

St. Paul's United Church

December 16, 2012

3rd Sunday of Advent - Joy

*The people of St. Paul's United Church welcome you.
May there be a blessing for you in this house today.*



Prelude To God All Praise and Glory arr. Wilson

Greeting May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you,
and also with you.

Lighting of the Advent Candle (please see back of bulletin)
Kyle, Jocelyn, Graham & Erin Mathers

Introit God's Gift of Light Catherine Stuart 2010
*Joy is a light which burns in our presence,
spark of God's healing, candle we tend.
Well spring of glory from deep within us,,
God's joy enfolds us,
joy never ends.*

Welcome and Announcements

Hymn On Jordan's Bank VU 20

St. Paul's Contact Information:

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Telephone: 458-1183, Fax: 458-1944

*Keep up to date on upcoming activities
and stay in touch in between Sundays!*

<http://www.facebook.com/StPaulsUnitedFredericton>



Minister: Rev. Lori Beth Sheffield-Bowles
Organist & Director of Music: Alexis Ervin
Children & Family Ministry: Julie Heslop
Office Administrator: Cathy Simpson
Sexton: Joe Robicheau

Weekly Activities

Mon., Wed., & Fri. 12–1 p.m. Exercise Group - Gym/Hall
Monday-Friday 11:30–1:00 p.m. AA - Youth Lounge
Tuesday & Saturday 8–9 p.m. AA - Youth Lounge

Tuesday, December 18

10:00 a.m. Ladies Bible Study—Christmas Break
10:00 a.m. Play Group - Gym
1:00 p.m. Quilting - Quilter's Parlour
6:30-8:00 p.m. Cubs - Gym—Christmas Break
7:00-8:30 p.m. Ladies Eve Book Study—Christmas Break

Wednesday, December 19

9:00-11:00 The Pantry
10:00 a.m. Wed. Discussion Group - Quilter's
6:30 p.m. Beavers—Gym—Christmas Break

Thursday, December 20

1:00 p.m. Rev. Lori Beth's Birthday
7:15 p.m. Quilting - Quilter's Parlour
Sr. Choir Practice - Hall

Monday, December 24th

7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Service
11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Communion Service

Sunday, December 30th

11:00 a.m. Joint Service with Wilmot at Wilmot

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols for Christmas, will be held today, 4 p.m. at Christ Church Cathedral. All are welcome.

Beginning Thursday, January 17th, 2013 at 7:00 pm, in the Family Room, Brunswick Street Baptist Church is pleased to offer **Grief Share**, a 13 week video series by Christian experts on grief and recovery, combined with support group discussions for those who have experienced the loss of a loved one. Please call **458-8348** if you would like more information.

Many young girls, including those who attend church deal with issues of self esteem and insecurity. As young women, it is our desire to empower young girls in our community with the truth about who God has created them to be. An event will take place on January 26th, 2013, for girls in grades 6-9. The purpose of the event is to help the girls in our community discover who God has created them to be, and empower them to positively impact their families and communities. This event will be held at the Memorial building on Charlotte street and will begin at 9 am, and finish at 9 pm. We will have three sessions, discussing topics such as self esteem, relationships and being empowered by our identity in Christ. We are excited to announce that we will also have a self defence lesson. Lunch and snacks will be provided. We will also have a formal banquet for dinner, and end the night with a worship session, led by an all girls worship team. The cost is 20 dollars per person, or 150 dollars for a group of 10. We ask that if possible, the youth in attendance be accompanied by a youth leader. Please check out our facebook page at www.facebook.com/beautifulempowered We would be happy to answer any questions you have about the event. For more information please contact beautiful.empowered@gmail.com or call [506-260-2964](tel:506-260-2964).



Prayer of the Day (unison)

God of power and mercy, you call us once gain to celebrate the coming of your son. Remove those things which hinder love of you, that when he comes, he may find us waiting in awe and wonder. For him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one god, now and forever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

VU 959

Anthem:

The Little Cradle Rocks

arr. Althouse

Time For All Ages

Cleaning House

Prayers of the People

Hymn

Joyful, Joyful

VU 232

The Presentation of Gifts

Offertory

In Hope We Wait, Emmanuel

Lee, arr. Wagner

Dedication Verse

VU 55 (vs 4)

***What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise men, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him—give my heart.***

Offertory Prayer

Scriptures

Zephaniah 3: 14-20

Alexis Ervin

Responsive

Isaiah 12
Luke 3: 1-6

VU 880

Anthem

Rejoice and Sing Noel

Petker

Sermon

or
Connecting With Our Past
Christmas - Lost and Found

Rev. Bob Jones

Hymn Once in Royal David's City VU 62

Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude How Brightly Shines the Morning Star J. S. Bach

This morning you will be enjoying the walk into church on our new carpet—many thanks to those who came and helped take the squeaks out of the floor boards, moved the tables/piano around and for just being here to lend a hand in getting this job finished.

Many thanks to our **Christmas decorators** also - the Sanctuary looks awesome!

We invite the congregation to join us for the following services:

- December 23 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
- December 24 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Service
Gather with your family and celebrate Christmas Eve!
Everyone is welcome! Let's truly make this a family affair!
- 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Communion Service
- December 30 11 a.m. Joint Service with Wilmot at Wilmot United

Photo Directory

Thank you to all who came out to be included in our newest photo directory. Please advise the office if you **DO NOT** wish to have your address and telephone number published in the back of the directory by calling Cathy in the office at 458-1183 or emailing her to let her know.

United Church Observer

25 families of St Paul's receive this National Church magazine monthly!! It contains great articles about our National church, the Moderator, Regional/Local United Church items etc. We feel it is important to read as a member of our United Church! If YOU wish to also be a SUBSCRIBER contact Cathy at 458-1183 or by e-mail! COST is \$20.00 a year!!

Your **2013 Offering Envelopes** are available in the Hall this morning, if you are new to the congregation and would like to have your donations recorded for tax purposes please call Cathy in the office at 458-1183 to set this up.

The office is now equipped to receive your donations by **Visa or MasterCard** (in person or over the phone), and we are still offering the Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) program.

Marking the Days Calendars for Inmates at Springhill Institution: A box will be available in the Hall for your gift of a calendar.

Christmas Hope: Christmas Cards for Inmates - offer a word of hope and encouragement and sign it with your first name only, then please place the card in an unsealed envelope and put the cards in the box with the calendars. We thank you and they will be grateful.

Thank you for supporting the Children's Wish Tree and for your donations on White Gift Sunday; \$2300 was raised to help children and families in need.



Your gifts of toys, games, books and other items through the Children's Wish Tree angel tags will bring happiness to 40 children being looked after by the Fredericton Food Bank this Christmas. The value of these gifts was more than \$1300. Your monetary support through White Gift contributions has been used to help the Salvation Army (\$1000) and Fredericton Food Bank (\$800) provide additional Christmas gifts and food boxes. The remaining \$500 in White Gift donations was given to the Minister's Benevolent Fund to help the homeless, the hungry and others who seek our assistance throughout the year. Thank you again for sharing the joy of Christmas.

Car Pooling Needed: Ida, a lady from Wilmot United is looking for ride to the Burton Court House for work each day from 8:15 to 4:30. Her number is 450-6395 and her cell number is 470-2915.