



# VOYAGER NEWSLETTER

St. Paul's United Methodist Church  
Coronado, California

December 16th, 2016

## FROM THE PASTORS PEN

I read and appreciated the following thoughts shared at [worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.com](http://worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.com) by Carolyn C. Brown

### Why Children Need to Get to Church on Christmas Eve

In most families Christmas Eve and Day are busy, chaotic times. It is not easy to get a family that includes overly-excited children to church. But, it is worth the effort. Children (and their parents) actually need it. The church helps when it articulates for parents clear reasons to make the effort. Here is my starter list of reasons.

*To hear the story read or told in an important way on the "night it happened"* – Children like hearing the story of their birth on their birthday and celebrating other big events on "the very day it happened." So, the story which may have been acted out in a pageant and discussed in church school and read at home, feels more "real" when read on Christmas Eve or Day in the sanctuary.

*To go to church at night* – These days children are at church most often during the day. To go at night to a decorated, even candle-lit church is almost magical. When the family makes this an important part of Christmas – even in the middle of the chaos – just being there reminds children what is most important about Christmas.

*To be with a crowd telling the story* – Joining church friends in a packed sanctuary reminds children that this story is something bigger than just their family traditions. They are part of a huge family of families who celebrate Jesus' birth.

*To sing the carols at least one more time* – Not many families sing together at home and not many children's groups sing religious carols any more. That means we need to be intentional about singing with the carols with the children. And, who would want to miss singing "Silent Night" in the Christmas Eve sanctuary while hugging your child!

*To create a context in which to discover the truth about Santa* – If Santa is all there is to Christmas Eve once children learn "the truth," Christmas is just a greedy gift grab. But, if Christmas Eve has always circled around the story of Jesus told in the sanctuary, the truth about Santa may 'fit' into that context and the Christmas celebration gets richer.

*To create memories* - Worshiping on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day as a family creates over the years a treasure trove of memories. Some of them shine with wonder. Others make for eye-rolling stories that are retold every Christmas. These memories are precious for both the children as they mature and the parents as they age.

Perhaps you have a few other reasons to add to this list?

To God Alone, Glory!

Pastor Robb

## *Group and Ministry Notes*

### CHILDREN'S BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS



Saturday, December 17th, 3:00-5:00 pm  
PreK-5th grade and Nursery care available  
Youth Volunteers to help are appreciated!

RSVP to Andy Grimaud, [andy.greemo@gmail.com](mailto:andy.greemo@gmail.com), by Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>

### WORSHIP SERVICES CHRISTMAS DAY AND NEW YEAR'S DAY 10:00 AM

We will have one worship service at St. Paul's UMC at 10:00 am on both Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

The Christmas Day Service will be a "Service of Carols and Stories." We will sing a number of our favorite Christmas carols and hear the stories behind the songs.

Our New Year's Worship, along with more favorite Christmas carols, will include the opportunity to begin the year by rededicating ourselves to be faithful disciples of Jesus.

### YEAR END GIVING TO ST. PAUL'S MUCH APPRECIATED

December is a month when people often make year-end gifts that help St. Paul's end the year 'in the black.' Having ended November with a \$29,000 difference between expenses to giving and other income in our Mission and Ministry program, year-end gifts will be especially appreciated!

### ST. PAUL'S YOUTH GROUP NOTES

#### Sunday Mornings for Youth!

9:00am service: Jr. and Sr. High join Liz on the patio at 8:45am for donuts. Receive an interactive 'Worship for Youth' handout and head to worship together.

10:30am service: Jr. and Sr. High join Liz in the Youth Den for Youth Bible Study. We are currently finishing up Acts and will next dive into Paul's letters of the NT.

\*\*\* The next two Sundays there will be no Sunday Mornings for Youth. Please enjoy our Christmas morning and New Years Day morning services with your family in the sanctuary!

#### Merry Christmas Break!

There will be no High School Pizza Lunch or Wednesday Night Youth Groups during our school's break.

Both will resume the first week in January!

Any Youth Questions? Contact Liz Flage.... [lizflage.spyouth@gmail.com](mailto:lizflage.spyouth@gmail.com)

**Group and Ministry Notes (Cont'd)**

**THANK YOU!!!**

**Our Youth Group was able to raise over \$600 from our Recycle-a-Thon and Hot Chocolate fundraisers, creating partial scholarships for 7 campers! Thank you very much for blessing us with your support and generosity! - Liz**

## *Other Notes and Happenings*

### NEW 'HEARING LOOP' INSTALLED

Thanks to the generosity of several St. Paul's members, the 'Hearing Loop' system has been installed. This Assistive Listening system works with hearing aids and cochlear implants that have a 't-coil' setting. We also have 6 transmitters with headphones for people who have some hearing loss\*, but who do not have hearing aids. The headphones can be used by people who have hearing aids without a t-coil.

The system will work in the Narthex, the choir loft, and on both sides of the sanctuary. The hearing loop will not work in the balcony. (\*People who have their own 'ear buds' may use them with the transmitters by unplugging the current headphones and using the earphone jack.) If you have questions, please talk with Charlie Higgins or Pastor Robb. We will be happy to help you understand how to use the 'hearing loop.'

### ST. PAUL'S CONFIRMATION IS COMING JANUARY 2017!

Next year we will begin our 22-week youth confirmation program where we will dive into the fundamentals of our Christian faith to inspire growth and commitment in your youth's faith journey.

**When:** January 9th - June 4th (Monday nights, 6:30pm-7:30pm) with a retreat over President's weekend.

**Cost:** \$40 for curriculum + minor additional retreat cost tbd.

**Who:** Designed specifically for youth in 8th - 9th grade.

(Older youth who wish to participate may do so. Please contact Liz.)

**Register:** Liz Flage, Director of Youth Ministry.... [lizflage.spyouth@gmail.com](mailto:lizflage.spyouth@gmail.com)

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**PRAYER REQUESTS:** *Dick DeCapito, Emily Gruillon, Frank Conlon, Brian Clark, Connie Carrol, Leslie Perlis, Taryn Clement, Carmella Palo, Bob Howard, Bette Decker, Gerry Sawyer, Ann Rutherford, Katie McKnight, Ingrid Payne, Ivey Warren, Lynn Morgan, The Henrich Family, Kel Kraft Casey, Sue McNary, Don Caine, Delma Dickson, Zhao Fu, Linda Nixon, Leslie Nathan, David Buckovetz, Diane Heaten, Mike and Dolores Miller, Teresa, Neil, & Mark Cooper, Al & Maryls Isacson, George Pether*

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The St. Paul's e mail Newsletter will be sent out on Friday each week. We are not the content providers, and thus rely on other groups/ministries to provide content for the newsletter. If you want to have something included, please e mail the announcement/article/pictures to the communications e mail address by Wednesday. Also include instructions about how many weeks that you want it to run

[nadostpauls.communications@gmail.com](mailto:nadostpauls.communications@gmail.com)