



**SEASON  
OF  
WONDERS**  
CHRISTMAS PRODUCTION  
NEXT SUNDAY  
4 PM IN THE SANCTUARY

The prophecies and miracles surrounding  
Jesus' birth in drama and song.  
**SEE PAGE 4 FOR MORE.**



December 7, 2014

Welcome from Pastor Bob

Whether you're a long-time member or a first time visitor, I welcome you to St. Paul United Methodist Church. Thank you for choosing to worship with us!

I'm so glad that you're here with us during this special season of Advent. This year we're taking a light-hearted approach, discovering what some of our favorite classic Christmas movies have to teach us about the real miracle of Christmas and the wonder of Jesus' birth.

Take a look at this bulletin, or visit our website, for more information on our ministries, classes, and all the many ways we are living into our mission to Glorify God, Grow in Faith, and Give in Love.

The Lord is doing amazing things here at St. Paul, and I'm excited that you are all a part of it.



Bob Martin, Senior Pastor

Glorify God ♥ Grow in Faith ♥ Give in Love

# Glorify God

## 9:00 Traditional Worship

Prelude	<i>Infant Holy, Infant Lowly</i> <i>I Heard The Bells on Christmas Day</i>	Bells of St. Paul
Welcome		David McKee, Worship Leader
Lighting the Advent Candle		Garrett and Deb Digman
Hymn	<i>Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus</i>	No. 196
Prayer		
*Greet	<i>Emmanuel, Emmanuel</i>	No. 204
Offertory	<i>Arise Shine For Your Light Has Come</i>	Sanctuary Choir
Prayer of Thanksgiving		
Transitional Hymn	<i>Worthy, You are Worthy</i>	
Sermon	<b>"Peace: How Christmas Changed the Grinch"</b> Ephesians 4:26-27, 29-32 Luke 1:78-79	Pastor Bob Martin
Directed Prayer		
Holy Communion		
Closing Hymn	<i>It Came upon the Midnight Clear</i>	No. 218
*Benediction		
*Postlude		

\*Please stand, if you are able.

If you need assistance, please let a greeter or usher know and they would be happy to help.  
Baby changing tables are located in the family room and in both men and women's restrooms..

## 10:30 Contemporary Worship

**"Peace: How Christmas Changed the Grinch"**  
Pastor Bob Martin  
Ephesians 4:26-27, 29-32  
Luke 1:78-79

# Glorify God

## 2014 Giving Deadline

If you would like to make a special gift, or catch up on your pledge, please bring or mail all gifts to the church by Wednesday, December 31. All checks must be received or envelopes postmarked by December 31 to be counted toward this calendar year.

## Online Giving

If you need a convenient way to make recurring contributions or plan to make an additional gift before the end of the year, we encourage you to check out our electronic giving options. As the pace of life speeds up around the holidays, you may find electronic giving a welcome way to make contributions.



To set up a recurring giving schedule, visit us online at [stpaulumc.org](http://stpaulumc.org) and click the Giving button, or use this QR code. We also provide online giving cards in the backs of the seats if you would like to take advantage of the convenience of online giving, or of setting up automated gifts, without missing out on the experience of giving during worship. If you gave online, just place one of these cards in the offering plate as you would any other gift.

## Flowers

Today's flowers are given by:

- ♥ Alice Ricketts, in loving memory of her daughter Jessica.
- ♥ Ricketts family, in honor of Jessica Morgan Ricketts

If you would like to give flowers in honor of a loved one or special event, and to the Glory of God call the church office at 584-8165 with your desired date and inscription, visit the Giving page on our website, or e-mail [church@stpaulumc.org](mailto:church@stpaulumc.org). Bouquets are \$40.

## Deaths

Please pray for the families of the people listed below, who passed away recently:

Norma Haviland  
Beatrice Gould

## To Make a Prayer Request

- \* Drop your prayer request in the offering plate.
- \* Submit your prayer online at [stpaulumc.org](http://stpaulumc.org) by clicking on "Grow in Faith", then "Prayer."
- \* Call our prayer line at 727-559-PRAY around the clock to leave a prayer need.

## Stay and Pray Today

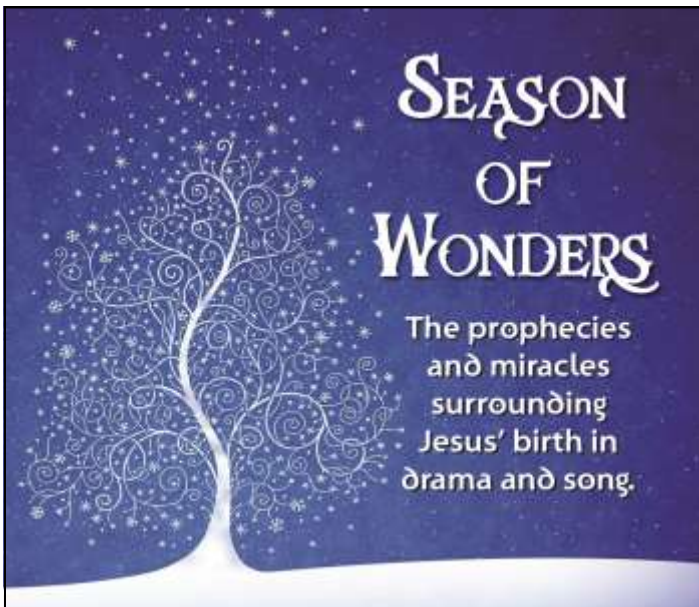
If you need additional prayer, we invite you to stay and pray in the chapel after each worship concludes.

## Hear Our Prayer

Please pray for the people listed below with immediate needs:

Ashtyn and Christian	Karen Bodesa
Barbara Baug	Kat F.
Beth	Kevin and Vicki
Bette Ashton	Kristi B.
Beulah Stapleton	Kyle
Bob and Maxine	Larry Daniels
Gerhart	Lawrence Lotze
Bob Hepp	Linda
Chris Dugan	Loreli Rose Cook
Dan and Crystal Kemp	Lori
Deb Woodhouse	Mark LaPolla
Dennis and Fran	Mary Moore
Eleanor Berry	Mike Guseilla
Eva Hilliard	Nancy Otte
Family of Edward K.	Pastor Fred Perkins
Glenda Neville	Pat Zdenek
Gloria	Peter
Goodin Family	Phil Chavel
Hannah and Caleb	Rollin Brannan
Rackarb	Ruth Barr
Jace Michael	Sally Jones
Jackson	Sandy P.
Jackson Carter	Sandy Rice
Jane M.	Scott M.
Jean Troutner	Selma Ray
Jerry Wert	Stephanie E.
Jessica Nash	Steve Brower
Jim Lucky	Steven Pruitt
Joe	Theresa and Family
John Fady	Todd Smyzer
Joyce E.	Tom Jones
Julie S.	Tyler Gray

# Glorify God



## Season of Wonders

December 14 | 4 p.m. | Sanctuary  
Free Admission

Join us for a dramatic musical featuring choral and orchestral music by Joseph Martin, a solo of "Be Born in Me" and original drama written specially for St. Paul United Methodist by member, Rachel Shockey. This joyous Christmas production shines new light upon the miracles surrounding the birth of Jesus and awakens the wonders of the Christmas story.



The Christmas Story  
December 10 | 6:30 p.m.  
LuAnne Willey Fellowship  
Hall—Christian Life  
Enrichment Center

Be sure to join us this Wednesday evening, December 10, at 6:30 p.m., for a special Handicapable production of the Christmas story. Children from our Worship Arts Class will open the program with song, then

The Good Shepherd will walk us through the Christmas Story based on Old and New Testament scripture. Dramatic music and video clips will also be used to bring the miraculous story to life. For further information please contact Horton Townes [horton.t@stpaulumc.org](mailto:horton.t@stpaulumc.org) or 584-8165 ext. 206.



## Christmas Eve Worship

December 24 | 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. | Sanctuary

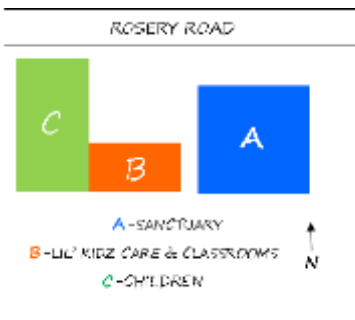
Join us in the Sanctuary for one of our two candlelight Christmas Eve services as we remember the reason for the season. The services will both feature contemporary and traditional elements. We welcome children at this service, the perfect chance for families to worship together. Childcare will also be provided during both worship times.

## GROWTHguide



During Advent we are providing a special edition of our weekly Growth Guide. This guide takes you deeper into Pastor Bob's message, and offers daily scripture readings, reflection questions and challenge points to help you in your faith journey. In this time of Advent, as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus, we invite you to use these guides in your private meditations or with your family or small group. You can find our Growth Guide on our website by clicking the Growth Guide link, or pick up a paper copy in the lobby. If you would like to receive the Growth Guide by e-mail each week, please sign up online or write your e-mail on one of the red pads in your seat or pew with a note that you would like to receive the Growth Guide.

# Grow in Faith



**Adult Sunday Morning Classes**  
Adults of any age are invited to join one of our Sunday school classes. All classes are located on the Sanctuary side of campus and gather at 10:15 a.m.

## Adult Softball Team

If you're interested in taking part in an adult softball team here at St. Paul please contact John Hamilton at john.hamilton@baycare.org or 515-1971. We need your input to see if there are enough people interested to move forward with starting the team up again.

## Soaring Eagles on Saturday

Men are welcome to join the Soaring Eagles for fellowship, prayer, and devotional on Saturdays at 8 a.m. in the CLEC, room 201.

- Inspirations** - South Fellowship Hall in **Bldg C**
- Friendship** - Choir Room in **Bldg C**
- Crusaders** - Purple Door Classroom in **Bldg C**
- Bereans** - Room 201 (Community Room) in the **CLEC**

## JOY (Just Older Youth) on Tuesday

Older adults are invited to the Christian Life Enrichment Center every Tuesday morning at 10:30 a.m., for fellowship, lessons, and prayer. This Tuesday, December 9, Pastor Bob will teach. You are invited to bring a lunch. For more information contact Senior Director of Ministry, Bobby Van Duyne at bobby.v@stpaulumc.org or 584-8165.



## JOY Potluck

Joy will close out the year with a Christmas Luncheon on Tuesday, December 16. Bring a potluck dish and join us for a delicious meal as we celebrate a great year.

## Men's Bible Study on Thursday

All men are invited to be a part of the Men's Bible Study on Thursdays at 7:00 a.m. in room 218 of the Christian Life Enrichment Center.



United  
Methodist  
Women  
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

## Dorcas

The Dorcas Sewing Circle meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. to work on sewing projects for local and overseas missions. Supplies are provided. Just bring a sandwich and join them in room 243 of the Christian Life Enrichment Center, the Arts and Crafts room. The next meeting is this Wednesday, December 10.

## Hannah

Hannah meets this Tuesday, December 9 at 6:45 p.m. in room 201 of the Christian Life Enrichment Center. Meetings include refreshments, devotion, prayer, and a program.

## Rachel-Lydia

UMW Rachel-Lydia Group meets this Thursday, December 11, at 10:30 a.m. at the home of Co-Leader, Claire Covert in Largo. This Christmas gathering will include a Bible devotional, Response Magazine, and a celebration of "Inspirational Food for Thought," the booklet Rachel-Lydia has written and produced for donation support of its pediatric medical mission. Members and guests will share a festive brunch and joyful gift exchange! Contact Claire Covert at 535-7472 for information and address or directions.

# Grow in Faith



**Children** *infant-5th grade*  
Sherri Plate, Children's Ministry  
Director, [sherri.p@stpaulumc.org](mailto:sherri.p@stpaulumc.org)

## Sunday Morning Lil' Kidz Care

Lil' Kidz Care is available every Sunday for infants to 4-year-olds, at 8:45 a.m. in Bldg B Lil Kidz Rooms. You will sign in and be given a pick-up card that you will need to pick-up your child.

## Sunday Morning Lil' Kidz Class

We have a great preschool class for 3 to 4 year-olds at 10:30 a.m. in the Red Door Room of Bldg C. This month, we are sharing "The Best News Ever", the fact that God sent us His Son, Jesus, on the very first Christmas day.

Each week, preschoolers will be introduced to a section of a fun rhyme so that by the end of the month they will be able to share the entire Christmas story with anyone and everyone they meet. **This week: The story of how the angel came and told Mary she was going to have a special baby named Jesus.**

## Sunday Mornings for K- 5

This Sunday: "Peace: Don't be a Bah Humbug!"

The commercialism of Christmas sure does speak to a child's heart desires. TV commercials and big toy catalogs that come in the mail can really mask the true meaning of Christmas. This Sunday we will focus our attention on how we can share Christmas with others and give to people in need of the real Christmas cheer, perhaps even ourselves.

Sunday Morning Small Group at 9:00 a.m.

Meets in either the computer lab in Room 203 or the Small Group Room in 207 of Bldg C.

Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Meets in the Children's Worship Center, Rooms 206/208 of Bldg C.



## Worship Arts Class

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. Worship Arts Room

Kids of all ages are invited to learn new ways to see, feel and **Glorify God** through music, dance, painting, instruments, art and more. Youth have the opportunity to sing, take lessons, and participate in worship.

## Parent's Morning Out

Parent's Morning Out is on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This is a great time for you to get errands done or take time for yourself, without your child(ren). Care is \$10 per child per day from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Reserve your spot by calling the children's Ministry at 584-8165 x238.



## Catching Up with Son Kissed Preschool


Son Kissed Preschool had a great turnout for their second annual Thanksgiving Luncheon on Friday, November 21 (pictured above)! We are so thankful for our families and the children you entrust us with!

They also had a wonderful night in the Pumpkin Patch with their Pumpkin Patch Bash. Families had a fun night together with crafts, snacks and pumpkin-filled photo opportunities.



# Grow in Faith



 **Youth** 6th-12th Grade, Alison Van Duyne,  
Youth Ministry Director, [alison.v@stpaulumc.org](mailto:alison.v@stpaulumc.org)

## Sunday Night Youth Experience

We all have something in common with superheroes. There's a public side of us that most of the world gets to see. But deep in our hearts, we know there's an alter ego. A less than super side we'd rather hide away.



## TONIGHT: NO WORRIES

**Bottom Line: When God's worrying about your worries, you don't have to.** Everybody worries. We stress about our family, school, future, friends, and about a million other things. Unfortunately, our worries don't seem to accomplish much. Think about it. Have you ever stressed out about something so much it fixed itself? Probably not. But what's the alternative? The Apostle Paul had plenty to worry about. He had been threatened, beaten, shipwrecked, and arrested, but he still found the courage to say, "Do not be anxious about anything." As we take a closer look at Paul's words, we find that God has given us an alternative. He has provided a way for us to give away our worries and replace them with peace.

Join the middle and high school youth on Sunday nights from 5:30–8 p.m. for **group games, exciting crowd breakers, passionate worship, biblical teaching, and a chance to connect with others through Source Groups.** The group meets in the Mariposa Café at 5:30 p.m., then branches out to the Youth Room, the Gym or the Fellowship Hall depending on plans for the night. Dinner is \$4.



## Amplify - Wednesday Night Bible Study Youth Room at 6:30 p.m.

Students are invited to this midweek Bible Study where you can hang out, eat, and get into God's Word.



## Youth Christmas Party

Sunday, Dec. 21. | 5:30-10 p.m. | Cost: \$5  
Join the youth for dinner, decorating cookies, a White Elephant gift exchange (\$5 limit) and the movie *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. Students are encouraged to wear ugly Christmas sweaters.

## Young Adults

### Sunday evenings at 7 p.m.

Join IGNITE in room 202 of the Christian Life Enrichment Center at 7 p.m. Tonight they will begin planning for 2015. Discussion topics include their mission focus for next year and their plan to read the Bible in a year. For more information contact Felix at [c24go1@aol.com](mailto:c24go1@aol.com) or "like" the IGNITE Facebook page to stay up to date on all IGNITE's upcoming events.



 [ignitestpaul](https://www.facebook.com/ignitestpaul)



### Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Young adults aged 18–35 are invited to join our Wednesday night Community Group. Meet new people, build relationships and grow closer to Christ.

# Give in Love



## Rachel-Lydia Inspirational Booklet

The UMW Rachel-Lydia group's booklet, *Inspirational Food for Thought*, is now available. Group members wrote all of the stories and Biblical thoughts included in the booklet. The booklet is available for a suggested minimum donation of \$5. Any donations directly support Rachel-Lydia's **pediatric medical mission ministry** at Sabal Palms Pediatric Center, Largo. For your booklet, contact Rosemary Potter 727-712-8401 or Claire Covert 535-7472, Co-Leaders of Rachel-Lydia.

## Be a Part of our Christmas Production

The Worship Arts Ministry needs volunteers to be part of the Backstage Crew and Live Stream Team for the Christmas Production. Please contact our Senior Director of Music and Worship Arts, Laurel Fortuna, at laurel.f@stpaulumc.org or call the church office at 584-8165. x208.



## Giving Trees for Open Arms

Please take a tag from one of our Giving Trees in the lobby to help our Open Arms Resource Center provide Christmas gifts to more than 500 children. We need your help to fill these children's lives with joy this Christmas. Buy a gift based on the age and

gender on the tag, and then drop your gift off by December 15. Leave your unwrapped gift and tag in the blue shopping cart in the lobby on Sunday, or at Open Arms Monday-Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

We will have a holiday "store" on December 19 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. so parents can "shop" for their children's toys. Please leave your gift unwrapped for this reason. If you can bring a roll of wrapping paper or a gift bag with your donation, parents will use these to wrap their gifts after they choose them.

If you can't donate, please consider helping with set up and distribution. Call Open Arms Director, Yvette Carter at 727-586-5380 if you'd like to volunteer.



## Food Needed For Youth Christmas Party

In an effort to keep costs **down, we're asking the congregation** to bring in appetizers, side dishes or desserts for the Youth Christmas Party on December 21. Please look over the food items on the

sign-up form linked at [www.stpaulumc.org](http://www.stpaulumc.org), and see if there's anything you would be able to bring. Food should be dropped off on Sunday, December 21 before 5:30 p.m. For questions, e-mail Youth Ministry Director, Alison Van Duyne, at [Alison.v@stpaulumc.org](mailto:Alison.v@stpaulumc.org) or call 584-8165 x234.

## Ushers for Christmas Eve

We expect lots of visitors for our Christmas Eve worship services, and we want to be sure to give them a warm welcome to St. Paul. If you can act as an usher at 6 or 8 p.m. on Christmas Eve, please contact Senior Director of Worship Arts, Laurel Fortuna at 584-8165 x208 or by e-mail at [laurel.f@stpaulumc.org](mailto:laurel.f@stpaulumc.org)



584-8165 x208 or by e-mail at [laurel.f@stpaulumc.org](mailto:laurel.f@stpaulumc.org)



## Coming this Week

### Sunday, December 7

Courtyard Coffee	8:30 AM
<b>Lil' Kidz Nursery</b>	8:45 AM
Traditional Worship	9:00 AM
<b>Lil' Kidz Small Group</b>	9:00 AM
Stay & Pray	10:00 AM
Bereans	10:15 AM
Crusaders	10:15 AM
Friendship	10:15 AM
Inspirations	10:15 AM
Contemporary Worship	10:30 AM
Stay & Pray	
Coffee with the Pastor	
Homeless Feeding	3:30 PM
IGNITE	7:00 PM

### Monday, December 8

Bells of St. Paul	5:30 PM
Stephen Ministry	6:30 PM

### Tuesday, December 9

Parent's Morning Out	8:30 AM
<b>Sonrise Men's Study</b>	6:30 AM
JOY Ministry	10:30 AM
UMW—Hannah	5:00 PM
Recovery by Faith	6:30 PM

### Wednesday, December 10

UMW—Dorcas	9:00 AM
Handicapable	6:30 PM
Volleyball	7:45 PM
Young Adult Group	6:30 PM
Worship Arts Class	6:30 PM

### Thursday, December 11

Parent's Morning Out	8:30 AM
UMW—Rachel-Lydia	10:00 AM
Prayer Shawl Ministry	5:30 PM
Choir Practice	7:00 PM
Intercessory Prayer	7:00 PM

### Friday, December 12

*Church Office Closed*

Handi Christmas Banquet	6:00 PM
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### Saturday, December 13

Soaring Eagles	8:00 AM
Preschool Christmas	6:00 PM

Due to space, not all events are listed here. Visit [stpaulumc.org](http://stpaulumc.org) to see our complete calendar.



# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



Patsy McLaughlin-Bauer

Long-time member Patsy McLaughlin-Bauer has faithfully served the church in numerous capacities. In the early 1990s Patsy led a singles class that thrived and provided many singles not only excellent spiritual guidance but also numerous social opportunities for fellowship. Patsy has also served on and chaired Staff Parish for years. Today Patsy is head of our Prayer Team which faithfully lifts up intercessory prayers for members, friends and others during their time of need. We give praise and thanksgiving for **another one of God's faithful servants who is a mentor** to many with her wonderful gift of counseling and continues to serve others with the love of Christ.

## Employment Opening

Part-time Accompanist Education/Experience: High level performance, knowledge of worship and theological understanding to assist with music selection, 4+ years experience accompanying worship, strong organizational skills, strong interpersonal skills, ability to work creatively with worship team and volunteers, committed to Christ and called to service.

For full job posting visit the "Calendar and Resources" tab on [stpaulumc.org](http://stpaulumc.org). If you are interested in being considered for this position, please send your resume or employment history to [church@stpaulumc.org](mailto:church@stpaulumc.org).

# Good News

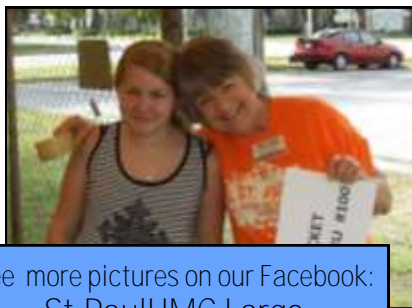
## Thanksgiving at Open Arms

Monday afternoon, November 24, Yvette Carter, Director of Open Arms Ministry and numerous volunteers from the ages of 10 to 93, handed out over 300 complete Thanksgiving dinners to local residents. What a glorious Thanksgiving each recipient of the dinners will have this year due to the generosity of St. Paul Church and our ever-growing Open Arms Ministry. In addition to the food, recipients were blessed with a short worship service led by our Stephen Ministers. Truly this is what Jesus instructed us to do: Invite those who are poor and hungry and by feeding them you will have fed me as well. **Just believe Jesus' smile was the biggest one of the day!** Thank you so much volunteers for making this day so special for so many families!



## A Profitable Year for the Pumpkin Patch

Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Pumpkin Patch fundraiser the most profitable year yet! We can't thank the congregation enough for all their help in setting up the tent, unloading pumpkins, and for volunteering to work over 90 shifts. We made a total net income of \$9,819. This money helps the Youth Ministry to provide quality programming, events and retreats for the Youth of this community. Our students and Ministry Team couldn't be more grateful for all your help!



See more pictures on our Facebook:  
[St.PaulUMC Largo](#)

## Children Celebrate the Beginning of Advent

Last Sunday during our 10:30 a.m. Children's Church the children learned how Christmas decorating can remind us of Jesus during the Advent season. After the children lit the Advent candle and said the Lords Prayer, James and Kane Price led the children on their guitars for a special song, *How Great is Our God*. After worship the children decorated their worship space and the upstairs hallway.



The Reverend Bob Martin, Senior Pastor

Address: 1199 Highland Avenue in Largo, 33770

Phone: (727) 584-8165

Office Hours: 8 a.m.—5 p.m., Monday-Thursday

E-mail: [church@stpaulumc.org](mailto:church@stpaulumc.org)

Prayer: (727) 559-PRAY

[www.stpaulumc.org](http://www.stpaulumc.org)

