



The Chimes

WORSHIP ✦ MINISTRIES ✦ OUTREACH

DECEMBER 2015 — THE SEASON OF ADVENT

From the Interim Rector

Dear Friends,

So it's December and we are all busy making our way through the season of Advent and looking forward to a wonderful Christmas here at St. Paul's, in our homes and with friends and family. Many of you are actively involved in making the Christmas season better for those who struggle at this time of year. Take a look at the picture inside these pages of the large number of Christmas presents that members of St. Paul's donated to families who struggle financially. Every child deserves a gift at Christmas and many of you made that possible. Others are actively involved in making this coming Christmas season a better one for those who are struggling emotionally or physically. Holidays can be difficult for those who have suffered a recent loss or for those who walk with the constant shadow of depression. There are loving people in this parish who are reaching out to those for whom Christmas can be a painful day – everyone deserves to know they are loved and cared for. We also have a host of outstanding worship opportunities that include praising God through amazing music, and children and youth are preparing for the Christmas Pageant and the Feast of Lights. There is a lot happening as we walk through Advent and into Christmas.

There is indeed a lot happening that I would like to write about on this page, but violence keeps getting in my way. On the day of my writing this article (12/3/15), up to this point in 2015, there have been 48,331 incidents involving firearms in the United States, only 1,748 of them were accidents. In other words, there were 46,583 moments this year in our country where someone intentionally chose to shoot or try to shoot someone else – 46,583 times!!! What do you bet we top 47,000 before the end of the year? Of those total number of incidents, 24,735 people were injured and 12,226 killed. 640 of those killed or injured were children under the age of 11; 2,422 of them were teens (ages 12 – 17) – two thousand four hundred twenty two!! There have been 310 Mass Shootings (defined as 4 or more persons being shot) so far this year and we are only on the 337th day of the year. There were 2 mass shootings on the 2nd of December, 2 on the 27th of November, 1 on the 26th, 1 on the 24th, 3 on the 23rd, 5 on the 22nd, 1 on the 21st, 1 on the 20th, we took a break on the 19th, had 1 each day on the 18th and 17th, 2 each on the 16th, 15th and 14th, 1 again on the 13th; and we took a whopping three days off on the 12th, 11th, and 10th, with 1 on the 9th, 2 on the 8th, 3 on the 6th, 1 on the 4th, 2 on the 3rd, and 1 on the 1st of November. Then there was the rest of the remaining 10 months that sound just like that. This information comes from Gun Violence Archive, a not for profit organization formed to provide free online public access to accurate information about gun-related violence in the United States. Did you know that in the 1066 days since 1/1/2013 there have been 1,052 mass shootings in our country?

Are you as sick of hearing about this as I am? Are you as sick of the news of these events and the havoc they are inflicting on people and communities as I am? Are you tired of the news of these events getting in the way of celebrating life?

These numbers are staggering, especially when compared to every other country around the world – including many that we often identify as violent and oppressive. And truth be told, in many other countries, there are just as staggering numbers of other forms of violence occurring as our numbers of gun violence. For example, I have a true brother in Christ living in his home country, Burundi, that is trying desperately to crawl out of a history of violence – most done to one another by machete. I pray daily for Seth and his family, and I stay broken hearted that I can't find a way out of it for him. Today, I am broken hearted for my corner of the world. The 22nd of this month will be the first anniversary of a mass shooting that was walking distance from my house in Michigan; it claimed the life of one of my son's classmates and it is yet to be solved. The fact that no one has been brought to justice shouldn't surprise us; over 1/2 of the mass shootings in this country this year list the shooter as "Unknown"; that fact alone should frighten us even more, yes? Are you as sick of this as I am?

It saddens me to be compelled to write about violence as we approach the season of Christmas. I can tell you that much of the Christmas Season occupies my mind and energy right now, and that I do indeed spend more of my time in joy and real, sincere, honest and hopeful expectation of Christmas than I do in despair and sadness over killings and violence.

For that is indeed who we are called to be. In spite of overwhelming brokenness and violence – we – God's people, followers of Christ – we are benefactors of the grace and love of a God who will in God's time bring all things to rightness and mercy and hope and new life. That I believe, and I hope you do too. But I also believe that God is really going to be annoyed if, when we face brokenness in this world that is of our own doing or that is within our capacity to heal/to fix, we simply throw our hands up in the air in despair and offer only words of prayer and not actions of prayer. Through our prayers God will call us to action. God came into this world in a violent and oppressive country – Jesus knows a little thing about what violent people are capable of doing. Through our prayers we ought to be ready for God to move us into action. I do this by looking at what small actions I can take that will lead to bigger ripples of change. I can't, alone, fix this sickness in our culture. But I choose to believe - I have to believe - that there is indeed a desire in this country for safety and health for one another that matches God's love for everyone. And I believe that desire can indeed create a force of change. I believe that. I am willing to find ways that I can contribute to that vision. Are you? If so, let me hear from you.

As we inch closer to Christmas, may we all keep our eyes upon the vision of joy and peace that is brought to reality by Christ's coming into this world.

Peace,
Brad +

WORSHIP TIMES AT ST. PAUL'S

Sundays

- 8:00 a.m. Said Eucharist.
- 8:30 a.m. Buffet Breakfast.
- 9:15 a.m. Christian Education Hour.
- 10:30 a.m. Sung Eucharist with St. Paul's Choir.

Our Sunday service is broadcast live on our website each week: www.stpaulschatt.org

Weekdays: Monday - Friday

12:05 p.m. - 12:30 p.m. The Holy Eucharist.

Are health issues keeping you from church on Sundays?

Join our weekday Eucharists in the chapel at 12:05 Monday through Friday. The brief service is a good option when you do not have the stamina for an hour's worth of church. Or let us know if you need Communion at home.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sundays at 9:15 a.m.

Speaker Series: Advent & Literature

Sunday, December 13

David Padilla, Head of Upper School and English Instructor, Baylor School. This class will focus on one of the more complex — and rewarding — poems of the 20th century, "The Second Coming" by W.B. Yeats.

Sunday, December 20

Dr. Christopher Stuart, Katherine H. Pryor Professor and Head of the English Department at UTC, will be speaking on the subject of grace, which Christians have most often defined as God's mercy and which seems appropriate to Advent when we await the gift of God's son. He will be using passages from Dante's *Divine Comedy* and the poem "Saint Judas" by James Wright.

No Classes on Sunday, December 27 or Sunday, January 3.
Join us for Kick-Off Sunday on January 10!

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism will be offered on Sunday, January 10. If you are interested in Baptism, please speak with Quinn Parman or contact parman@stpaulschatt.org.

An Invitation to the Trinity Institute at Sewanee: January 21-23, 2016

Join St. Paul's clergy at Sewanee for a live webcast of Trinity Institute's 45th annual theological conference, *Listen for a Change: Sacred Conversations for Racial Justice*. A leading group of activists, scholars, authors, artists, clergy, and experts on racial inequality will be speaking and facilitating conversation about the racial issues of our time, including structural racism, mass incarceration, and policy change. The keynote speakers include Michael Curry, Nicholas Kristoff, Anna Deavere Smith, Emilie Townes, and Michele Norris. The registration costs \$50, and additional details can be found at <http://beeckcenter.sewanee.edu/events/ti2016>. Please contact Leigh (preston@stpaulschatt.org) if you have any questions or are interested in participating.



Advent & Christmas

AT SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24 — CHRISTMAS EVE

- 3:40 p.m. Prelude Music. Brass Ensemble and Rosella Ewing, soloist.
- 4:00 p.m. Family Service. Children's Choirs and Handbell Choirs, Senior Choir Ensemble, Brass, and Timpani.
- 7:30 p.m. Prelude Music. Senior Choir, Brass Ensemble, and Rosella Ewing, soloist.
- 8:00 p.m. Festival Eucharist. Senior Choir, Brass, and Timpani.
- 10:30 p.m. Prelude Music. Senior Choir, Handbells, and Rosella Ewing, soloist.
- 11:00 p.m. Festival Eucharist. Senior Choir, Brass, and Timpani. Incense.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25 — CHRISTMAS DAY

No Breakfast, Coffee Hour, or Nursery.

- 10:30 a.m. Christmas Day Eucharist, Rite I. Senior Choir Ensemble and Organ.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27

THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

- 8:00 a.m. The Holy Eucharist.
- 10:30 a.m. The Holy Eucharist. Senior Choir & Organ.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

- 8:00 a.m. The Holy Eucharist.
- 10:30 a.m. The Holy Eucharist. Senior Choir & Organ.

79th Annual Feast of Lights Pageant

Sunday, January 10 — 6:00 p.m.

The 79th Annual Feast of Lights Epiphany Pageant will be presented by the youth of St. Paul's on Sunday, January 10. All youth in the Parish grades 6-12 are invited to join the fun and fellowship. There will be a brief rehearsal for all those in the Nativity tableau and the characters in the pageant on Saturday, January 9. Please contact the Rev. Quinn Parman to let him know that you will be able to participate: parman@stpaulschatt.org.

Vestry Highlights

At the November 23 regular meeting...

The meeting was convened by Interim Rector Rev. Brad Whitaker. The Rev. Whitaker welcomed the newly elected Vestry members. Brad would like to follow-up with those parishioners not elected for how they may be involved.

Bishop Young again asked the current Vestry to approve the Resolution in support of same-sex marriage. Lynn Hodge made a motion to approve. Alison Shaw seconded. Motion unanimously approved.

All staff reports were reflected on the agenda. Cards were circulated for Jenny Nalley expecting a baby soon, Quinn and Rochelle on their new house and Gail for twenty years of service to St. Paul's.

A motion to nominate Bo Hixson as the alternate for newly elected Vestry members to attend convention passed.

Brad Whitaker made a motion to move the date for the December Vestry meeting to Monday, December 14. The motion was approved.

Brad reported that interviews are being conducted for the Children's & Youth staff position.

Brad is moving his office downstairs in order to be more available to parishioners.

Brad asked Vestry members who have not made their pledge to do so. Vestry Elect member George Patten announced a second Annual Giving letter will be mailed soon. George will talk with the Faith & Families Sunday school class about stewardship. The stewardship campaign is charting the same as this time last year.

Senior Warden Hank Hopping welcomed new Vestry members, and thanked all those who gave reports for the Annual Meeting.

Treasurer Bobby Crates reported that we are in the red for the month by \$27,000, income is ahead, and expenses are lower. We will have a deficit of \$20 to \$40 thousand at the end of this fiscal year. We have not gone into our line of credit. The numbers are a bit better than expected.

Bobby will send suggested account lines in order to streamline our accounting to align with the mission of St. Paul's. Bobby would like to have this change in place by time for the new budget year.

Julia Cronin spoke to budgeting special gifts given for the Outreach Committee. Bobby offered to meet with Julia, Shannon Mowrer and Gail Winterbauer.

Fellowship Opportunity: Foyer Groups

Foyer Groups are a fun and easy way for parishioners to gather together on a regular but informal basis – to strengthen bonds of community, to meet new members or newcomers, and just to get to know other parishioners. Open to both couples and singles, each person/couple in the group takes a turn hosting a meal, either in their home or at a restaurant. Your group can decide to share in preparing the meal with each bringing a contribution -- it is up to you to decide! Some groups may elect to study and discuss certain books or incorporate a devotional into the gathering, or keep with unstructured conversation. Sign-up at the Church (or contact the Church Office). Let's continue the strong tradition of St Paul's parishioners to be welcoming, loving, and involved!

Thanks to our Volunteers at the Community Kitchen

I recently had the opportunity to talk with staff at the Community Kitchen as well as members of our own Outreach Committee and they expressed how thankful they are for our volunteers who serve meals at the Community Kitchen. I am very proud of those of you who do this work on behalf of St. Paul's. Your gifts of hospitality in greeting the guests and serving them lunch provide a nourishing meal in many ways. St. Paul's has a strong history of supporting the work of the Community Kitchen. Thank you for the ministry you are doing for Christ and for representing St. Paul's in such a warm and welcoming way to those who struggle to meet life's most basic needs.

Peace, **Brad+**

If you would like to volunteer with St. Paul's team at the Community Kitchen, please contact Debbie Martin: martinm914@comcast.net.

Honor a Loved One and Support a Haitian Child's Education

Honor a loved one this Christmas by supporting a child's education at St. John the Evangelist School in Haiti, a school the Rev. Ann Weeks helped build. **Again this year, Deacon Ann has St. John School's Christmas Cards available.** Each card has a picture of the students on the cover. Inside, you can honor your special person by adding their name and your name. **Your card indicates what your gift in their name supports:** One Year's Tuition (\$100); Books & Uniform (\$25); Lunch for a Year (\$15).

Make checks payable to Outreach Haiti, indicate the type cards you want and your contact information. You may drop off checks to Ann's attention at the church office, give to her on Sundays or mail to the church at 305 W 7th St, 37402, Attn: Ann Weeks. She will get the cards to you. You may contact her at: Weeks305@gmail.com or 423-809-0939.

2015 Year-End Donations

In keeping with IRS regulations, please remember that year-end donations must be delivered to the Church by 1:00 p.m. Thursday, December 31, or post-marked by December 31 to receive credit for 2015. Please contact Gail Winterbauer at winter@stpaulschatt.org or 602-5662 if you have any questions. **Thank you for your prayerful support of all of our ministries here at St. Paul's!**

2015 Charitable Contribution Tax Statements

Year-end tax statements for 2015 will be USPS mailed by January 31, 2016. Please contact Gail Winterbauer at 602-5662 or winter@stpaulschatt.org if you do not receive your statement by this date or if you have questions. It is advised that you do not file your 2015 tax return until you receive a written acknowledgement of your contributions from the Church.

Habitat for Humanity 'Build Day' Saturday, December 19

All parishioners 16+ are welcome to participate! St. Paul's Habitat for Humanity team has transitioned to quarterly Build Days instead of monthly — we partner with Rotary to team up each Build Day. **Our next date is Saturday, December 19.** Contact Volunteer Coordinator Pat Daniel for more information: danielp1345@yahoo.com.

Parish Online Directory

You can now find yourself and others in St. Paul's Online Directory! There is a member sign in link at www.stpaulschatt.org. You will be asked to create an account with your own email and choose your own password. You can view your information or find addresses and phone numbers you need. After logging in, go to Home> Profile, and let us know if anything needs to be updated. You may also upload your own photo or a photo of your family! Questions: Beverly at 423-602-5663 or beverly@stpaulschatt.org.



305 West Seventh Street at Pine Street
 Chattanooga, TN 37402
 (423) 266-8195
www.stpaulschatt.org
 Address Service Requested

CHRISTMAS AT ST. PAUL'S: SERVICE SCHEDULE INSIDE



Support the many ministries of St. Paul's Church! Scan this QR code to make a secure online donation!

Send your email address to beverly@stpaulschatt.org to receive *eChimes*, our weekly email newsletter! Deadline for the January issue of *The Chimes*: December 15. Send news to jenny@stpaulschatt.org.

Special Events

AT ST. PAUL'S CHURCH AND AROUND THE DIOCESE

MUSIC AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday, January 24 — 4:00 p.m.

CHORAL EVENSONG FOR THE FEAST OF THE CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL

With St. Paul's Senior Choir.

Sunday, February 14 — 4:00 p.m.

CHORAL EVENSONG FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

With St. Paul's Senior Choir.

Friday, February 19 — 7:30 p.m.

SCOTT HANOIAN, ORGAN

This celebrated concert organist from Christ Church of Grosse Pointe (MI) and former Assistant Organist at Washington National Cathedral will play masterworks on St. Paul's mighty Casavant organ. Scott has performed in evensongs and concerts at Wells Cathedral, St. David's Cathedral in Wales, York Minster, Carlisle Cathedral, St. Alban's Abbey, St. George's Chapel in Windsor, St. Paul's Cathedral in London, Notre Dame Cathedral, La Madeleine, Chartres Cathedral, St. Maximin, and St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. Tickets: \$15 General, \$5 Students.



Friday, February 26 — 7:30 p.m.

BENNEWITZ STRING QUARTET

The quartet is named after violinist Antonín Bennewitz (1833-1926), who was a seminal figure in the creation of the Czech violin school. The Bennewitz Quartet are one of the top international chamber ensembles, a status confirmed not only by their victories in two prestigious competitions – Osaka in 2005 and Prémio Paolo Borciani, Italy in 2008, but also by the acclaim of the critics. The quartet currently perform at major venues both in the Czech Republic and abroad (Wigmore Hall London, Musikverein Wien, Konzerthaus Berlin, Théâtre des Champs-Élysées Paris, The Frick Collection New York, Seoul Art Center, Rudolfinum and others), and are regularly invited to festivals such as the Salzburger Festspiele, Luzerne Festival, Rheingau Musik Festival, Kammermusikfest Lockenhaus, and the Prague Spring. Website: www.bennewitzquartet.com. Tickets: \$15 General, \$5 Students.