

St. Paul's News

475 State Street Albany, New York 12203



- We've come to that time of year in which people seem to be more given to soul-searching, reflection, and introspection. I wonder if our collective penchant for rumination on things personal springs from the isolation of long, dark winter nights - or whether it is a natural correction for the acknowledged excesses of a highly leveraged yuletide celebration. Whatever the origin, almost everyone seems busily working at putting together their New Year's Resolutions. I say "almost", because there are always those who are hard at work "humbugging" any sense that the coming year will be any different or that lives of human beings are open to change -- least of all for the better. The "humbuggers" ye shall always have with you.

In the Liturgical calendar, New Year's Day is the "Feast of the Naming and Circumcision of Our Lord" It is a day marking the giving of the name "JESUS" - "Savior" to the Christ Child. It does strike ironic that on the day set aside to remember the Christ Child as the one who "will save the people from their sins", we find ourselves hard at work determining our own "listed" if not "scripted" salvation for the coming year! I'll stop here without proceeding any further into theological waters of life being governed more by human depravity or divine grace and forgiveness?!

I confess that I am an incurable list maker. My family scatters at the mere sight of me with a scrap of paper in hand before I'm able to utter the dreaded: "First of all..." Perhaps there is a 12-step group for souls affliction by list-making. Ignorant of any such helpful group, I can feel quite free to offer you a list of items for inclusion on your New Year's Resolution list.

- Practice a ministry of presence - be in Church each week
- Bring a friend to Church - or S.S.
- Spend time outside Church in prayer, reading Scripture
- Get involved in one thing we do at St. Paul's - do it more than once
- Thank someone for something they would do anyway.
- Mention your faith or spiritual life to one of your friends or family members once a week.
- Pray for people and programs at St. Paul's by name.
- Introduce yourself to someone new each week.

I know such a list may not bring about the "Second Coming", but they will help our life together be richer with a deeper spiritual integrity. That's gotta be as good as losing 10 pounds.

Pastor



Food Collection

The cluster collection will be for the Voorheesville Food Pantry. They will need all the regular staples, but are asking specifically for extra Pam-pers and grape jelly.



Thanks to all who helped decorate the tree and church for Christmas. So many decorating experts! A fun time was had by all. Special thanks to Sue Sheldon for the delicious luncheon she provided after our chores were completed.



Altar Flowers

The new altar flower chart for 2011 is posted in the Narthax. Please take a moment and sign up for the Sunday(s) that you would like to place flowers on the altar.



The women's group still has 2011 Calendars available for \$10.00. This is a beautiful scenic calendar, with a different inspiration message for each month. See Joan Aldi to purchase a calendar.



THANK YOU to all who signed up for Coffee Hour for 2011. There are still a few dates open. They are:

January 30

February 6, 20

May 15

June 26

July 3, 17, 24, 31

August 14, 21

November 27

December 11, 18

Please see Alida Earl or Mary Boshea if you can host one of these Sundays. Thanks again!

Albany Lutheran Cluster

The Albany Lutheran Cluster has been a source of blessing for us and for the many folks we have helped jointly. Recently leaders of the five churches (St. John's, First, Holy Spirit, Good Shepherd and St Pauls) have been meeting to discuss and explore how we might go forward together in a more structurally cooperative way. We don't know where this will lead, but several different approaches have been mentioned. As things become more definitive, we will continue to share that with you.

In a similar vein, we have spoken to Pres. Benke of the Atlantic District. He is coming to speak with the council on Feb 5th, and will lead our worship on Feb 6th. After which, he will speak with members of the congregation.

Please keep these discussions in your prayers and discuss them with any of the Council. We need to hear what you are thinking and where you see the Spirit leading in this.



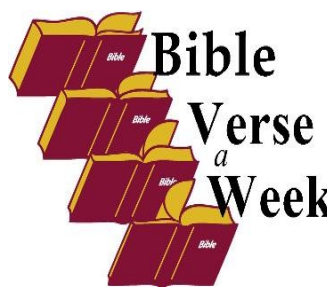
A special word of thanks to all those who brought in boxes for Albany Maritime Ministry's Christmas at Sea program. With your help, we were able to place hundreds of these boxes aboard ships arriving in Albany and then heading out to sea – These packages mean so very much to hard working men apart from their families and loved ones at Christmas. Your packages are a sign that someone is thinking of them and cares about them at this special time of the year. Thank You.

Everyday Evangelism

On Saturday, January 29th, Immanuel Lutheran Church in Niskayuna will be hosting a daylong workshop, sponsored by Lutheran Hour Ministries. Entitled "Everyday Evangelism," the conference will train participants to recognize and seize opportunities that God regularly provides in daily life to "share the hope that is within" them. For more information on what you might expect from the conference, please visit <http://www.whatismissionu.com>.

Cost \$5 please Register by 1/15

52 Great Verses of the Bible



Over the coming year we will be providing and using 52 different verses – another way to have our life together have a common Biblical focus. For

January they are:

January 9 – Matthew 2:1-2

January 16 – Matthew 11:28-30

January 23 – Romans 6:23

January 30 – 2 Corinthians 5:17

SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT

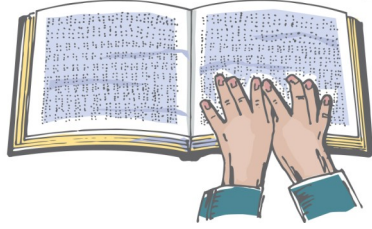
Someone, feeling spiritually unfed, wrote a letter to a newspaper, saying that after some 30 years of attending church, he couldn't remember one sermon. The letter writer said he'd probably wasted his time, and preachers were wasting theirs, as well.

A few days later, someone else wrote a rebuttal. This writer said he'd been married for 30 years but couldn't recall the entire menu of any one of the thousands of meals his wife had fixed. Yet he knew those meals were nourishing and gave him strength to do his work. He also said that without eating those meals, his body would have been long dead. Without going to worship, he added, he'd be spiritually dead, too.

A personal note from Dr. Phil Pledger,
President of Lutheran Braille Workers -

Dear Partners in **Braille Ministry**
Christ,

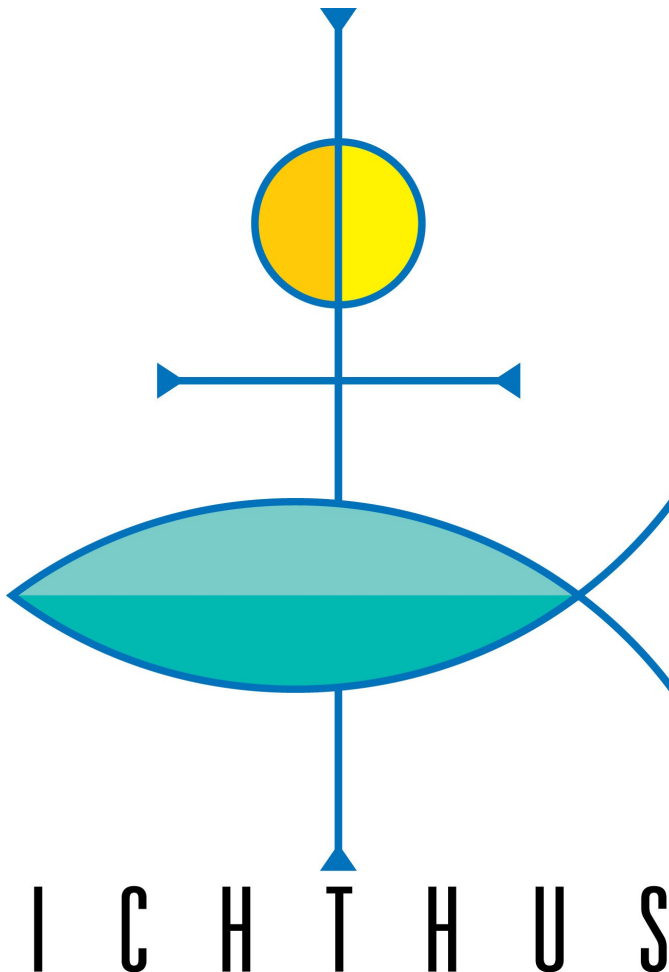
Thank you for your continued support. Your gifts not only bless the volunteers of WC 162 but thousands of people throughout the world. May God richly bless you all. In Christ, P.



Our Adopt A Family for Christmas was a huge success. Thanks to all our very generous contributors, we were able to give the family a very happy and abundant



Christmas, for which they are deeply appreciative



The first letters in the Greek phrase “Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior” spell ICHTHUS, or fish. Early Christians used the sign to convey their faith and avoid persecution. In the gospels, fish are part of several miracles. They also represent people who need to be “caught” for Christ. Today, a fish bumper sticker is a popular indicator of Christian faith.

ACTIVITY PAGE



What well-known expression do you see here?

little little
LATELATE

Answer: Too little, too late.
Answer: Ma has a ham; Madam, in Eden I'm Adam.

Same Letters, Different Meaning

Directions: A *palindrome* is a word that reads the same backward or forward, like *radar*, *sis*, *Bob* or *racecar*. But here are short expressions with the words mixed up. Rearrange **the words** so that the expression is the same spelled forward or backward.

has ham Ma a

in Madam I'm Adam Eden

UNSCRAMBLE THE MINOR PROPHETS

Our readings this week take us into the Minor Prophets, so called because most of them are short books. The list below contains all 12 of the Minor Prophets. Unscramble their names to discover their identity!

- | | | | |
|----------|--------------|-----------|-------------|
| OJEL | _____ | AZAEHINPH | _____○_____ |
| M CIAH | _____ | NJHAO | _____○_____ |
| ABKUKKAH | _____○_____ | AGIAGH | _____○_____ |
| DHAIABO | _____○_____ | OASM | _____○_____ |
| MUNAH | _____ | AHRIZAHCE | _____ |
| OAESH | _____○○_____ | IHCMALA | _____ |

Unscramble the circled letters to reveal the secret word (the first letter is provided):

K							
----------	--	--	--	--	--	--	--





JANUARY


- 5. ZWELONKE USHE
- 7. ALIDA EARL
- 10. TADESSES GEBREYES
- 12. TRACEY BEATTY
- 17. MRS. ERIKA KAHLER
PETER VAN ACKER
- 20. BAILEY ALEXANDER
NATALIE JOHNSON
- 21. MARLENE SHILLING
- 24. TRACY DEVAPRASAD
- 28. Ray Dow

CALLED TO REST

JAMES LEWIS—a longtime member of St. Paul’s was called to his eternal rest on December 26th. He had been living with his son and wife in Maryland for several years. His funeral was held on Monday, January 3, 2011 at St. Paul’s.

MANY THANKS!

Thank you to all the cookie bakers for our Cookie Exchange— Skat-in Cookies. Our homebound members enjoyed the great variety of cookies and everyone got to take some home with them. Thanks again!



ELDER
Martha Hempel

DATE	FLOWERS	SERVICE STEWARD	Communion Assistant	ALTAR COMMITTEE	Coffee Hour	LAY READER
1/2	Arnold and Wilma Seim in celebration of John Seim's birthday	Alida Earl	Anne Ragoni	Lori and Wilma Seim	Mary Boshea	
1/9		Tom Ragoni	Tracy Devaprasad		Viola and Al Stevens	Sue Sheldon
1/16	The Kahler family in celebration of Erika's birthday	Tom Ragoni	Tracy Devaprasad	Anne Ragoni	Alida Earl	David Devaprasad
1/23	Rudy and Marge Paulsen	Zwelonke Ushe	Joan Aldi		The Seims	Nimmy David
1/30	Alida Earl in memory of Dad's birthday	Zwelonke Ushe	Joan Aldi	Frances VanAcker		Andrew VanAcker

January 2011

St. Paul's Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Dec 2010</p> <table style="font-size: small; border-collapse: collapse; margin: 0;"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Feb 2011</p> <table style="font-size: small; border-collapse: collapse; margin: 0;"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> </div>						S	M	T	W	T	F	S				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		S	M	T	W	T	F	S				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28					1
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Church
475 State Street
Albany, N.Y. 12203-1004

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LISTEN EVERY SUNDAY
"CHAPEL TIME"
WROW 590 am
6:30 am