

**THIRD SUNDAY IN
ADVENT**

1

11 December 2011
11:00 am

Bishop

Mary Virginia Taylor

District Superintendent

Dr. Charles Johnson

Pastor

Rev. Murray A. Snow
murray.snow@gmail.com
Cell: 864-414-8864

Director of Music

William H. Searcy, Jr.

Ushers

Captains:

Troy Gamble
Rebecca Roper

Ushers:

Young Adults

Counters:

Calvin Bostic
Troy Gamble



MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of Saint Paul United Methodist Church is to be the people of God who praise God in worship, celebrating God's love and healing presence in Jesus Christ. We are called to be signs of hope and healing to all people in our community and the world, reaching out in ministries of love, compassion and care as we seek to follow the example of Jesus Christ.

Saint Paul United Methodist Church

In the Historic West End

1107 South Main Street
Greenville, South Carolina 29601

Office: 864.235.3494
saintpaulumc1107@bellsouth.net
www.saintpaulumc.net

The Order of Worship

Let the people be in silent meditation and prayer upon entering the Sanctuary

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

*PRELUDE “*Away in a Manger*” ... James Murray

*LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

*CALL TO WORSHIP “*Worthy of Worship*” Choir and Congregation

“*Worthy of worship, worthy of praise, Worthy of honor and glory;
Worthy of all the glad songs we can sing, Worthy of all of the offerings we bring.
You are worthy, Father, Creator, You are worthy, Savior, Sustainer.
You are worthy, worthy and wonderful; Worthy of worship and praise.*”

*GREETING

The Spirit of God is upon us,
because God has anointed us.

God sends us to preach good news to the poor,
**to heal the heartbroken, announce freedom to all captives,
and pardon all prisoners.**

God sends us to announce the year of God’s grace.

**To celebrate God’s love and to comfort all who mourn,
to give them bouquets of roses instead of ashes,
to give messages of joy with praising hearts to the glory of God.** ²

*INVOCATION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us pray . . .

*HYMN NO. 203

“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Let us Pray: Gracious God, we offer you thanks and praise for this season of anticipation, this season of Advent. As we prepare for the birth of your son, we share our tithes and offerings with the joy and excitement that is common as one anticipates the birth of a new child. Bless these gifts in your Holy Name. Amen.³

OFFERTORY “When Christmas Morning is Dawning” ... German Carol

*THE DOXOLOGY, Hymnal 95 “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

CHILDREN’S MOMENTS

PASTORAL PRAYER / THE LORD’S PRAYER

EPISTLE LESSON Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11

THE ANTHEM “Star of Advent” ... Pepper Choplin

*GOSPEL LESSON John 1:6–8, 19–28

SERMON “Identity”

*HYMN NO. 240 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

*BENEDICTION “The Lord Bless You and Keep You” Choir and Congregation

“May the Lord bless you and keep you. May his light be always in thee.
May he keep you safe from harm, Give shelter from the storm,
May he grant you, May he grant you, his peace, Amen.”

*POSTLUDE “Once in Royal David’s City” ... Henry Gautitt

¹ beverlycovenantchurch.org

²Eugene H. Peterson, *The Message : The Bible in Contemporary Language*, Is 61:1–3 (Colorado Springs, Colo.: NavPress, 2002). (Altered for Greeting - M, Snow 12-5-11)

³ Copyright © 2008 David S. Bell Any local church, regardless of denominational affiliation, or any United Methodist organization may reprint any or all of these prayers provided that the author is cited..

CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS: This year we will continue the tradition of making a Christmas donation in memory of or in honor of someone special to you to be listed in the bulletin on December 18 and December 25. Although you may designate your gift for any special Fund or Organization, our Shepherd Fund at Saint Paul is always in need of funds. Because of the generosity of Saint Paul UMC, this year we have been able to provide help (through United Ministries) with rent, utilities, food, etc. to 14 families who needed aid due to problems in their lives. We have also been able to help several others outside United Ministries. Whatever you designate for your gift, it will be put to good use in our community. We will be sure that the gifts are directed to your choice.

Moravian Love Feast: On Sunday, December 18th, at 5:00 p.m., we will celebrate Christmas at Saint Paul with a Moravian Love Feast. The Moravian Love Feast Service comes from the tradition of the Moravian Church to gather and break bread to celebrate and affirm the Unity of Christians as brothers and sisters in Christ. During the Love Feast, a small meal of a bun and a mug of coffee is served. Christmas Carols and Anthems are sung by the Congregation, Special Choirs and Soloists. The Christmas Love Feast is the most special with the addition of candles which are lit at the end of the Service as a reminder of the Light of Christ's Love. A Dessert Reception will follow the Service in the Fellowship Hall. The Methodists have ties with the Moravians. John Wesley made an Atlantic Ocean Crossing with the Moravians and was very impressed by the strong faith they displayed when their ship almost sank in a particularly bad storm. It was Peter Bohler, a Leader of that Moravian group, who told Wesley he must preach faith until he got faith. Wesley took part in a Moravian Love Feast in 1783 and introduced it to his fellow Methodists the following year.

In Your Prayers, Please Remember: Friends serving in the Armed Services: Michael Abowd, John Broom, and Dylan O'Neal, and Michael Gravelly, Travis Scott and Paul. (all deployed to Afghanistan), Carroll Anthony, Cliff Belcher, Kiele Binsted, Calvin Bostic, Zonelle Boykin, Bill and Joe-Ellen Brockman, Ann Brown, Randy and Linda Burchet, Connie Cox, Lilli Curry, Virginia Dowis, Beverly Everett, Don Everett, Blaine Frazier, Travel Mercies for Galina and Nikolai, Eva Gillespie, Luke Gilliam, Louise Gilstrap, Rev. Enrique Gordon, Courtney Dobson Grass, Walt Hawkins, Jimmy Head, **Pam Head**, Martha Jameson, Kristina Kimbrell, Pat Larson, Al Lupo, Dot and "Mac" MacMillan, Buddy Miller, Karsyn Miller, Roy Patterson, Rhonda Pearson, Jimmy Senn, Nancy Sizemore, David and Madeline Snow, Susan Snow, Jane Snyder, Linda Terminato, Eric Thrasher, Belvin and Georgia Ware, Hazel Welborn, Jennifer Wham, the victims of recent earthquakes, storms, floods and tornados, the people in all countries experiencing disasters and the United States of America and our leaders. Names are kept on the Prayer List for 4 weeks. If you wish to keep a name on the list after 4 weeks or to add a new name, please notify the office. **Bold** = New Addition, *Italics* = Currently in Hospital