

# St. Paul's United Church

December 2, 2012

1st Sunday of Advent      White Gift

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

**Prelude**      Soul of My Saviour      arr. Englert

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

**Candle Lighting Liturgy**      LeBlanc Family (Ann, Jacob & Henry)

Voice 1:      We know that God is always with us.

**All:**      ***We are not alone, we live in God's world.***

Voice 2:      This Advent we anticipate new signs of the hope  
Emmanuel brings.

Voice 1:      As we wait, we remember God's promises:

**All:**      ***Those who mourn shall be comforted,  
Those who hunger and thirst shall be filled.***

Voice 1:      We light this candle as a sign of God's gift of hope,  
and as a reminder that even as we wait for Emmanuel,  
God is with us always.

**All:**      ***We are not alone.***

Voice 2:      Thanks be to God!

(Parts of this liturgy are based on A New Creed, Luke 6:20-22, & Jeremiah 31:13)

**Introit**      God's Gift of Light      Catherine Stuart 2010

***Hope is a light which burns in our presence,***

***Spark of forgiveness, candle we tend.***

***Mystery unfolding, reaching all places,***

***God's hope enfolds us,***

***Hope never ends.***

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Hymn**      O Come, O Come, Emmanuel      VU 1 (vs. 1-3)

## St. Paul's Contact Information:

stpaulsunitedchurch@nb.aibn.com

www.stpaulsunited.ca

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

**Sunday, December 2**

White Gift Sunday

**December 3-14**

Photo Directory Pictures

**Tuesday, December 4**

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

7:00-8:30 p.m.

Ladies Evening Book Study

7:30-9:30 p.m.

Fredericton Choral Society - Hall

**Wednesday, December 5**

9:00-11:00

The Pantry

10:00 a.m.

Wed. Discussion Group - Quilter's

7:30 p.m.

Advent Carol Festival

(Arrive early to ensure good seating)

**Thursday, December 6**

1:00 p.m.

Quilting - Quilter's Parlour

7:15 p.m.

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

**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**

There is prison and then there is the hole – segregation: 23 hours a day in a 6’X9’ cell. Isolated, bombarded by the noise of an institutional machine, alone with your thoughts and feelings at Christmas time. It is into this place that the Divine longs to be born. If you would like to share the message of hope with an individual in prison, write a Christmas message on a Christmas Card – offer a word of hope and encouragement and sign it with your first name only, place the card in an unsealed envelope and place the cards in the box with the calendars.

McAdam’s **Memorial Tree Lighting**—, Thursday, December 6th at 7 p.m. All those who are remembering a loved one during the Christmas season are invited to join McAdam’s by placing your loved one’s name on an Honour Roll and if you wish, you may join in supporting the local food banks by bringing a non-perishable food item. For further information please call McAdam’s at 458-9170.

The **Bel Canto Singers** will present a concert of moving and beautiful Christmas music on Saturday, December 8th at 7:30 pm at Christ Church Cathedral. There will be music for everyone. Tickets are \$15 adults, \$10 students, \$30 for a family and are available at Westminster Books, from choir members and at the door.

**Christmas with The LaPointes** on Friday, December 14, at 7:30 p.m. at The Playhouse. Tickets available at The Playhouse, Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., or by calling The Playhouse at 506 458-8344 or by ordering online: [www.theplayhouse.ca](http://www.theplayhouse.ca)

The **Fredericton Choral Society** will perform in Grace Memorial Baptist Church on Saturday, December 15th at 7.30 pm. David Steeves will accompany the choir on organ. The second half of the concert celebrates Christmas with a selection of carols. Tickets are available at Westminster Books, from choir members, at Grace Memorial Church and at the door the night of the concert. Adults \$20, seniors \$15, Students \$10, children \$5.

**Prayer of the Day (Unison)**

*God,  
we can sense the signs if we are attentive...  
We know the signs when food is ready:  
we can smell the bread rising.  
We can hear the food boiling.  
We can see the colours changing.  
We can feel the food transforming.  
God, we are waiting, expectant, hopeful, and ready!  
Help us to be aware of the signs marking your advent.  
Amen.*

**The Lord’s Prayer** VU 959

**Time For All Ages** Waiting and Watching

**Prayers of the People**

**Hymn** Come Thou Long Expected Jesus VU 2

**The Presentation of Gifts**

**Offertory** O Come, O Come Emmanuel

**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 man, I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him—give my heart.*

**Offertory Prayer**

**Scriptures** Jeremiah 33: 14-16 Kelly Simpson

1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13

Luke 21: 25-36

**Anthem** Is Your Heart Prepared For a King Lau

**Sermon** Finding Hope

**Hymn** Angels From the Realms of Glory VU 36

## Commissioning and Benediction

**Postlude** Praise the Lord, Who Reigns Above arr. Ritter

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St Paul's was saddened to hear of the recent death of Gord Lebel of Westfield. Many will remember Gordon sitting in his favourite balcony seat here at St Paul's. He was the Director of the Aitken University for the majority of his career and in 2007 was presented with UNB's Presidential Citation for his long service. Living in Westfield, he was active in the United Church and received the Gratitude of Saint John Presbytery for service as Chair of Presbytery this past year. Online condolences can be left at [www.Brenansfh.com](http://www.Brenansfh.com)

**Photo Directory**—if you have not made your appointment yet it's not too late! Please call 1-888-769-7339 or the church office at 458-1183 as they will be here on Monday morning to start their appointments.



**Christmas Wreaths** purchased from the Grandmothers Helping Grandmothers Group, **can be picked up today** at Nancy MacGarvie's, 83 Grey St. Any difficulties with this can be referred to Nancy MacGarvie 455-3026, Anna Goddard 459-8771, or Sue Short 455-5377. Thank you again for your support.

The **Annual Advent Carol Festival**, organized by our Music Director Alexis Ervin and members St. Paul's choir, will take place here on Wednesday, December 5 beginning at 7:30 p.m. Twelve local church and community choirs with 300 singers will present a program of new, as well as familiar Christmas music. This is a fundraiser for the Fredericton Community Food Banks; a freewill offering will be received. The event has raised \$100,000 for area food banks over the past 22 years. We look forward to your continued support.

**RING A BELL**—we are all invited to ring a bell for one minute at noon on Friday, December 7th in celebration of Dots for Kids Day in New Brunswick. It is all part of the RING A BELL Campaign for kids' mental health. St.

Paul's will be ringing our bell, a hand-bell on the front steps of the church (or many hand bells) works too! What is most important is that we all participate, in whatever way we can.



## FINANCIAL UPDATE ...CHURCH OPERATIONS...2012

Weekly Offering ..all sources	2012 Budget	\$287,000
Received until November 30, 2012		198,300
Received in Bequests		15,000
<b>Total Received to November 30, 2012</b>		<b>213,300</b>
<i>Remainder required in December</i>		<b>\$ 73,700</b>

**YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT IS WELCOME!!!!**

Subscriptions for the **United Church Observer** are up for renewal. Please let Cathy Simpson (458-1183) know before Dec. 15th should you wish to renew or place a new subscription. The yearly cost is \$20. (please make cheques payable to St. Paul's United Church)

**Portraits** of Rev. Dr. Peter Short and Rev. Lena Medeiros are now hanging in the gallery in Fraser Memorial Hall. Photos were taken by Reilly Blakely, a member of St. Paul's and 3rd year NBCCD student. Be sure to check out these new portraits.

**National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women:** December 9th: A very special service to commemorate this day will be presented by the Fredericton Women's Inter-Church Council at St. Dunstan's Roman Catholic Church at 3 pm. Special music by Angel Tang and Vangie Inman. Speakers include Rev. Olive Raymond, Eve Mills Allen, Brian Duplessis, Dianne Powers, Pam Lynch, and Dr. Carmen Gill. Rev. Lori Beth Sheffield –Bowles and Re. Rose-Hannah Gaskin will be assisting in the service. All are welcome! Please come!!

**Restoration Fund:** St. Paul's is pleased to invite you to lunch on **Dec. 11th at 12 pm**, at the Fredericton Inn. Mary Dingee Jacobs, Committee Chair, will present strategies for tax-effect donations. The lunch is complimentary, but advance booking is required in order to advise the hotel of the number attending. To reserve, please call Mary at 450-1131. There is considerable structural work to be done – hopefully this fall – and we are in need of the funds ! Please check your calendar and plan to attend!