

# WEEKLY BULLETIN

2101 WILDWOOD AVENUE, COLUMBUS, GA 31906

## *Third Sunday of Advent*

For over two decades, St. Paul has been blessed by the steady, faithful, and joy-filled leadership of Wayne Martz, who has guided our Music Ministry with excellence and a deep heart for worship. Today, we pause to give thanks for his remarkable service and the countless ways God has worked through him in this congregation.

Under Wayne's direction, children learned to lift their voices with confidence, discovering early that music can shape faith. Adults found choir rehearsals to be a place of fellowship, purpose, and spiritual growth. Week after week, season after season, Wayne has formed choirs not simply to perform, but to worship—reminding us that every note offered to God is an act of praise.

Sacred music has always been a pathway to God's presence. Through Wayne's leadership, anthems have become prayers, harmonies have become testimonies, and the shared breath of singing has drawn us closer to one another and to Christ. His ministry has touched weddings and funerals, Sundays of ordinary time and seasons of deep holiness.

In a few weeks as Wayne concludes his service as Music Director, we give heartfelt thanks for his gifts, his leadership, and his friendship. May God continue to bless his journey, even as the melodies and memories he has shaped continue to bless ours.



Traditional Worship  
8:30 A.M.

Illges Chapel (M250)

Rev. John Fugh, Jr.

*What God Brings: The God Who Comes Close in Chaos*

Judges 6:11-24



Contemporary Worship  
9:00 A.M.

Fellowship Hall (M220)

Rev. Dr. Shane Green

*Let Every Heart*

*(A Weary World Rejoices)*

Luke 1:26-38



Traditional Worship  
11:00 A.M.

Sanctuary (M260)

Rev. Dr. Shane Green

*Let Every Heart*

*(A Weary World Rejoices)*

Luke 1:26-38

Broadcast Live at 11:00

at [stpaulcolumbus.live](http://stpaulcolumbus.live)



During Advent, we use blue paraments to symbolize hope, expectation, and the dawning light of Christ. It points our eyes toward the horizon—like the blue just before sunrise—reminding us that Christ, the Light of the World, is coming.

## EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

**Wayne Martz's Retirement Lunch** will be in the Fellowship Hall after the 11:00 a.m. service **today**. This luncheon will be a time to share memories, express gratitude, and reflect on the impact Wayne has made in the life of our church. We hope you'll help celebrate!

This week, for **Wednesday Night Supper**, we will start our meal with Creamy Potato Soup, then we'll have Ham, Butter Beans, Green Bean Casserole, Sweet Potato Casserole, Rolls, the Salad Bar, and Desserts. Kids, same menu. RSVP [stpaulcolumbus.com/supper](http://stpaulcolumbus.com/supper).

**"Share the Joy!"** We're creating Christmas Eve goodie bags for our firefighters and need candy canes, snack cakes, crackers, nuts, granola bars, and gum. Please bring donations to the church office by December 19. To help deliver bags on Christmas Eve, contact Grace.

All are invited to a **special Christmas celebration by our Children's Choirs, at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 17**, in Room 270 (old CWC). We hope to see you and your family there! RSVP for supper if you are planning to attend: [stpaulcolumbus.com/supper](http://stpaulcolumbus.com/supper).

Thank you to everyone who took part in **Messengers of Love** last Sunday. We have heard such wonderful stories of how the givers and receivers of poinsettias were blessed by each others' company. It is so important to remind unwillingly-absent members that they are loved.

Join us January 9–11, 2026, for a **Marriage Retreat** at Pursell Farms in Sylacauga, AL. We'll have guest speakers, but also time to share great meals and partake in activities the farm has to offer. Reserve your spot today on our website at [stpaulcolumbus.com/events](http://stpaulcolumbus.com/events)!

Members and friends, you're invited to join us for a **journey to Italy, June 2–11!** We'll explore our Christian heritage in some of the world's most breathtaking cities. The cost is \$5,390 per person, and space is limited. Reserve your spot by calling 706-327-7419.

On the third Sunday of Advent we light the **rose candle of Joy**. This signals a lift in the tone of Advent—a reminder that the promise is near. It reflects Paul's words, "Rejoice in the Lord always" (Philippians 4:4).



## PASTORS & PROGRAM STAFF

**Rev. Dr. Shane Green**  
Senior Minister

**Rev. John Fugh, Jr.**  
Associate Minister

**Philip Badcock**  
Church Administrator

**Grace Bailey**  
Director of Christian Education

**Lauren Coleman**  
Administrative Assistant

**Dr. Bruce Getz**  
Broadcast Operations Manager

**Donna Hightower**  
Director of Children's Ministry

**Roy Hightower**  
Assistant to Director of Children's Ministry

**Theresa Holzknecht**  
Communications Director

**Catherine Hutchings**  
Receptionist

**Shannon Land**  
Executive Assistant

**Wayne Martz**  
Director of Music Ministry

**Laura Marvets**  
Director of Youth Ministry

**Cindy Shavers**  
Financial Records & Administration



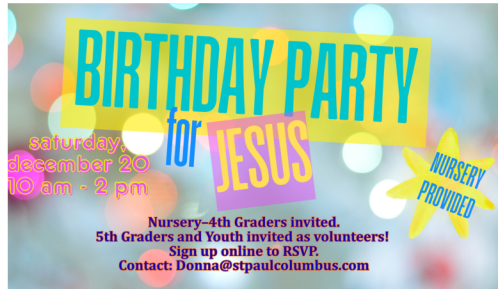
## CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

We will have regular practice tonight in Room 270! Parents, please remember to bring large, wrapped (but empty) Christmas present boxes. Our musical will be **this Wednesday, the 17th at 6:30 p.m.** Invite extended family! Please RSVP for supper if you plan to attend by visiting our website: [stpaulcolumbus.com/supper](http://stpaulcolumbus.com/supper).

Join Us  
for "A  
Christmas  
Yarn"

## KIDMIN MOMENTS

Luke's Gospel begins the nativity story by noting Caesar Augustus' decree that forced people across the Roman Empire—including Mary and Joseph—to travel to their ancestral towns for registration. Despite the long and difficult journey to Bethlehem, especially with Mary nearing childbirth, the couple arrived only to find no room available. There, in humble surroundings, Mary gave birth to Jesus and laid him in a manger. Jesus' birth unfolds in simplicity and hardship, reminding us that God enters the world in the most unexpected and humble places.



Our **Birthday Party for Jesus** will be on December 20, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Join us for this day of celebration! Youth, you are being asked to serve and volunteer. Please go to our events page to sign up.

Parents of Confirmands, our **Confirmation Class** will travel to Epworth By the Sea on St. Simons Island from January 30 to February 1. The group will leave St. Paul on Friday at 12:30 p.m. and spend the weekend "living out" their faith by learning Wesley's Rules for Living.

## SPY MINISTRY

No SNY tonight—use the evening to rest and prepare for exams. Join us next Sunday, Dec. 21, from 5:30–7:30 p.m. in the Youth Building for the SPY Christmas Party! Bring a \$10 white elephant gift, and parents, please sign up in GroupMe or on Instagram to bring a breakfast dish for our potluck dinner. We can't wait to celebrate together!



Sunday, December 14  
8:30 AM Traditional Worship (M250)  
9:00 AM Contemporary Worship (M220)  
9:30 AM Weekly Communion (M260)  
10:00 AM Bridges SS Class (M235)  
10:00 AM Disciple 1 Bible Study (Library)  
10:00 AM Foundry Class (Y101)  
10:00 AM High School Youth SS Class (Y104)  
10:00 AM Middle School Youth SS Class (Y106)  
10:00 AM New Life SS Class (Y102)  
10:00 AM Seekers Class (M234)  
10:00 AM Wesley/Miller-Wilson Class (M232)  
10:00 AM Wildwood Class (M150)  
11:00 AM Traditional Worship (M260)  
12:00 PM Wayne Martz's Retirement Lunch (M220)  
2:00 PM Spring Harbor Worship (Off Campus)  
5:30 PM Children's Choirs (M235)

Monday, December 15  
1:30 PM Staff Meeting (M203)  
5:30 PM Administrative Council Meeting (M232)

Tuesday, December 16  
11:30 Safehouse Christmas Luncheon (7200 Manor Rd.)  
4:00 PM Spring Harbor Bible Study (Off Campus)

Wednesday, December 17  
6:00 PM Family Night Supper (M220)  
6:30 PM Children's Christmas Musical (Old CWC)

Friday, December 19  
11:00 AM Preschool Cookies and Carols (M220)

Saturday, December 20  
10:00 AM Birthday Party for Jesus (Y210)  
5:00 PM Stellarum Concert (M260)



**Today's Sunday School Lesson  
for Preschool and Elementary  
Children**

**Jesus' Story (Luke 2:1-7)**

**Anchor Point – We celebrate the  
birth of Jesus.**

**Say the Bible verse together:**

**“A child is born to us.” (Isaiah  
9:6)**

**Questions for family discussion:**

- What are some of the names Jesus was given?
- Which is your favorite name for Jesus?
- What do you think John meant when he called Jesus The Word?
- How do you think you would have felt if you were living when Jesus was born?

**Prayer:**

**Thank you God for loving us and  
sending Jesus to be our savior.  
Amen.**

**SERVING THIS WEEK**

- (8:30) Acolytes: Haley Alexander and Edee Portillo
- (11:00) Acolytes: Gigi Gudger and Susie Gudger
- Cross Bearer: Mary Ellen Lane
- Acolyte Helper: Sara Carver

**ALTAR GUILD**

- Sanctuary, Chapel, and Fellowship Hall: Alice Douglas, Dana Freeman, Michelle Caves, Melissa Martin, Anna Flournoy, Dori Jones, Liz Lampton, Sandy Coolik, Jenny Swift, Angela Springer, Beth Burgin, Martha Hatcher, Caroline Laney, Cally Dixon, Donna Hand, Sally Tebeau, and Katie Parker
- Delivery: Mimi Copelan and Susan Middlebrooks

**USHERS**

- (8:30) Ken Crumpler, Stan Copelan
- (11:00) Joe Bridges (lead), Brent Parker, Vaughn Bray, Mason Lampton

The flowers on the Sanctuary Altar are given to the glory of God and in celebration of **Austin Gower's** December birthday.

Our Christian love and heartfelt sympathy is extended to Frank Tommey and his family in the loss of his father, **Donald Tommey**, on December 2, 2025.

---

## **MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS**

### ***Safehouse Ministry***

In honor of **Ken Crumpler**

In honor of **Stan Copelan**

- both by Sharon Bunn and Carol Henderson

### ***Wynnton Neighborhood Network***

In memory of **Frankie Alexander**

- by Harriette Cavender

In honor of **Judge W.M. Rambo**

In honor of **Dr. Billy Harper**

In honor of **Mike Jackson**

- all by Alice Douglas

---

**There will be a Safehouse Luncheon on December 16 at 11:30 am at 7200 Manor Road. We will need at least 10 volunteers to bring desserts or serve the Christmas meal. Please contact Dr. Joe Morrow at 706-332-9314 to help.**

**Stellarum** will return to St. Paul to treat us for the holidays with a program entitled *O Magnum Mysterium!* **They will sing on Saturday, December 20, at 5:00 p.m.** in the Sanctuary. Join us for an enchanting night of “Eight voices, one heart,” that will surely bring us into the Spirit of Christmas.

Please keep our **Music Ministry Search Committee** in your prayers as they discern the next leader to guide and inspire our worship through music. Pray for wisdom, unity, and clarity as they continue to interview candidates and listen for the Spirit's direction. May God prepare both our church and the person(s) God is calling to this vital ministry of praise.

St. Paul Church Bulletin published weekly, except Christmas and New Year's (U.S.P.S. No. 516560)

Published weekly by St. Paul Church, 2101 Wildwood Ave., Columbus, Georgia 31906. Periodicals postage paid at Columbus, Georgia 31908.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to St. Paul Church, 2101 Wildwood Ave., Columbus, GA 31906.



# ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 14, 2025  
11:00 a.m. Traditional Service

## *Third Sunday of Advent*

**The Chiming of the Hour**

**The Welcome & Announcements** .....Rev. John Fugh, Jr.

**The Choral Call to Worship**.....*Prepare the Way of the Lord*

**The Cross and Flame Come to the Altar**

**The Prelude**.....*In The Bleak Midwinter*, arr. A.L.Page | The St. Paul Handbell Choir

**The Hymn of Celebration**.....*Joy to the World* (#246)

**The Affirmation of Faith** .....*The Apostles' Creed* (#881)

**The Gloria Patri**

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.*

**The Lighting of the Advent Wreath**.....Frances and Robbie Raybon Family

**Advent Reader:** *“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.” Luke 1:46–47.*

**Advent Reader:** *Today we light the Candle of Joy.*

**Congregation:** ***Though we grow weary, hope still stirs within us.***

**Advent Reader:** *Mary’s “yes” reminds us that surrender can become song.*

**Congregation:** ***We light this candle to declare that the weary world can still rejoice. “A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices...”***

**Chancel Choir Response:** *Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices...O night divine, O night when Christ was born!*

**The Sacrament of Infant Baptism**.....Campbell Linden Bass (see insert)

**The Pastoral Prayer with the Lord’s Prayer**.....Rev. Fugh

**The Leader:** *Let Us Worship God with His Tithes and Our Offerings.*

**The Offertory Prayer**.....Rev. Fugh

**The Offertory**.....*Wachet Auf*, by J.S. Bach

Flute - Jeanne Martz, Harpsichord - Wayne Martz

**The Doxology**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below: praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**The Scripture Lesson**.....Luke 1:26-38

**Leader:** *The Word of God for the People of God.*

**Congregational Response:** *Thanks be to God.*

**The Passing of the Peace**

**Leader:** *The Peace of Christ be with you.*

**Congregational Response:** *And also with you.*

**The Welcome and Registration of Attendance**

*(Children ages 3 through Second Grade are dismissed at this time to go downstairs to the Pre-K/Kindergarten room for a Birthday Party for Jesus.)*

**The Anthem**.....*Come, Emmanuel*, by D. Besig

**The Sermon**.....*Let Every Heart*, Rev. Dr. Shane Green

**The Hymn of Consecration**.....*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* (#224)

**The Cross and Flame Go Before Us into the World**

**The Choral Benediction and Amen**.....*Go Now in Peace*

**The Postlude**.....*From Heaven Above to Earth I Come*, by J.S. Bach

**The Church Returns to His World to Serve Him**