

Sunday, December 17	
Scripture Readings: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28 Psalm 126 John 3:22-30	
8:00 am	Traditional Service-Church Bldg.
9:00 am	Sunday School
10:15 am	Contemporary Worship-Doar Hall
10:15 am	Traditional Service-Church Bldg.
4:00 pm	Hayride and Caroling
6:00 pm	Pasta Dinner in Skardon
Monday, December 18	
8:00 am	Centering Prayer
10:00 am	AA
10:30 am	Pastoral Care Team Meeting
7:00 pm	Venture Crew
7:00 pm	AA
Tuesday, December 19	
6:30 pm	Cub Scout Pack 730
7:00 pm	Men's Bible Study
Wednesday, December 20	
10:00 am	AA
5:30 pm	Cursillo Reunion Group
7:00 pm	St. Paul's Choir
7:00 pm	AA

Thursday, December 21	
9:30 am	GriefShare
10:00 am	AA
11:00 am	Healing Prayer Service
11:30 am	Al-Anon
5:00 pm	Medical Outreach Clinic
7:00 pm	Boyscout Troop 2
7:00 pm	Divorce Care
Friday, December 22	
All Day	Office Closed
7:00 pm	AA
Saturday, December 23	
7:00 pm	AA
Sunday, December 24	
Scripture Readings: Romans 16: 25-27 Psalm 132:8-19 Luke 13:9-56 (Advent 4)	
8:00 am	Traditional Service - Church Bldg.
5:00 pm	Family Pageant - Doar Hall
7:00 pm	Doar Hall - Christmas Eve Service
11:00 pm	Church Bldg. - Christmas Eve Service



Clergy:

The Rt. Rev. Mark J. Lawrence, <i>Bishop of South Carolina, XIV</i>	
The Rev. Tripp Jeffords, <i>Rector</i>	frtripp@stpaulssummerville.org
The Rev. B. Tyler Prescott, <i>Associate Rector</i>	tylerp@stpaulssummerville.org
The Rev. John Scott, <i>Assistant. Rector</i>	johns@stpaulssummerville.org

Staff:

Kerry Hall, <i>Parish Administrator</i>	kerryh@stpaulssummerville.org
Cathy McGrew, <i>Community Connections Coordinator</i>	cathym@stpaulssummerville.org
Bonnie James, <i>Worship Arts Director</i>	bonniej@stpaulssummerville.org
The Rev. Korey Kincaid, <i>Youth Minister</i>	koreyk@stpaulssummerville.org
Tina Smith, <i>Faith@Home Coordinator</i>	tinas@stpaulssummerville.org
Shelley Fipps, <i>Director of Communications</i>	shelleyf@stpaulssummerville.org
Fleming Moore, <i>Facilities Assistant</i>	flemingm@stpaulssummerville.org
Richard Scott, <i>Organist-Choir Master</i>	richards@stpaulssummerville.org



St. Paul's Summerville
316 W. Carolina Avenue, Summerville, SC 29483
Church Office: 843.873.1991
www.StPaulsSummerville.org
CCLI #335059



The Origin of St. Nicholas

Who is he, where does he come from, and why does he permeate our culture during the season of Advent. St. Nicholas can be traced back to a fourth-century bishop. He was born around 280 A.D. near Myra in modern-day Turkey. Much admired for his piety and kindness, Nicholas became the subject of many legends. It is said that he gave away all of his inherited wealth and traveled the countryside helping the poor, feeding the hungry, healing the sick and caring for the oppressed.

One of the best known stories about St. Nicholas is that he saved three poor sisters from being sold into slavery by their father. St. Nicholas provided them with a dowry so they could be married. Over the course of many years, Nicholas' popularity spread and he became known for his love and care for children. Around him developed the tradition of bearing gifts to children on his feast day December 6, which is still a day for gift giving in much of Europe.

But the ministry of Nicholas extended beyond giving gifts. History tells us that he was persecuted by the Roman authorities and imprisoned for his faith. Later, when Emperor Constantine made Christianity the state religion, Nicholas boldly defended the doctrine of the Trinity at the Council of Nicea.

Dutch settlers brought the legend of St Nicholas, known to them as Sinter Klaas, to America towards the end of the 18th century. As their tradition goes, Sinter Klaas rode a white horse and left gifts in wooden shoes. This story merged with the British character Father Christmas, who dates back at least as far as the 17th century. Sinter Klaas was eventually Americanized to "Santa Claus."

The tradition of Santa Claus goes back to a simple Christian bishop who loved God and loved people through his spirit of unselfish giving. As we prepare to celebrate how God gave His Son, Jesus, to bring hope to the world, may we prayerfully consider how we, like Nicholas, can give of ourselves so that the light of Christ can shine forth into the dark places of our world.

Almighty Father, lover of souls, who chose your servant Nicholas to be a bishop in the Church, that he might give freely the treasures of your grace: make us mindful of the needs of others and, as we have received, so teach us also to give; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

To reserve a cover or if you have a submission for the Sunday News please contact Shelley Fipps the Tuesday before you want the addition.

Biblically minded—Christ centered—Holy Spirit driven

Guests



WELCOME, We're glad you're here!

Date: _____

☐ 8:00 am CB ☐ 10:15 am CB ☐ 10:15 am DH

☐ 1st Time Guest ☐ New to Area

☐ Looking for a church home

☐ Regular Attending Non-Member

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP

HOME PHONE

CELL PHONE

EMAIL ADDRESS

☐ I would like to receive emails from St. Paul's

AGE

__13-19 __20's __30's __40's __50's __60's __70's+

CHILDREN IN ATTENDANCE

NAME

DOB

NAME

DOB

NAME

DOB

I would like more information about:

___ A new life in Christ

___ Membership at St. Paul's

___ LifeGroups

___ ALPHA

___ Other _____

PRAYER REQUESTS & COMMENTS

If you would like your request concerning health, death, or other concerns to be added to our public prayer, please indicate by marking the box. All others will be put on the confidential prayer list for 3 weeks.

Place form in the offering plate or take to our Welcome Table to receive more information and a gift.

MEMBERS

Date:

☐ 8:00 am CB

☐ 10:15 am CB

☐ 10:15 am DH

NAME

SPOUSE

CHILDREN IN ATTENDANCE

NAME

NAME

NAME

CHANGES ONLY

ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP

HOME PHONE

CELL PHONE

EMAIL ADDRESS

☐ I would like to receive emails from St. Paul's.

PRAYER REQUESTS & COMMENTS

If you would like your request concerning health, death, or other concerns to be added to our public prayer, please indicate by marking the box. All others will be put on the confidential prayer list for 3 weeks.

Please place completed form in the offering plate or take to our Welcome Table. Anonymous comments will be discarded.

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

843.873.1991

For more information, visit our website at www.StPaulsSummerville.org

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR THIS MORNING

Welcome to St. Paul’s! We hope to create an atmosphere in which everyone feels welcomed with open arms. Here is the information that you need to know for a successful morning of worship and Sunday School:

• **Worship as a Family (all ages):** At St. Paul’s, we encourage families to worship together on Sunday mornings, therefore children in third grade and older will remain with their parents throughout the service. If you or your children are not used to this, please know that we understand and recognize that it might take time to develop the routine. We’re here to help, so don’t hesitate to ask a priest or Tina Smith about successful family worship.

• **Kids Church** (K3 –2nd grade) starts the same time as "big church" so bring your child to the Worship Center prior to the service start time. There you will find computers to sign in your children. There will be one computer for families attending services in Doar Hall and another for families attending services in the Church building. Please use the appropriate computers. They will print color coordinating name labels so that our little ones are taken to the correct service.

•Once they enter the Worship Center they will find lots of friendly faces welcoming them along with activity centers that will start their lesson time. They will continue with these until the sermons have ended:
✚ If you are attending the Church building service, please pick your child up at the end of the sermon.
✚ If you are attending the Doar Hall service, please look for your child entering the sanctuary and wave to them so they can find you.

Communion—Anyone baptized in the Christian faith is welcome to receive communion at St. Paul’s. **Please note:** The Communion elements consist of real wine and bread or wafers containing wheat. Please ask the bread server for gluten free wafers. Receiving one or the other of the elements is considered participating as fully in the Eucharist as anyone who receives both.

All guests are invited to visit our **Welcome Table** after the service today to receive a gift and information about St. Paul’s.

Giving—Cash and checks may be placed in the offering plates. We have electronic giving centers in Doar Hall for debit and credit cards. St. Paul’s does not want anyone to incur debt in order to give to the Lord. We offer the electronic giving centers as a convenience.

Giving Envelopes—are available for your convenience. You may pick up a pack in the church office, in the back of Doar Hall, or the Church Building.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Today
✚ No Middle School Youth Group

This Week
✚ No High Youth Group until January 3rd

Upcoming Events
✚ Christmas Break: No Youth Groups will meet the weeks of December 17th--31st
✚ High School Youth Group starts up again, Wednesday, January 3rd
✚ Middle School Youth Group starts up again, Sunday, January 7th

To all the parents and youth of St. Paul's, may hope, peace, joy, and love fill your homes and hearts this Advent season. Have a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!
- Korey Kincaid, Director of Youth Ministries

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our guest preacher today is Chaplain Rob Sturdy. Rob is the Anglican Chaplain to the Corps of Cadets at The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina where he leads the St. Alban's Chapel, an Anglican ministry that seeks to proclaim the Gospel message to college students and invite them to become followers of Jesus. Rob came to Christian faith while at The Citadel and is grateful for the opportunity to give back to a place that gave him so much. He is married to Stephanie, his high school sweetheart. They have two children, David and Genevieve.

Many, many thanks to all who participated in the angel tree this year!! Together with St Timothy's, we purchased gifts for 150 children who have been abused or neglected! Thank you for making this Christmas a little brighter for these children!!

Christmas Poinsettias are available for purchase for the Christmas services. There are forms in the back of Doar Hall and the Church Building as well as the church office to pick up. Poinsettias are \$20 and checks can be made out to St. Paul’s. Please place the completed form in the offering plate or deliver it to the church office. Order deadline is **tomorrow**, December 18.

If you would like to reserve the **Christmas Eve/Christmas Day altar roses** in the church building or in Doar Hall to be given in thanksgiving for or in memory of a loved one, please contact Cheryl Cargill, ccargill49@gmail.com or Betty Black, buzzybee493@gmail.com as soon as possible.

Vestry Floor Nominees: St. Paul’s has done its due diligence in submitting nominees for vestry consideration beginning 2018. The process was thorough, prayerful, and transparent. The nominations task force consisted of outgoing vestry members plus members from the parish at-large. Every effort was made to comprise the task force of parishioners from each worship service and from various age groups. We will accept nominations from the floor until Dec. 31. Please get the nominee's permission and make sure any nominees meet the requirements of being confirmed, faithful in prayer, worship, giving, and ministry before submitting them to our parish administrator.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual Hayride and Caroling: Today, December 17 - Children and adults of all ages meet us behind the C/Y building at 4:00 pm for caroling around the neighborhood. At 6:00 pm we will gather in Skardon Hall for an Italian feast. There will also be a cookie decorating station! Make your reservation here: stpaulssummerville.org/hayride. There is a suggested donation of \$5 to save your spot and cover the cost of food for adults. Children eat free! Questions, contact Cathy McGrew.

Polar Express: Friday ,December 22 - We are showing *The Polar Express* on Friday, December 22 on the Plaza at St. Paul's. We will begin the night at 6:30 with s’mores over a campfire. The movie will start at 7:00. Please bring blankets or lawn chairs. Hot chocolate and popcorn will be provided.

Christmas Eve Services: Sunday, December 24 - There are four services on Christmas Eve. Church Building services are at 8:00 am (Advent 4) and 11:00 pm. Doar Hall services are at 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm. The 5:00 service is a an interactive story telling that will be led by Tim Lowry. Every child has an important part to play in it! If your child would like to participate, have them come dressed as a wise man, a shepherd, or any animal. There will be a limited number of costumes on hand that can be borrowed so get creative and pull out those bathrobes and cowboy hats - they're great for wise men and shepherds! There won’t be a dress rehearsal beforehand so come ready to participate! If you do not have a costume please arrive 30 minutes early. There will be a birthday party for Jesus immediately after the service in the Atrium.

Christmas Day: Monday, December 25 - There is a Christmas Day Service in the Church Building at 10:00 am. Join us as we celebrate the birth of our Savior.

New Year’s Eve: Sunday, December 31 - Join us at 8:00 am in the Church Building for our traditional service and at 10:15 am for a combined service of Lessons and Carols in Doar Hall.