

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR DECEMBER 24, 2016**

### **PLEASE PRAY FOR:**

- the family of Lynn Hoyt (Leslie Truman's uncle who passed away this week)

**THERE WILL BE NO SUNDAY SCHOOL OR SERVICES ON DECEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup>, CHRISTMAS DAY.** There will be two services on Christmas Eve—Family Christmas Eve at 5 pm and Candlelight Communion at 11 pm.

**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED DECEMBER 26-30.**

**THERE WILL BE ONE COMBINED SERVICE AT 11a.m. JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup>.** There will be no Children's Sunday School January 1<sup>st</sup>.

**CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL** resumes January 8<sup>th</sup>.

**CANDLELIGHT TOUR OF HOMES UPDATE** Another Candlelight Tour of Homes is history, and the 36<sup>th</sup> edition which was held two weekends ago was a great success! We hosted over 1,000 visitors for the tour on Saturday and Sunday nights combined. The weather was perfect, the Artists' Market was beautiful, the tour stops were wonderful, and the spirit of the season was evident everywhere. A big thanks goes out to all those who made it possible: the hardworking members of the tour committee, the many volunteers who worked during the tour, those of you who helped decorate the sanctuary, and those of you who enjoyed the tour. We couldn't have done it without everyone participating, as this is truly a community event. The revenues and expenses are still being calculated, so look for a final report to be provided soon.

**CHILDREN'S HOME CHRISTMAS PROJECT UPDATE** Once again St. Paul made the Children's Home Christmas Project a great success. We easily surpassed our goal of raising more than \$1,000.00 in gifts and monetary contributions for Charlotte and her children. Most of the items that were on Charlotte's, Malik's, Taleeia's, and TJ's wish lists were contributed. In addition, more than \$800.00 was donated in cash, checks, and gift cards. With some of the money we purchased a tablet for Charlotte, a small laptop for Damian, and a small tablet for Mekhi. With the remaining money we purchased additional gift cards. Thanks to your generosity Charlotte and her children will have a very special first Christmas in their new home. This project has become a big part of our Christmas celebration every year. We look forward to doing the same thing next year. Thank you St. Paul for your generous spirit at this special time of the year.

**SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS** Have you thought you might like to participate in worship by reading the scripture lesson? Would you like to greet people as they arrive and help seat them? Like to tell children's stories? Would you bring refreshments to be shared after the service? On any Sunday, there are a number of volunteer positions you could fill:

Liturgist

Usher

Acolyte

Children's Homilist

Loving Childcare

Altar Guild

Coffee, Cookies and Conversation

Offering Counter

If you would like to join one or more of these ministries in the new year, please let the office know as soon as possible. If you have been serving in any of these ministries, but would like to make a change or take a rest, please let the office know that as soon as possible. Training will be provided where needed.

**ST. JOHN THE WONDERWORKER ORTHODOX CHURCH** is in need of new and used blankets, shoes, socks, and jackets to distribute to area homeless people as the weather becomes colder. Please remember them as you sort through your winter items in the coming weeks. Please bring your donations to the church office.