

St. Paul's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The Rev. Robert Fruehwirth, Celebrant
The Rev. Sarah Phelps, Homilist

HOLY EUCHARIST
9:00 A.M SERVICE
NOVEMBER 30, 2025

Prelude

Carol Yeargin, Organ

Liturgy of the Word

The Opening Acclamation

Book of Common Prayer (BCP) 355

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People *And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.*

The Celebrant says

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

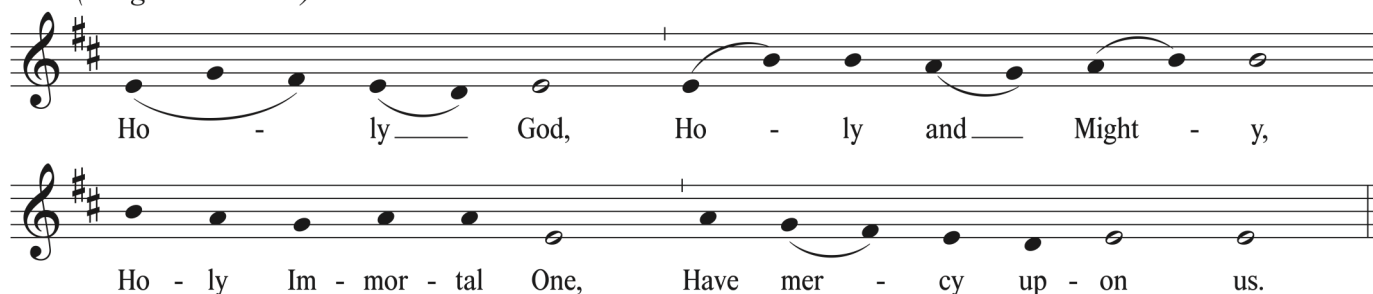
The following is sung.

Trisagion

Holy God

Hymnal S99

(Sung Three Times)



Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People *And also with you.*
Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Please be seated

Children's Processional

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (v. 1)
Children's Chapel is for children 3 years old through 5th grade.

Hymn 490

First Reading

Isaiah 2:1-5

A Reading from Isaiah.

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People *Thanks be to God.*

The Psalm

Psalm 122

- 1 I was glad when they said to me, *
"Let us go to the house of the LORD."
- 2 Now our feet are standing *
within your gates, O Jerusalem.
- 3 Jerusalem is built as a city *
that is at unity with itself;
- 4 To which the tribes go up,
the tribes of the LORD, *
the assembly of Israel,
to praise the Name of the LORD.
- 5 For there are the thrones of judgment, *
the thrones of the house of David.
- 6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: *
"May they prosper who love you.
- 7 Peace be within your walls *
and quietness within your towers.
- 8 For my brethren and companions' sake, *
I pray for your prosperity.
- 9 Because of the house of the LORD our God, *
I will seek to do you good."

Second Reading

Romans 13:11-14

A Reading from the Letter to the Romans.

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

Please stand if able

Gradual

Creator of the Stars of Night

Conditor alme siderum

1. Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's ev - er - last - ing light,
2. In sor - row that the an - cient curse should doom to death a u - ni - verse,
3. To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spi - rit, Three in One,

O Christ, Re - deem - er of us all, we pray you hear us when we call.
you came; O Sa - vior, to set free your own in glo - rious li - ber - ty
praise, hon - or, might and glo - ry be from age to age e - ter - nal - ly.

Remain standing

The Gospel

Matthew 24:36-44

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Jesus said to the disciples, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man.

Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour."

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

People remain standing until the homilist invites all to be seated

Homily

The Rev. Sarah Phelps, Homilist

Please stand if able

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

People's Response: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Confession and Absolution of Sin

BCP 360

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All who are able, kneel. Minister and People

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Celebrant says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

Please stand if able

Peace

BCP 360

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.

Please be seated

Welcome & Announcements

If you would like to donate online, follow the QR code found here or on the giving card in the back of the pews.

At the end of the announcements, you are also welcome to come forward to make a special donation to Heifer International, a non-profit organization whose mission is to end hunger and poverty, to mark an anniversary, blessing, or other event.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory

Adam Lay Ybounden

Boris Ord

St. Paul's Choir

*Adam lay ybounden, bounden in a bond;
Four thousand winter thought he not too long.
And all was for an apple, an apple that he took,
As clerkes finden written in their book.
Ne had the apple taken been, the apple taken been;
Ne had never our lady A-been heavené queen.
Blessed be the time that apple taken was,
Therefore we moun singen, Deo gratias!*

Please stand if able while the offering is presented

Offertory Response

All things come of Thee, O Lord, and of Thine own have we given Thee.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP 367

The People remain standing. The Celebrant proceeds

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

Hymn S130

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, _____

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, _____

hea - ven and earth are full, _____ full _____ of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he who comes _____ in the name of the Lord. _____ Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Please stand or kneel if able

The Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Memorial Acclamation

Celebrant and People

*We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;*

The Celebrant then continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray to you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **AMEN.**

The Celebrant then continues

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Lord's Prayer

BCP 367

People and Celebrant

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

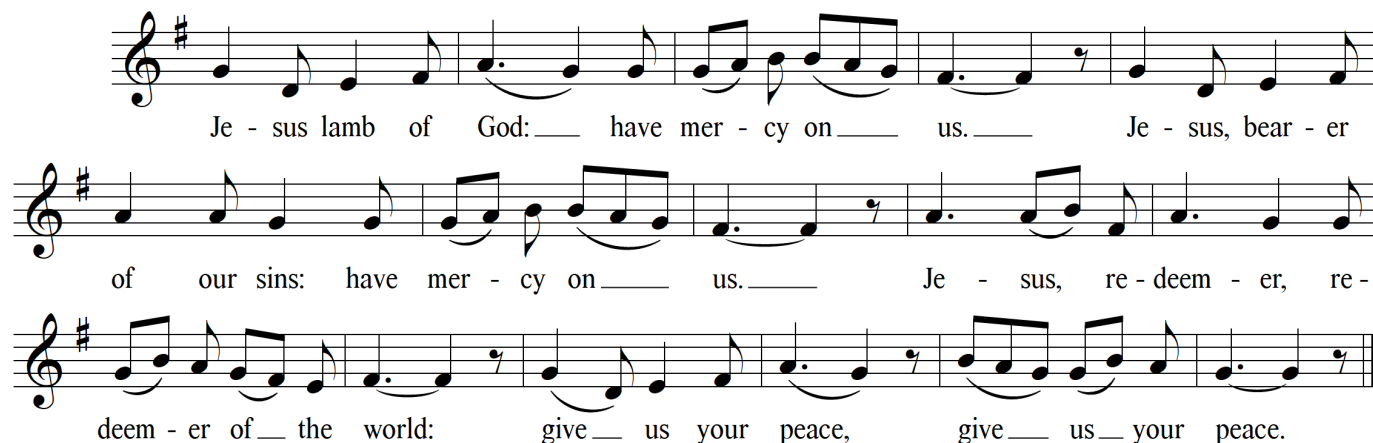
Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem

Jesus, Lamb of God

Hymn S164



Je - sus lamb of God: have mer - cy on us. Je - sus, bear - er
of our sins: have mer - cy on us. Je - sus, re - deem - er, re -
deem - er of the world: give us your peace, give us your peace.

Holy Communion

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All are welcome to come forward for communion, including children. Please follow the ushers' guidance as you come to the rail. If you would like to receive the wine by intinction (dipping the bread in the cup), keep the bread in your hands and wait for the communion server to come to you. If you would like to receive from the common cup (drinking from the cup directly), please consume the bread first and then make your way to the steps at the end of the rail. A communion server will be there with the common cup. If it is not your custom to receive communion, you are still welcome to come forward for a blessing. Simply cross your arms across your chest and the minister will offer a prayer.

A priest is available to provide prayers for healing in the back southwest corner of the church. Simply head to the back during communion distribution and wait for your turn.

Spiritual Communion Prayer

For those worshipping with us online

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

The Communion Music

Rejoice! Rejoice Believers
"Sleepers, Wake!" A Voice Astounds Us

Hymn 68
Hymn 61

Please stand or kneel if able

Postcommunion Prayer

Celebrant and People

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

EOW 69

Blessing

Please stand if able

Recessional

Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

Hymn 57

Dismissal

Deacon

Let us bless the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

BCP 366

Postlude

Carol Yeargin, Organ

TODAY – NOVEMBER 30, 2025

Please wear your nametags when you're here at church! And if you don't yet have a nametag, please complete an order form in the narthex (lobby) so we can get you one!

New to St. Paul's? Welcome! Please let us know you are here by filling out a visitor card in the pew. Stop by our Connecting Station in the narthex (lobby) to chat and find materials that might help if you are new to St. Paul's or The Episcopal Church. Join a tour of our campus the third Sunday of the month at 10:15 a.m. to learn more and meet others. Contact Mary Kintz, our Community Connector, at mary.kintz@stpaulscary.org to find out more about us!

Accessibility: St. Paul's strives to make our services and programs comfortable and accessible to all. Ushers and Greeters are available to help. Please let us know how we can work together to improve your experience here.

Kids in Worship at St. Paul's: Children are always welcome in our worship services without exception, but if parents should wish for a space where your kids have more room to move around during the service, you are welcome to make use of the Comfort Room (glassed-in room at the rear of the worship space from which you can still hear and see the service). Ask an usher if you need help finding it. Also, our Kids' Club (free nursery care) is available during the 9 a.m. service, and infants/toddlers through 36 months (3 years old) are welcome to attend.

Children's Chapel: Children 3 years old through 5th grade are invited to process to Children's Chapel during the 9 a.m. service and will return to their families during announcements.

Coffee Hour (Parish Hall): Everyone is invited to join with families during coffee hour (10:15 a.m.) to munch on freshly-baked cookies and make Christmas cards! Enjoy some treats while sharing your creativity with others!

Children's Sunday School - 5th grade and under (Education Building): Classes are not meeting – join us for cookies and card making in the Parish Hall.

Youth Sunday School - 6th thru 12th grade (Youth Wing): Classes are not meeting – join us for cookies and card making in the Parish Hall.

Episcopal Youth Community (EYC): We are not meeting this week. Plan to join us from 5-7 p.m. next Sunday in the Youth Wing.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank You for Your Generous Gifts: We are so energized by your response to our Annual Giving Campaign! We thank you for your heartfelt generosity and commitment to the future of St. Paul's! Pledges continue to come in and are making a difference. We have not yet met our goal to support all our ministries as we hope to, so it's not too late to add to our progress! Pledge forms are available online and in the narthex.

Wednesday Contemplative Services in Advent Now Include a Service at Noon: Join the clergy for contemplative Eucharist services during Advent on Wednesdays, beginning Dec. 3. We will use the readings for Advent as our guide and have ample time for meditation and reflection. We will offer two services: at noon in the church, and at 7 p.m. in the chapel. Please join us for this time of prayer and reflection in the midst of these busy days.

Campus Closures to Facilitate the Rector Search: The Rector Search Committee is excited to be moving into the next phase of our discernment: in-person visits by selected candidates. To ensure confidentiality of the candidates, St. Paul's buildings and grounds will be CLOSED to all parishioners and staff (except search committee members) during periods on Dec. 5-6 and Dec. 11-13; specifics are noted on the parish website. Please work around these dates if you need to be on campus for any reason, unless you have specifically worked out access with Natalie Sroka (natalie@stpaulscary.org).

Prepare the Way, O Zion! An Advent Quiet Day with Julian of Norwich: A Quiet Day is a day set aside for prayer, listening, and honest reflection, allowing for new clarity on life and a widening connection to God. On Dec. 6, from 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. at Church of the Good Shepherd in Raleigh, Fr. Robert, our Associate Interim Rector, will lead retreatants through reflections from the great medieval mystic and theologian, Julian of Norwich. Refreshments and lunch will be provided, as will nursery care. Cost is \$50, and scholarships are available. More information is available in the narthex (lobby) and online. Contact Fr. Robert at robert@stpaulscary.org to register.

St. Nicholas Sunday is Next Week (Dec. 7): St. Nicholas will join us at the 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. services next week! Make sure to bring your gifts to church; gifts that arrive after noon on Sunday will gladly be accepted and used next year. Monetary donations (supporting ministry costs and need-based supplemental gifts) are welcome; please indicate "St Nick" in the memo. Want to do more? Join the behind-the-scenes efforts on Saturday, Dec. 6 at 9 a.m. as we prepare the parish hall for the big sorting event on Sunday. Questions? Contact Colette Hibberd at hibberdfamily@yahoo.com for assistance.

Meet the Agencies Behind St. Nicholas Sunday: Join us for a special forum in the Chapel after the 9 a.m. service on Sunday, Dec. 7 (St. Nicholas Sunday) as we welcome staff from the agencies partnered with our St. Nicholas Ministry. Hear from those who directly support the families about their work and how we are connected. Grab a cup of coffee from the narthex and come greet our guests!

Advent Lessons and Carols: Mark your calendars for Sunday, Dec. 7 at 4 p.m. as the St. Paul's Choir, Voices of St. Paul's and the Bells of St. Paul's present the service of Advent Lessons and Carols, directed by our Directory of Music Ministries, Rusty McKinney, accompanied by Organist, Carol Yeargin. The Bells of St. Paul's will perform a special prelude, and there will be congregational hymns throughout the service. Come join us for an afternoon of beautiful music and scripture readings in the Anglican tradition. A reception follows in the narthex (lobby).

Help Us with Hospitality: Do you love baking, welcoming guests or helping in the kitchen during celebratory seasons? We could use some extra hands for the receptions we are having after Lessons and Carols (Dec. 7) and the Christmas pageant (Dec. 21). Tasks are light and many hands will be involved for both events, we just need to fill in a few gaps. It's a great way to meet new people and make new friends. Contact Mary Kintz, our Community Connector, at mary.kintz@stpaulscary.org if you want to help.

Responding to our Immigrant Neighbors in Need: As we continue to live into our formation series "Love Our Immigrant Neighbors," we are forming a group of community responders who will support one another while engaging in networks serving those in need. We are gathering on Sunday, Dec. 14 from 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. in the Youth Wing to share resources and ideas about what's next. If you have a heart for helping those who are living in fear and you are not sure what to do, please come and share ideas with us. Please bring a bag lunch; drinks will be provided. Contact Lynn Tovar at lztovar@uwalumni.com if you have questions.

Replenishing the Rector's Discretionary Fund: A Rector's Discretionary Fund (RDF), governed by church canon law, is used solely for outreach to individuals in need, inside or outside the parish. The clergy at St. Paul's use this fund to help people pay utility bills, make car and rent payments, pay medical bills, and help with other particular needs. At St. Paul's, this fund is supported by gifts from individuals, not by any regular funding source in the budget. Currently, our fund is quite low, and there are always needs in our community. Please consider donating to the fund, either through the church website (the blue donate button at the top) or by check.

St. Paul's Suncatcher Ornaments: Take a closer look at our St. Nicholas tree and you'll see some of our St. Paul's suncatcher ornaments, available for purchase for just \$8! Use the QR code on the tag or drop the money in the collection plate (note "ornament" in the memo) – all proceeds will become part of the Advent collection, supporting the work of our parish during this time of transition. Add one of these to your St. Nick gift – or your own tree! Get one while supplies last!

Donate a Christmas Poinsettia: Donate a poinsettia to honor the special people in your life! Christmas poinsettia envelopes are available now in the pews. Fill out the envelope with your name and the information about your loved one(s), noting whether it is given in memory of or in thanksgiving for them. Enclose \$35 per plant; drop the envelope in the collection plate or in the office by December 14; plants may be taken home after the 10 a.m. Christmas Day service.

St. Francis Christmas Tree Sale: For 40 years, the Christmas Tree sale at St. Francis United Methodist Church in Cary has been a local holiday tradition, with proceeds supporting the mission and ministries of the church, serving our local community and beyond. We share common ground with St. Francis in many ways, working together through ONE Wake, the Appalachia Service Project (ASP) and our joint support of one another's big events (they love our lobsters). The tree lot is now open. Please consider purchasing a tree or wreath, harvested fresh from western NC, by visiting their lot (2965 Kildaire Farm Rd) or by ordering on their website. Weekend delivery is available.

Prayer List: We pray for Dave, Bob, Ann, Vickie, Ann, Laura, Margaret, Mary, Doug, Guy, Cathy, Jessica, John, Mary, Susan, Noah, Sally, Randy, Regina, Parrish, Jackie, Matias, Yosy, Barb, Peggy, Janet, Austin, Liddy, Mary, Sue, Nancy, Ben, Patrick, Sarah, Chris, Ted, Rania, Hilda, Jim, Tommy, Bonnie, Susan, Melanie, Dave, Chuck, Kay, Claudia, Sharon, Ron, Jack, Caryn, Gary, Max, May, Bryan, Ariell, Josh, Allison, Jan, Herman, Joyce, Carl, Martha, Farley, Jeff, Sandy, Clarence, Susan, Debbi, Ron, Carolyn, Rick, Elizabeth, Myrna, Laura, Ken, Christine, Steve, Craig, Lana, and Claudia.

In the prayers for the deceased, we pray for Sam Seacrest, friend of Kittie Davenport, and Judith Day, former Parishioner.

If you have a name you would like to include on the prayer list, or a ministry event that you would like to announce in this printed bulletin, please send information to announcements@stpaulscary.org. Names included in the prayer list will remain for a month, and we are happy to extend at your request. Please note that there is a 2-week lead time on printed announcements.



St. Paul's Website

Rite Stuff, Copyright © 1999-2014 Church Publishing Incorporated. All rights reserved.
Music reprinted under OneLicense.net A-725331
All music is licensed for broadcast through CCS WORSHIPCast License #9427.

Worship. Serve. Grow.

Church Phone: 919-467-1477 Website: www.stpaulscary.org

The Rev. Sarah Phelps, Interim Rector
The Rev. Robert Fruehwirth, Interim Associate Rector
Dr. Erica Ridderman, Minister for Children, Youth, and Family Formation
The Rev. Candy Snively, Deacon
Russell McKinney, Director of Music Ministries
Carol Yeargin, Organist

x 13 | sarah@stpaulscary.org
x 12 | robert@stpaulscary.org
x 39 | erica@stpaulscary.org
candy.snively@stpaulscary.org
x 15 | rusty.mckinney@stpaulscary.org
carol.yeargin@stpaulscary.org