

---

# St. Paul's Red Door Chronicle

---

Volume 12, Issue 11

December 2010

---

From the Rector:

It's Christmas time, there's no need to be afraid  
At Christmas time, we let in light and we banish shade  
And in our world of plenty, we can spread a smile of joy!  
Throw your arms around the world at Christmas time  
But say a prayer - pray for the other ones  
At Christmas time it's hard, but when you're having fun  
There's a world outside your window  
And it's a world of dreaded fear  
Where the only water flowing is a bitter sting of tears  
And the Christmas bells that ring there are the clanging chimes of doom  
Well tonight, thank God it's them instead of you.  
Band Aid, "Do They Know It's Christmas Time", 1984.

Some of you will remember the 25-year-old recording from which the above lyrics are taken. A famine had struck Ethiopia, and a number of famous British rock stars formed the group Band Aid to record "Do They Know It's Christmas Time" to benefit the victims. I have to admit that we joked about the song a bit during college; it was just so "preachy", particularly U2 front man Bono's dramatic, moralistic solo line: "Well tonight, thank God it's them instead of you." We all knew—or thought we knew—that Christmas was a time for giving to others and we didn't need to be guilted into it! Some of our sentiments were confirmed three years ago by The A.V. Club (which, for those who aren't hipsters, is the pop culture section of the satirical Onion newspaper), when they ranked the song "number one" in their list of morally dubious holiday entertainments.

But then again, maybe we weren't all as charitable as we thought. It's easy to say that Christmas is a time to reach out to those less fortunate, but it's harder to practice what we preach. This isn't because we're rotten, but because it's so easy to get caught up in our own preparations—buying gifts for our friends and family, planning the Christmas dinner, arranging the million watt light and sound spectacular in our front yards—that we can forget about those for whom Christmas is anything but jolly. There is, of course, nothing wrong with our personal or family preparations, but we've got to be careful not to get so wrapped up as to forget those less fortunate.

Consider the mystery that is at the heart of Christmas. The Doctrine of the Incarnation is not primarily about a cute baby in a manger surrounded by shepherds and animals, even though those are the historical accidents surrounding the theological point. The Doctrine of the Incarnation is about the Good News of God's own *condescension*, His willingness to become truly, bodily present in a dirty, sin-sick world. For us, then, the question at the heart of Christmas is whether we can get ourselves to those dirty, sin-sick places that God Himself deemed worthy of His own presence. When we permit the Grace of God to be present in our own lives and to be felt by those for whom that Grace is most needful, we will not just *know* the real meaning of Christmas; we will be *living* it.

Yours in service to the Gospel,  
John+

## WEDDING OF MEGAN IVES & MATT BONNAR

The Parish is invited to the wedding of Megan Ives and Matt Bonnar. The wedding will be here at St. Paul's on Sunday, December 19th at 4:30pm. A reception will be held at Elizabeth's. All are invited.

## CHRISTMAS EVE

*CHRISTMAS EVE at St Paul's:*

**5:00 PM** – The “family” celebration for young and old, who like an informal celebration and carols.

**11:00 PM** – The full choir will lead us in the festal celebration.

Either of our Christmas Eve celebrations will bless us by the beauty of the decorated church and the carols of the season, mixed with the people who touch us with Christian faith.

### ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS

We will have our traditional Lessons & Carols liturgy on Sunday, December 12th at 10:30am.

## 2011 PLEDGES

If you have not turned in your pledge card, there is still time. Pledges serve as a key component in our process of budgeting for 2011.

### DEADLINE FOR 2010 DONATIONS: NOON ON DECEMBER 31

Checks **must be received** by noon on December 31, in order for them to be recorded as donations for 2010. Checks received in the office or through the postal service after December 31 will be recorded as donations for 2011.

## CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL FLOWERS AND GREENERY

The **deadline** for inclusion of memorials and thanksgivings in the Christmas Bulletin is **Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**. Please complete the form found in this newsletter or in the weekly bulletin and return to the office by the deadline.

### GREENING OF THE CHURCH 4:00 PM THURSDAY DECEMBER 23

#### HOW ARE WE DOING?

**Average Cost Per Week  
to Operate St. Paul's: ..... \$4,645.19**

**Pledge/Plate Giving Per Week:**  
Oct 31-Nov 6 ..... \$6034.22  
Nov 7-Nov 13 ..... \$1940.00  
Nov 14-Nov 20 ..... \$2288.44

**Average Giving Per Week: \$3420.89**

#### USHER SCHEDULE December 2010

5– Jim Cargill & David Wade  
12– Pat Mulick & Tim Lindblom  
19– Pam Skinner & Bill Olson  
24– Lee Conditt & Pat Mulick  
24– Alan Bufford & Dwight Ford  
26– Gary & Alex Perkey



# Christmas Memorial

## Flowers & Greenery

The deadline for inclusion of memorials in the Christmas Bulletin is Friday, December 17. Your help in returning the following form on time is greatly appreciated.

Persons memorialized:

Donor:

Some prefer their gift to be designated as a thank offering; include those here.

Thank offering for:

Donor:

Please mail these to the church office at P.O. Box 2255 or you may place them in the alms basin. Please denote on your check "Christmas Memorial."

