



ST. PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Grace Notes

November 17, 2024

www.stpaulsrva.org

Facebook: @stpaulsrva

Instagram: @stpaulsrva

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TODAY @ ST. PAUL'S

Nursery | 8:45 AM - 12:30 PM | For children 3 - 5 years old. The worship service can be heard within the Nursery. A changing table is available.

Children's Chapel | Children 3 years and older are invited to participate in Children's Chapel. We'll leave following the Gospel reading and return at the Passing of the Peace to take Communion with our families.

Rector's Bible Study | Today @ 9 am | Norwood Room | Join our clergy and volunteers as we explore the readings for Sunday worship. This informal setting offers the opportunity to ask questions, get to know others, and learn how to navigate the often- tricky and mysterious world of scripture. No prep work required.

New Hearing Assistance Units Now Available on Sunday Mornings | Hearing assistance is now available for free during church services. You can choose between an earpiece to amplify sound or if you have a T-Coil switch on your hearing aids, you can use a neck loop to send the signal directly to your hearing aids! Please ask an usher for assistance.

Faith & Action Forum on Post-Covid Public Education in RVA | Sunday, November 17 @ 11:30 am | Join us to hear Dr. Dava Allen-Miller, Principal of Woodville Elementary School and Yvette Rajput, Director of the Armstrong Leadership Program discuss the ways that public education in Richmond's East End school community has changed and continues to be challenged in the wake of COVID-19. We will explore opportunities to more deeply and meaningfully engage with these school communities to provide support and resources for students, teachers, and their families. Contact Valena Dixon (valdixon1130@gmail.com) or Chris Yates (c.lansing.yates@gmail.com) for more information.

UPDATES and HIGHLIGHTS

Evening Prayer | Join us on Facebook Live Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6pm for Evening Prayer.

2024 Annual Giving Campaign | Committed to Caring | Now more than ever, it is important that we confirm our commitment to caring for our community and our congregations' five strategic commitments. We are 84% of the way towards our financial goal. We also received five new or returning pledges this week. If you have not yet had the opportunity to renew or make your pledge, consider doing that today. If everyone who pledged last year, pledges this year, we will meet our goal that provides critical support for our beloved St. Paul's. If you haven't received a pledge card yet, contact Aliesha Hart, Director of Finance, (ahart@stpaulsrva.org).

St. Paul's T-Shirt Fundraiser | Support our Children, Youth and Family Ministries when you order a St. Paul's ringer tee. Perfect for when you volunteer, cheer on the softball team, or just want to look fresh! Sales will run November 3rd - 24th. Shirt orders will ship directly to you, arriving in mid-December- just in time for Christmas! Order your t-shirt here: <https://customink.com/fundraising/st-pauls-episcopal-church-t-shirt-sale>.

Youngish Adult Friendsgiving | Tuesday, November 19th | 6pm-8pm | Join us for our annual Friendsgiving—we'll provide the turkey; you bring the sides! Fellow youngish adult Chris West is hosting at his home in the Bellevue neighborhood. This will be a fun and casual time to connect and share fellowship together. We are asking attendees to bring a side dish, appetizer, or dessert (but don't let that keep you away if you are unable to bring anything). Contact Bo Cresswell (bcresswell@stpaulsrva.org) to RSVP.

Plaster Repair Update | The church being closed during the week of November 18th - 22nd for plaster repairs.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Request for Advent Wreath Greens | November 24, 2024

Please consider bringing greens (pine, fir, boxwood - nothing with prickles please!) from your own homes to share with one another and use to make an Advent wreath. The greens can be dropped off Sunday morning in Scott Hall prior to worship.

Advent Fair | Sunday, November 24 @ 11:30am | Scott Hall |

There will be fun for all ages at this festive celebration! Enjoy cookies and hot chocolate as we prepare for the season of Advent with crafts for children and Advent wreath-making for all ages. Beautiful olivewood carvings will be available for purchase with proceeds benefiting Al Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza run by the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. For more information, contact Bo Cresswell (bcresswell@stpaulsrva.org)

Worship Practices Pop Up | December 1st | 11:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary |

When do we stand? When do we kneel? When do we make the sign of the Cross? What do these actions mean, and when, and why, do we do them? Join Charlie in these short, micro workshops as we explore the movements involved in our faith and some of the basics of our worship service. All you need is your own spiritual curiosity and a desire for your worship experience to be more meaningful.

Advent Lessons and Carols | Sunday, December 1st @ 4:00 pm |

The Saint Paul's Choir will present a Service of Lessons and Carols for Advent. The service was originally celebrated at King's College, Cambridge, and includes old liturgical forms that vividly express the Church's preparation for the coming of the Lord Jesus both in the festival of Christmas and in the consummation of the ages. The service alternates lessons from the Old and the New Testaments with carols and hymns, finally climaxing in St. Matthew's Gospel, in which the angel brings the news that Mary will bring forth a son, "and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us." A festive reception will be held after the service. Childcare will be provided.

Winter Worship Wednesdays & Simple Soup Supper | December 4th, 11th, & 18th | Worship @ 6:00 PM | Supper @

6:45 PM | Join the St. Paul's community during the winter/Advent season for worship, conversation, and a simple soup supper. These services are intended to be quiet and

reflective in nature, providing space to slow down during a busy season. Following each service, we will gather for a warm meal and warm conversation.

Second Sunday Supper | December 8th at 5:00 p.m. in Scott Hall |

Join us for a festive potluck dinner hosted by our Children, Youth & Families ministry! Dinner guests are invited to bring side dishes and desserts to share; the main dish will be lasagna. All are welcome to attend and enjoy cookie decorating and carols! Beer and wine are available for a suggested donation of \$5.00, as well as lemonade, water and iced tea. Please Contact Bo Cresswell bcresswell@stpaulsrva.org to learn more and to register.

Reading Ahead! |

If you would like to know Sunday's readings in advance, you can visit lectionarypage.net. Once you are at The Lectionary Page website, simply choose the month and date for this Sunday. For September through November, St. Paul's is using the readings in Track 1. These readings are also the subject of the Wednesday Brown Bag Bible Study and our Sunday morning Rector's Bible Study.

Emmaus Item Spotlight |

People want to stay warm! We are currently in need of coats, shoes (sneakers and work boots are always a hit) and (especially) men's clothing. In addition, knit hats, gloves and small portable blankets will be needed by many of our guests. Donate gently used items from your own closets or your local thrift store by dropping them off at the church office. Thank you for your generosity.

Brown Bag Bible Study | Wednesdays | 12 - 1 p.m. |

Are you interested in a weekly study of the Sunday Bible readings, led by a member of the clergy? During this lunchtime gathering we will share and reflect on the readings for the upcoming Sunday. How do these passages speak to us in our daily lives? How do they inform our prayers and our relationships? Our study will be informed by some references to commentary and/or historical Biblical context, but this is primarily an opportunity for conversation. For more information or a Zoom link please contact Bo Cresswell bcresswell@stpaulsrva.org.

Online Wednesday Morning Reflections | Wednesdays at 10 am -10:30 am (Zoom) | Consider a time of quiet in your week. On Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. members of St Paul's gather on Zoom for quiet reflection. The format consists of reading one of the upcoming Sunday's readings and twenty minutes of silent meditation. Participants are invited to comment on the reading or the silence. Contact David Hoover (davidwhoover56@gmail.com) for more information.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP UPDATES

The Christmas season is rapidly approaching and provides a good opportunity for us to live into the Episcopal Church's Covenant for the Care of Creation that calls us to commit to "life-giving conservation." For God's sake, we commit to adopting practical ways of reducing our climate impact and living more humbly and gently on Earth as individuals, households, and congregations.

One of the ways we can do this is through our gift wrapping choices for Christmas. Below are some simple ideas for reducing, reusing and recycling "The ribbons! The wrappings! The tags! And the tinsel! The trimmings! The trappings!" (How the Grinch Stole Christmas)

Greeting Cards: Recycle plain paper cards where possible. Cards with glitter and metallic designs or printed on photo paper cannot be recycled. If the front cannot be recycled, recycle back. Consider reusing cards as gift tags, repurposed cards, garlands, etc.

Bows & Ribbon: Most ribbons cannot be recycled (unless pure paper). Be gentle with the bows and ribbons and reuse. Keep a paper grocery bag next to the tree and toss the used bows inside! Think about using fabric ribbon, twine, and yarn which can be used again or composted.

Gift Wrap: Paper with glitter, metallic designs or velvet flocking and tissue paper cannot be recycled. Wrap gifts in brown paper, newspaper, old maps, and reusable fabric or gift bags. If you do use fancy paper with tissue paper, encourage recipients to open carefully and use the paper next year!

Gift Boxes: Plain paper boxes can be recycled like any other cardboard. Save printed boxes for next year.

Gift Tags: Tags with adhesive backing, glitter, or metallic designs cannot be recycled. Consider making your own tags from recycled greeting cards, scraps of wrapping paper, or other scrap paper.

FIRST AND THIRD SUNDAYS @ ST. PAUL'S...

Children's Sunday School | 9 am | Room 112

Youth Faith Formation | 9 am | Room 110 | Jabriel Hasan, our Youth Coordinator, has something special planned for our youth!

Family Group | First and Third Sundays | 9:00 - 9:50 AM in Room 206 | The Family Group has returned. Pre-Covid, this group met for support, and fellowship that included book discussions, and conversation around topics of concern to families. No two families are alike, and all are welcome. Please join us for spiritual conversation, book discussions, and fellowship with other families. Drop off your children and youth, grab a cup of coffee and head upstairs to room 206.

FOURTH SUNDAYS @ ST. PAUL'S...

Family Breakfast | 9am in the Scott Hall | Join us for a festive and delicious breakfast with the St. Paul's community. Hosted by Children, Youth and Family ministries, this breakfast is open to all, living into our commitment to Embracing and Care for All Ages.

Family Worship Space | St. Paul's is committed to creating an inclusive worship experience for every child. Families are invited to join their young children at the Family worship space in the front of the sanctuary. This carpeted area with pillows and games allows our youngest members to fully participate in the service. Our ushers will be happy to direct you.

Worship Bags and Book Cart | Every child is welcomed to utilize the worship bags in the narthex. Our worship bags contain drawing paper, crayons and children's bulletins, ensuring that all of our families are part of St. Paul's vibrant worshipping community. Our book cart is regularly updated and contains books for children of all ages. Please return bags to the narthex and books to cart.

Newsletter | Stay updated on all of St. Paul's offerings for our children, youth and families! Please contact Linda Willis (lwillis@stpaulsra.org) to receive the Family Newsletter directly to your inbox.

PRAYERS OF THE PARISH

We give thanks to God...

...as we approach the end of the liturgical year in the life of the Church and prepare for the new beginning of Advent.

...for the autumn, the bountiful harvest, the lengthening evenings, cooler temperatures, and glorious display of color that marks the changing of the season.

...for the generosity of all who have made a pledge to support St. Paul's 2024 Annual Giving Campaign "Committed to Caring" to generously support our vibrant ministries and mission to proclaim Christ to the heart of the city.

We pray for God's mercy...

...for the Universal Church, especially the ministry of the Baptized; Presiding Bishop Sean, Virginia bishops Mark and Gayle, all bishops, priests, and deacons; Piedmont Parish (Madison), St. Thomas (McLean), according to the Diocese of Virginia cycle of prayer; The Anglican Church of Southern Africa, according to the Anglican Cycle of Prayer.

...for the nation, during this period of political transition, that it may be peaceful and marked by mutual forbearance and civility; all who serve the common good in law enforcement and the courts; those who suffer from housing insecurity, the unsheltered, and all who work to create pathways to affordable, safe housing for others.

...for the world, especially the ceasing of violence and warfare in the Middle East, Ukraine, Sudan, and other war-torn regions; the people of Mali and Somalia facing drought, food insecurity, and humanitarian crisis; all refugees, immigrants, and asylum-seekers; the Diocese of Central Tanganyika and the village of Mwitikira, Tanzania; slowing of rising sea levels and melting ice caps.

...for Metropolitan Richmond, especially persons in financial need, that all may enjoy sufficient employment to enable constructive, safe, and caring households that support healthy family life, including nurturing of children and care for the elderly; our Emmaus guests; East End school communities.

...for those who are sick in body, mind and spirit and all for whom prayer has been requested, especially John Martin; Tad deBordenave, brother of Mary Page Jones; Penny Yeargan, sister-in-law of Ginny Campbell; David Romaine; Fletcher Banner; Elizabeth Wilkerson, friends of Denise Williams; Sarah Coxon; Charlotte Tyndall, mother of Lynn Kotrady; Cynthia Henebry, daughter of James Stutts & friend of Ed Dickson; Mary Kay Aly-Youseff; William G.; James Russel McWilliams, nephew of Suzanne McWilliams; Andrea Dobson, niece of Anne Dobson & Tim Baird; Alex; Fran Bolin, friend of Jane Nelson; Kristen Gibson, sister of Michele Stehle; Susan Dyke, cousin of David Romaine; Bob Hafford, brother of Kathryn Hafford; Maxton Williams, great nephew of Barbara Cochrane; Roberto Mercado, uncle of Lydia Mercado; Hank Hobbs; Ron Romaine, David Romaine's brother; Jim Pullman, friend of David Romaine; Mary Ramsey, friend of Celia Luxmoore; Georgia Jonkman, mother of Crystal Jonkman; Susan, friend of Lindy Wright; Jimmy Yeargan, Ginny Campbell's nephew; Ruth Lokey, Beth O'Leary's mother.

...for eternal peace of the departed, especially May Lythgoe, friend of Denise Williams; those who have died due to warfare, violence, disaster, or disease; those whom we love but see no longer.

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