



Advent Events

Plans are gearing up for a wonderful holiday season at St. Paul's. Volunteers are needed for all of these events, so please call the church office to sign up!

St. Paul's Giving Tree, November 29th—December 15th



Every year during Advent, the Giving Tree graces the hallway near the welcome room. It is hung with cards listing gift items that have been requested by local charitable groups for the people in their care. Please consider taking one or more of these cards and returning it, by **December 15th** along with the **unwrapped** items listed on it. The Giving Tree is sponsored by St Paul's United Methodist Women. For more information please contact Elinor John at 273-0915, or bjohn@twcny.rr.com.

A Very Special Gourmet Christmas Reception December 6

Join with other members of your church family in bringing gourmet sweets and savories on December 6th for a very special Christmas extended Coffee Hour. Our new *All Church Family/Community Team* will provide set up and clean up as well as beverages, but we need everyone else's expertise to provide the special treats for this fun occasion. As in years past, we will transform our Dining Room into a Christmas Wonderland...this year featuring Nativities from around the world! There will be a special place for young children, as well as some seating for those who desire it. Plan now to spend an extra hour at church with your church family following the 10:30 service for what promises to be a wonderful beginning to Advent.

Gingerbread House Workshop Tuesday, December 8, 5:30 p.m.



Please sign up in the hallway outside the Sanctuary to participate in the annual Gingerbread House Workshop. Sign-up sheet, simple directions and recipe are available at the hallway display. This event is great for individuals or families. Come join your St. Paul's church family in this fun opportunity to meet new people and create a fun holiday centerpiece. Cheryl McGraw will lead you through step by step instructions for building your house that evening. Please bring pre-baked gingerbread and candies/cereals to share. A \$3 donation per house will cover the cost of icing, which will be prepared for you. Kitchen helpers are needed.

Caroling By Candlelight December 13, 5:00 p.m.



"Caroling By Candlelight" will be held at St. Paul's United Methodist Church on **Sunday, December 13, at 5:00 pm**. The concert will include the Cayuga Chamber Orchestra Brass Quintet; the Ithaca Children's Chorus; Deborah Montgomery, soprano; Bill Cowdery, organ; and our own Festival Chimes under the direction of Dorothy Preston. Please join us for the festive holiday concert! Tickets are \$14 for adults and seniors; \$6 for students and are available at the Ticket Center (273-4497) and at the door.

Poinsettia Delivery, December 20

Do you drive a car and enjoy close contact with poinsettias? A cadre of drivers is needed to take the poinsettias from the sanctuary to the homes of our homebound brothers and sisters. Someone will be stationed after church at fellowship time on Dec. 6th and Dec. 13th so that you can sign up to make deliveries. Those who sign up first can choose the persons or destinations for deliveries. We will gather in the front of the sanctuary after church on December 20th to make this very special Christmas project happen. Thanks in advance!



Rev. Eunice Tabor, Loving Care Ministries Coordinator



Christmas Eve Pageant Preparation, December 20

On **Sunday, December 20th at 3:30 p.m.** there will be a mandatory dress rehearsal for all children and youth interested in participating in the new Christmas Eve Family Service Musical called "We Celebrate A Tree". The Children's and Youth choirs will both perform as a group but there will also be roles for all interested children and youth (as animals, angels, shepherds) as well as backstage roles for staging, costuming and directing.

CHRISTMAS EVE at ST. PAUL'S, December 24

12:00 noon A **contemplative communion service** with Christmas readings and hymns will be offered followed by a light lunch reception in the Memorial Rooms. If you are traveling or not wanting to come out late at night due to other commitments, this is the perfect way to celebrate Christmas with some of your church family.

7:00 pm **Brass Choir plays in the sanctuary**

7:30 pm Gather with young and old as we **hear the Christmas story told** through a new pageant this year, *We Celebrate A Tree*. In addition, **traditional Christmas carols, contemporary music** by the Glory Singers, and **candlelight** all blend together to make this service a memorable way to usher in the mystery and miracle of Christmas.

9:30 pm A **prayerful, candlelight communion service** featuring our Chancel Choir and gentle Christmas music is the perfect way to understand and experience "*how silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given...So God imparts to human hearts, the blessings of God's heaven.*"

