertory Prayer (in unison)

Liturgist Claire Childress

Steadfast God of refuge and promise, even when the world makes no room, even when fear seems stronger than hope, you are with us. In the flight to Egypt, in the cries of grief, in the fragile beginnings of new life, you make a way. Receive these gifts, O God, as signs of our willingness to make room for your kingdom among us. Use what we bring – not just our treasure, but our time, our voices, our compassion – to heal what is broken, to protect the vulnerable, and to embody your saving love. In the name of Jesus, our Light in the shadows. Amen.

Offertory

“Away in a Manger”

William J. Kirkpatrick & James R. Murray

*Doxology

*Recap

*Closing Hymn

♫246 “Joy to the World, the Lord is Come!”, all vv.

*Benediction

*Postlude

“I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day”

Jean Baptiste Calvin

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.

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.

We welcome Priscilla Rollins as our Guest Speaker today. Originally from Indiana, Priscilla and her husband Michael are happy to return to Virginia. A Navy Veteran and medical coder, retired, Priscilla joined Saint Paul on December 15, 2024. She serves as a Certified Lay Speaker (CLS), Liturgist, in our Prayer Shawl ministry, in our Ruth Circle, and on Staff-Parish Relations. Priscilla also serves on the General Church level of United Women of Faith as a book evaluator from UWF’s in United Methodist churches. Priscila and Michael enjoy traveling, and she loves being an aunt and great aunt!

Flowers are placed on the altar today - Happy birthday in heaven, my son. ~ Margie Vitale

Birthday Celebrations this week – Ed Hayes on December 28th; Kim Newman & Gail Pankey on December 30th. Happy Birthday to all!

Wedding Anniversary Celebrations this week – Joe & Susan Chase on January 2nd. Happy Anniversary!

Year End Giving - All tithes, offerings, and donations to Saint Paul must be received or postmarked by Dec 31st to be applied to your 2025 Giving Statement.

Eliza and Morgan Kerr welcomed baby Rhodes on December 3. Momma and baby are doing well. Congratulations! Eliza is the daughter of Diann and Mark Eaton.

December Stewardship

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

<u>TOTAL DECEMBER STEWARDSHIP</u>	<u>12/21</u>	<u>Total</u>
General Fund – Offerings and Loose Plate	\$9,819	\$18,069
General Fund – Online Giving	\$1,306.99	\$4,961.41

<u>SPECIAL OFFERINGS</u>	<u>12/21</u>	<u>Total</u>
Communion Offering (MCEAP)	\$150	\$295
Baby Shop	\$150	\$240
Fellowship Hall Use	\$250	\$250
To Our House	\$	\$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 21, 2025				
In-Person Adults	Children’s Church	Livestreaming (Real Time)	YouTube (Recorded)	Total Worship
66	6	15	60	147

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 Matthew 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: Wayne Bishop, Dubby Charlton, Scottie Dickenson, Ed & Sandra Hayes, Norma Loudermilk
Sherry Burke, Susan Burnett, Barbara Clevenger, 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:
Mary Conner, mother-in-law of Erica Conner, at Johnson-Willis in Richmond

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

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

Recuperating from Surgery at Home: *Greg McCoy, 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!

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 began on 12/10/2025. If any questions just ask. ~ Patsy, Chair of Trustees

United Methodist Family Services – NEW NAME! Early in November, UMFS announced a name change to **Shineforth**. The organization has been serving children and families for more than 125 years. Since their founding as a Methodist orphanage in Richmond, VA, in 1900, they've been adapting and evolving to meet the changing needs of families. Today, they serve communities across Virginia from eight locations and offer more than a dozen educational and therapeutic programs, including foster care, residential treatment for youth, and a private day school. <https://www.shineforth.org>

At Our Recent Council meeting:

Barry King and Sherry Bishop were elected co-chairs of Nurture. After the meeting, via e-mail, Todd Fitch was elected Council Secretary.
Recipients of our 2026 Communion offerings were selected. All recipients are local. A listing of recipients by month will be available after the holidays. MCEAP is the recipient of our Communion offering on January 4th which is Epiphany Sunday.

Approval was given for Todd Fitch to form a small team to review apps for Saint Paul like “Church Center” and to report to Council in February.

Our Director of Youth/Children staff position has been posted on our District and Conference websites, at the Wesley Foundation at VT, and on ZipRecruiter. More postings will be made.

Council has been discerning whether or not to form a team to begin the process of reviewing our Vision Statement and create an updated version. After discussion, we decided to postpone.

There will be a Leadership Installation Sunday in January once the Board of Trustees and UM Men elect their officers at their first meeting in 2026.

We will return to recognizing birthdays and anniversaries during worship services beginning in January.

Pastor Mike shared that he and Carol are thinking about making some changes and cost-saving measures to our monthly newsletter, including ways to make it more interesting and informative.

Council members rotating off at the end of 2025 are Chair Brad DeGeorge, Outreach co-chair Diann Eaton, and Nancy Maddox member-at-large. The Nominations Team of Tom Bell, Ann Rhudy, Joyce Bishop, and Pastor Mike will continue efforts to fill the vacancies of Council Chair, Council Vice-Chair, and vacancies in the Class of 2027 and Class of 2028 on Staff-Parish Relations after the holidays.

Membership changes: We recognized the passing of Andy Porter, and the reception of new members Kyle & Tara Kersey and Sherry Bishop. Membership stands at 414.

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