

WEEKLY BULLETIN

2101 WILDWOOD AVENUE, COLUMBUS, GA 31906

In January, the start of the new year always presses us toward thoughts of beginnings—fresh calendars, new commitments, hopeful restarts. It is fitting that the Church's calendar anchors this time of the year with the naming of Jesus, a reminder that the true beginning of Christian life is not our resolution but God's declaration.

Before Jesus ever spoke a word, he was given a name that means *Yahweh saves*. Furthermore, before he performed a single act of ministry, that name was confirmed as he came up out of the water following his baptism. New beginnings for God's people always start with God's initiative, not ours.

Luke reminds us that Jesus received His name on the eighth day, a biblical symbol of new creation. In Jesus, God begins again with humanity by writing restoration into our story even before we know how to ask for it. Christian renewal, then, is not about personal achievement but about surrendering to the One who names us and calls us His own.

As you begin a new year, consider that God has given you a name: Beloved, Redeemed, Chosen, Called. Much of the spiritual life is learning to live from the identity God gives rather than the identities we try to earn. When this truth sinks in, the year ahead becomes less about striving and more about receiving.

We, the St. Paul staff, look forward to this new year and what will become. We pray for all the ways that God's Kingdom will break forth bringing peace and wholeness. As we step into this new day, let us do so with a holy expectation and embrace who we are in Christ.



Traditional Worship

8:30 A.M.

Illges Chapel (M250)

Rev. John Fugh, Jr.

Choosing the Better Part

Luke 10:38-42

Contemporary Worship

9:00 A.M.

Fellowship Hall (M220)

Rev. John Fugh, Jr.

Choosing the Better Part

Luke 10:38-42

Traditional Worship

11:00 A.M.

Sanctuary (M260)

Rev. John Fugh, Jr.

Choosing the Better Part

Luke 10:38-42

Broadcast Live at 11:00

stpaulcolumbus.live

White and gold are used this Sunday as we observe The Baptism of the Lord in the season after Epiphany. White symbolizes divine light and purity as we celebrate Jesus' baptism and the beginning of his public ministry. Gold reflects Christ's glory and kingship, echoing Epiphany's theme of Jesus revealed to the world.

EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Beginning January 18, St. Paul will offer relationship-building classes called Strengthening Our House during the Sunday School hour in the Fellowship Hall. Led by counselors Amy Buchanan and Erin Harkey, these sessions will focus on nurturing and strengthening healthy relationships. Don't miss this opportunity for Christian growth—and feel free to invite friends! Dates and topics are listed below:

RETREAT WEEKEND at Pursell Farms (January 9-11) SUBSEQUENT SUNDAY SESSIONS (dates below)

1. Session 1 (January 18) - Sound Relationship House, Trust & Commitment
2. Session 2 (January 25) - Managing Conflict
3. Session 3 (February 1) - Sex & Intimacy
4. Session 4 (February 8) - Dreams & Shared Meaning
5. Session 5 (February 15) - Recap & Review

Family Night Supper begins Wednesday, January 14. Our menu will be Fried Chicken and Rotisserie Chicken, Green Beans, Mac-n-Cheese, Rolls, the Salad Bar, and various Desserts. It will be a fun night of Bingo!

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.

We have important retreats coming up for St. Paul Kids and St. Paul Youth. The 6th Grader's Confirmation Class Retreat, at **Epworth By the Sea**, will be January 30 - February 1. Please see Mrs. Donna Hightower with any questions. Also, we have our **SPY Winter Ski Retreat** to Ghent, West Virginia, from February 26–March 1. Please look for updates from Mrs. Laura Marvets.

St. Paul Preschool has opened registration for the 2026 Summer Session and the 2026-27 School Session. You may register a child at stpaulcolumbus.com/preschool.

Part-Time Custodian Needed

St. Paul is seeking a dependable part-time custodian to assist with general building care and occasional kitchen support. Duties are flexible and varied. For more information, please contact Philip Badcock at 706-327-7419.

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

Laura Marvets
Director of Youth Ministry

Cindy Shavers
Financial Records & Administration

KIDMIN MOMENTS

Come to the River: John the Baptist was born to help people get ready for Jesus. He taught others to turn back to God and baptized them in the Jordan River. When John baptized Jesus, God spoke from heaven and said that Jesus is His beloved Son. John's special job was to point people to Jesus and help them recognize who He truly is.



The children discovered the Brick Bible in the St. Paul library and were happily reading it!



The story of John the Baptist baptizing Jesus.

Also, just a reminder that Children's Choirs will start back Feb. 1.

SPY MINISTRY

Youth Reflection Sunday is tonight! Join us for this annual event, a beloved tradition! Students will reflect on the past year, respond to questions, and write a letter to their future selves. These letters are saved and returned to our students when they graduate as seniors—a meaningful moment you won't want to miss. Split SNY is back tonight...

- Middle School: 5:00–6:00 p.m.
- Snack Supper: 6:00 p.m.
- High School: 6:30–7:30 p.m.

And Save the Date for the Winter Ski Retreat 2026!
February 26 – March 1, 2026

Sunday, January 11

- 8:30 AM Traditional Worship (M250)
- 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship (M220)
- 9:30 AM Weekly Communion (M260)
- 9:50 Confirmation Class Visit to Greek Orthodox Church (Off Campus)
- 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)
- 2:00 PM Spring Harbor Worship (Off Campus)
- 5:00 PM Middle School SNY (Y210)
- 6:00 PM SNY Snack Supper (M220)
- 6:30 PM High School SNY (Y210)

Monday, January 12

- 1:30 PM Staff Meeting (M203)

Tuesday, January 13

- 10:00 AM Tuesday Morning Bible Study (M232)
- 11:00 AM Grace Bible Study (M234)
- 4:00 PM Spring Harbor Study (Off Campus)

Wednesday, January 14

- 6:00 PM Family Night Supper (M220)
- 7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (M260)

Thursday, January 15

- 6:30 AM Thursday Morning Men's Bible Study (M232)
- 8:00 AM Program Staff Meeting (M203)
- 9:30 AM Preschool Mom's Bible Study (M234)
- 5:30 PM CHS Sideline Cheer Team Banquet (M220)

TODAY'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON FOR PRESCHOOL AND ELEMENTARY CHILDREN

Come to the River (Matthew 3:13-17)

Anchor Point – Jesus is God's Son.

Say the Bible verse together:
"God so loved the world that he gave his only Son." (John 3:16)

Questions for family discussion:

- Do you think it would be fun to live in the desert and eat locusts?
- What do you think locusts taste like?
- Why do you think John was chosen to prepare the way for the Lord?
- Why did Jesus need to be baptized?
- Why should we be baptized?

Prayer:

Dear God, we love you, and we find happiness in you. Amen.

Epiphany celebrates Christ revealed to the world—light shining to the nations, wisdom recognized, and glory made known. "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." Psalm 119:105

"We walk by faith, not by sight."

2 Corinthians 5:7

SERVING THIS WEEK

- (8:30) Acolytes: Bennett Fields and Louise Fowler
- (11:00) Acolytes: Parker Varner and Rob Springer
- Acolyte Helper: Sara Carver

ALTAR GUILD

- Delivery: Mimi Copelan and Susan Middlebrooks

USHERS

- (8:30) Ken Crumpler, Stan Copelan
- (11:00) Mike Gill (lead), Philip Park, Austin Gower, Ben Hubbard, John Cochran, John O'Connor



The flowers on the Sanctuary Altar today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of **Faith Curran** by her son, Jonathan Curran.



Our heartfelt love and Christian sympathy is extended to Brad Mullins in the passing of his father, **William Mullins** on November 30, 2025.

Our heartfelt love and Christian sympathy is extended to Julia Culpepper and her family in the loss of her sister, **Kate Noury**, on December 19, 2025.

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

Building Fund

In memory of **Rudi Pierson**

- by Leslie Anne and Scott Jones

General Fund

In honor of **Rev. Dr. Shane Green**

In honor of **Rev. John Fugh, Jr.**

In honor of **the St. Paul Staff**

- all by Belle Brightwell and Tom Ford IV

In honor of **Rev. John Fugh, Jr.**

In honor of **Mrs. Grace Bailey**

- both by Jonathan Curran (to support his favorite people.)

Missions Fund

In honor of **Rev. Dr. Shane Green's Tuesday**

Morning Bible Study

In honor of **Lynn Meadows-White**

In honor of **Joyce Johnson**

In honor of **Nancy Weekley**

- all by Kay and Crow Gudger

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

January 11, 2026
11:00 a.m. Traditional Service

The Chiming of the Hour

The Welcome & AnnouncementsMrs. Grace Bailey

The Choral Call to Worship.....*This is the Day*, by D. Moore

The Cross and Flame Come to the Altar

The Prelude*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*, by Neander/Herren; arr. M. Hayes

The Hymn of Celebration.....*Be Still, My Soul* (#534)

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 Pastoral Prayer with the Lord's Prayer.....Mrs. Bailey

*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,
forever. Amen.*

Hymn of Preparation.....*Open My Eyes, That I May See* (#454)

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

The Offertory Prayer.....Mrs. Bailey

The Offertory..*Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross*, by Crosby/Doane; arr. M. Hayes

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 10:38-42

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

The Children's Moment.....Mrs. Laura Marvels

(After the Children's Moment, ages K4-2nd graders are dismissed to go to Children's Church, Room M235; children 3 and younger are taken to the nursery by parents.)

The Anthem.....*Who At My Door is Standing*, by K. Lee Scott

The Sermon.....*Choosing the Better Part*, Rev. John Fugh, Jr.

The Hymn of Consecration.....*Take My Life, and Let it Be* (#399)

The Cross and Flame Go Before Us into the World

The Choral Benediction.....*Twofold Amen*, by C. Franck

The Postlude.....*Hope of the World*, by Harkness/Copes

The Church Returns to His World to Serve Him