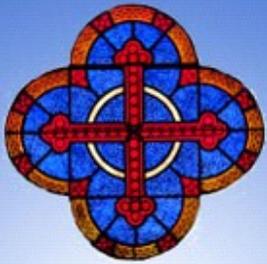


St. Paul's



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
DECEMBER 2012

The Messenger

A Message from our Transition Priest-in-charge:

Advent is a time of waiting, at least that is what our Scripture readings tell us. Prepare the way, make the path clear, wait. Yet, how can we be expected to wait patiently, resting in the peace and holiness of that waiting, when the world swirls around us? The pace of change is incredible, for many the end of the year brings many challenges, and then we add our desire to make Christmas a joyous and memorable time for our families and our friends—how can we wait?



I love the season of Advent. The shorter days gather us in the warmth of our homes. The vibrant colors of fall give way to the simplicity of bare branches and occasional white blankets of snow. The world of nature supports us in our waiting.

The gift of waiting is that as we wait we live in the present. We aren't concerned about the past, and we aren't looking into the future. We discover God, we discover Jesus Christ in our lives today, as we live in the present—in the moments between events, in the flash of a realization before something we've waited for begins. Christ is within us and we only need to be aware of the present moment to know and feel that holy presence.

Paula Gooder, in her book *The Meaning is in the Waiting; the spirit of Advent*, writes: *If we are able, during Advent, to relearn the skill of waiting, then it will have value not only for Advent and Christmas, but for the whole of our lives. Advent offers us a gift of such importance that it is life transforming; it is not so much a season as a way of being.*

Advent is a time of preparation for us to welcome Christ anew into our hearts in our celebration of Christmas. Intentionally putting aside time, even calendaring it, to be with God, with Christ, to sit focused on the present and discover its ineffable peace, is a gift to give ourselves and cherish during this most holy season.

In Christ's peace,
Ann+

The Rev. Dr. Ann J. Broomell
Transition Priest in Charge

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Christmas Eve

(Please note time change)

4:00 pm	Festive Holy Eucharist
9:30 pm	Choral Prelude
10:00 pm	Festive Holy Eucharist

Christmas Day

10:00 am Holy Eucharist

First Sunday after Christmas

8:00 am	Holy Eucharist Rite I
9:30 am	Family Service
10:30 am	Lessons and Carols with Holy Eucharist

Epiphany Jan. 6

8:00 am	Holy Eucharist Rite I
10:30 am	Epiphany Pageant with Holy Eucharist

Advent Blue

I imagine you've noticed that the liturgical color we're using this Advent is blue. The beautiful vestments and altar hangings blessed by the Bishop last month were purchased from memorial funds. You may wonder why a color change, why not use purple as we have in the past. Certainly, purple is often the liturgical color used during Advent. However, many Episcopal churches have begun to use blue during the Advent season. There are a number of reasons for the change.

While it may be new to us, the color blue we are using, called Sarum blue, is a return to our Anglican roots. In using blue, we are recovering ancient tradition. In an interesting aside, the Sarum liturgy, used in Salisbury, was also the base for the translation into English in the first Book of Common Prayer.

We use the color blue to distinguish Advent from the season of Lent. Purple, a very difficult color to obtain in ancient times, was the color of royalty. It symbolizes the sovereignty of Christ. It is also the color of repentance, the central theme of the Lenten season. While our readings in Advent carry penitential elements,

Advent is a season of waiting, of preparation, expectation and hope. The color blue represents these themes. As the color of the sky, blue symbolizes our hope for a new day for humanity, a new way of being ushered in with the birth of Christ.

This clear medium blue also represents Mary, often shown with a blue scarf over her head. During this season we consider with Mary God's request to her—that she be a life bearer. We reflect and prepare that we might also be able to say yes to Jesus's coming, to a new faith and hope as we celebrate his birth.

May this be a season of waiting, of preparation, of peace. May you be able to carve out of the frenzy of the season precious time to consider the coming of Jesus into your life. May you be drawn to our worship as it underscores and supports your participation in this most holy season.

Advent Spiral

December 8, 4:00-6:00p.m

Advent is a special time of preparation for the coming of the Christ and a time to renew our spirit. Please make time to join us as we slow down and find a quiet time to prepare for the coming of the light of the world. Walking the path of the Advent Spiral, by the light of the Christ Candle that awaits us at the middle, allows each of us to reflect on the gift that God gives us in the birth of his son. Adding our own light to that path reminds us that we must let our love of Christ shine for all to see.



Advent Reflections

Making the House Ready for the Lord

Dear Lord, I have swept and I have washed but still nothing is as shining as it should be for you. Under the sink, for example, is an uproar of mice –it is the season of their many children. What shall I do? And under the eaves and through the walls the squirrels have gnawed their ragged entrances –but it is the season when they need shelter, so what shall I do? And the raccoon limps into the kitchen and opens the cupboard while the dog snores, the cat hugs the pillow; what shall I do? Beautiful is the new snow falling in the yard and the fox who is staring boldly up the path, to the door. And I still believe you will come, Lord: you will, when I speak to the fox, the sparrow, the lost dog, the shivering sea-goose, know that really I am speaking to you whenever I say, as I do all morning and afternoon: Come in, Come in.

By: Mary Oliver

Source: Thirst

Boston: Beacon Press, 2006. p. 13

The Stable

The winds were scornful,
Passing by;
And gathering Angels
Wondered why
A burdened Mother
Did not mind
That only animals
Were kind.
For who in all the world
Could guess
That God would search out
Loneliness.

By: Sr. M. Chrysostom, O.S.B.

Source: Robert, Cyril. Mary Immaculate: God's Mother and Mine.

New York: Marist Press, 1946.

O Lord,
Let Advent begin again
In us,
Not merely in commercials;
For that first Christmas was not
Simply for children,
But for the
Wise and the strong.
It was
Crowded around that cradle,
With kings kneeling.
Speak to us
Who seek an adult seat this year.
Help us to realize,
As we fill stockings,
Christmas is mainly
For the old folks –
Bent backs
And tired eyes
Need relief and light
A little more.
No wonder
It was grown-ups
Who were the first
To notice
Such a star.

By: David A. Redding

*Source: If I Could Pray
Again (1965)*



Youth Christian Formation News

As Advent gets under way, the children and teens of St. Paul's are beginning preparations for their Epiphany pageant, to be held on January 6th at the 10:30 worship service. From the preschoolers to the seniors, each young person has a role to play—whether as a animal, a Biblical character, or behind the scenes helping with props, costumes, and lights.

The theme of this year's performance is two-fold: on the one hand, we're employing many of the standard characters found in any good church nativity production—shepherds, angels, a donkey, the holy family, a few kings—to teach and remind the children (and ourselves) the story of the incarnation, that moment when God first became human and dwelt among us.

On the other hand, the plot of this year's pageant takes a somewhat deeper look at the traditional narrative, asking "What does this story about a baby in a manger have to do with some of the deeper theological catchphrases we commonly employ?" What does it mean, for instance, when we say that Jesus is the Word, or that Jesus is the Light? And how (if at all) do these rather abstract ideas relate to the story we tell at Christmastime? These questions provide good food for thought as we move from Christmas (the Incarnation) into Epiphany (the Season of Light); for thousands of years, scholars and seekers alike have pondered the mystery of Word, Light, and the Son of God.

Luckily for us, our pageant will provide us with four excellent (though somewhat humorously drawn) guides in the form of the four evangelists. In the play, as in life, the four gospels hold the key to unlocking the many different sides of Jesus, helping us understand not only how Christ came into the world, but how his coming

transformed everything. I won't give away more about the plot right now, but suffice it to say that the four evangelists have somewhat differing ideas about how best to portray the birth of Christ. As each attempts to portray his version of events, they discover that the sum of their understandings of Jesus adds up to much greater and deeper mystery than each of their individual parts.

I'd encourage you all to attend 10:30 worship on January 6th—not only because 3 year olds in sheep costumes are almost unbearably cute (and they are!), but because the pageant promises to be a fun and meaningful look at Christianity's deepest theological truths. Whether the production turns out "perfectly" or not, the heartfelt striving of so many young people encourages those of us older folk who tend to fret about the future of our church. That wonderful combination of earnestness and good fun finds the perfect outlet in the pageant—their Christmas gift to you, the adults of the church.

May the peace of Christ be with you this Advent,

Kristin Agudelo
Christian Formation Director



Thanks to our Teen Kitchen-Cleaning Elves!

A team of selfless and intrepid teenage volunteers recently gave our parish kitchen a much-needed scrubbing. From ovens to disgusting leftovers in the fridge to a hopelessly disorganized pantry—all received the loving attention of our senior high youth, who spent the Wednesday morning before Thanksgiving (their one day to sleep in!) working to ready the kitchen for the Christmas Fair’s lunch extravaganza. Thank you to all who participated, and to the adults who supervised them.

We appreciate your service!



A neatly organized pantry.



A spotless kitchen, thanks to the J2A teens!

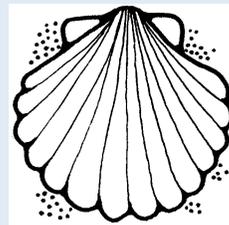
(Photos by Zach Collins)

Thank you

Thank you to all who worked on and shopped at this year’s St. Paul’s Christmas Fair! A special thanks goes to Rodney Richard for his tireless work as Fair Chairperson.

Next Date for Baptism

The next date for Holy Baptism is Sunday, Feb. 3. We will be celebrating the Presentation of our Jesus in the Temple. If you would like to be baptized or you would like to have one of your children



baptized at that time, please contact The Rev. Ann Broomell at the church office.



Celtic Spirituality

Tuesdays in January, 4:30 ~ 6:00 p.m.

with the Rev. Ann Broomell

- Jan. 8 The Web of Life
A celebration of the goodness of creation
- Jan. 15 God in Daily Life
God is at home with us. ~ We can be at home with God.
- Jan. 22 Spirituality
Not a theological approach, a prayerful approach.
- Jan. 29 Friendship
To move more deeply into life is to move more deeply into Christ.
- Feb. 5 Celtic Christianity
A path well suited to life in today's world.

Birthdays

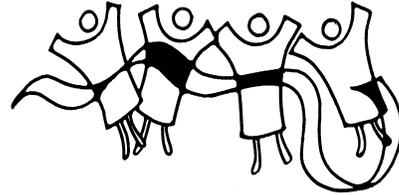
Happy Birthday!

12/02 Hugh Savage
12/03 Sally Jeanne Kappler
12/04 Steve Thomas
12/04 Rebecca Schuman
12/06 Ann Peden
12/06 Nicholas Dempsey
12/07 Robert Brownell
12/09 Christopher Dempsey
12/09 Cameran Coyne
12/12 Sean Clegg
12/12 Emily Swan
12/15 Erika Morgan
12/15 Sharon Pedersen
12/15 Emma Nickerson
12/17 Keely Forestell
12/18 Dee Little
12/18 Jonathan Appleyard
12/19 Ian Peck-Moad
12/20 David Frazier
12/21 James Ford
12/21 Maeley Bedard

12/22 Hope Haug
12/22 Mira Levine
12/24 Mark Moore
12/24 Megan Moore
12/25 Nicholas Smith
12/29 Hannah Judd
12/30 Charles Mull

Happy Anniversary!

12/28 Caroline & Hugh Savage
12/30 Beth Ann & Mark Nickerson
12/30 Carol & Steve Thomas



Security

St. Paul's is the focal point for many activities organized by a variety of groups and organizations. As such, the church remains open as much as practicality, hours and security will allow. However, with such a large frequency of traffic, we must remain vigilant not to leave the church unlocked when unattended. If you are one of the last persons exiting St. Paul's in the evening or during a time of apparent non-activity, please ensure that doors leading to the outside are locked or that someone has taken on the responsibility. We want our parish to remain open to the community while ensuring that both persons and property are protected. Your assistance is appreciated.

The Messenger is published monthly. With a combined July/August issue. It is emailed to the parish. Paper copies are available at the church for those who prefer them. It is also mailed to those who do not have email.

Please send submission for the January is by the 15th of December. Articles may be emailed to stpauls@stpaulsmaine.org or placed in Susan Tyler's box in the office.

**ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
DECEMBER 2012**

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The Rev. Dr. Ann J. Broomell,
Transition Priest in Charge
The Ven. Mary Lee Wile, Archdeacon
The Rev. Chick Carroll, Deacon
Terry Leitzell, Warden
Myrna Koonce, Junior Warden
Susan Tyler, Parish Administrator
Kristin Agudelo, Youth Christian Formation Dir.
Robert Judd, Music Director
Diane Inman, Administrative Assistant
Aubrey Farmer, Sexton
Kimmy Edwards, Nursery Caregiver
Lois Kwantz, Junior Choir Director

We're on the web

www.StPaulsMaine.org



Christmas Eve

- 4:00 pm Festive Holy Eucharist
9:30 pm Choral Prelude
10:00 pm Festive Holy Eucharist
(Please note new time)

Christmas Day

- 10:00 am Holy Eucharist

First Sunday after Christmas

- 8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I
9:30 am Family Service
10:30 am Lessons and Carols with
Holy Eucharist

Epiphany Jan. 6

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with Holy Eucharist

Buildings and Grounds - FAQs

The ceiling fans in the nave are dirty; why haven't they been cleaned?

They are dirty, no argument. We are exploring scaffolding options necessary to reach them. Because of their height, use of step ladders and extendable poles are not practical and possibly dangerous. Another, possibly more preferred, option is to clean them (or even better to upgrade and expand them) when we paint the nave. We have also considered ceiling fans for the great hall (see below for reasons), but the cost was nearly \$4,000, and nearly ⅔'s of that was for installation.

Why do the ceiling fans run continually?

Several energy audits have recommended that they run 24/7 to facilitate mixing of the air. Of interest is the direction of air flow. Fans push the air up in the winter to redirect warm air down the walls. This improves warmth and heating efficiency without creating a draft. In summer, the fans push air down to create a cooling draft.

Why did the carpet in the great hall need replacement so soon?

There are several reasons. Apparently, the original carpet had been improperly installed. Moreover, the water used for cleaning soaked through the carpet dissolving the adhesive. Essentially, the carpet was sitting loose on the concrete. The new carpet tile is designed to keep liquids from seeping through, facilitating easy clean-up. We have extra tiles should one be beyond repair or cleaning, but we have been assured that this will not be likely.

What kind of carpet was installed near the entrance from the parking lot?

The black entryway carpet is similar to a "water hog" carpet designed to grab and

hold water and grime, keeping it off of the new carpet tile. We learned that four steps are needed to catch most of the grime and water, thus the black carpet extends several feet from the door.

What is St. Paul's winter snow removal policy?

For approximately seven years, we have instructed the company that clears our parking lot to plow only; sanding and salting is done only upon request, and usually only after a major ice event. There are several reasons for this. The parking lot has a southern exposure; normally, bright sun works as fast as salt does. Sand and salt treatment is expensive to receive and clean up; it is damaging to the environment; it soils the church. Rest assured that we will be diligent to keep our walkways clean; we will put down sand or ice melt via spot treatments when and where necessary. The town of Brunswick is responsible for clearing the public sidewalks on Union and Pleasant Streets.

What is happening at Barnes Property?

Our property will become part of the Oxford House network. Please see an earlier issue of the Messenger for a more detailed explanation or ask any member of the vestry.

Do the thermostats on the second floor function?

Yes, but for heat only. The indicator "cool" on the thermostats has no function. A/C upstairs is linked to zones on the ground floor. If the applicable downstairs zone calls for A/C, cool air will also be pumped upstairs. Additional ductwork and controls necessary for a separate A/C system upstairs was cost prohibitive.

(continued on next page)

Buildings and Grounds - FAQs continued

Why is the sound system so erratic?

This is a lament heard often. We are dealing with Canfield Sound Systems in Portland which also manages the cathedral's system. We have replaced defective parts, but other problems continue to bedevil us. A new sound system would be quite expensive, but this is becoming increasingly likely.

Will the crawl space under the nave be sealed?

We would still like to seal that area; it would make the nave more comfortable year round. Several months ago, we received an estimate of work to seal the crawl space. Improvements would have included a heavy-duty multilayer matting (strong enough to store items on), dehumidifier, and a sump pump. The cost, \$13,000, will be a part of the long-term maintenance plan. The good news is that there was no indication of flooding or heavy water flow.

Will we paint the nave?

Yes. It is a part of the 25 year maintenance plan. That part of the area around the chancel and organ case was painted as part of the recent renovations.

Do the telephone and data ports on the second floor work?

Not, yet. Each room has a connection for a phone and a computer (for access to the Internet). However, the cabling has not yet been completed, but should be finished in the near future. We also plan to install a Wi-Fi router before the end of year.

What is wrong with the vestibule door by the east transept?

An answer would be too long for this space. We have engaged a carpenter to repair the door.

Can I participate in St. Paul's stewardship on-line?

Not yet, but change might be underway. Following the lead of other churches in our diocese and elsewhere, we are exploring systems that facilitate on-line payments. We have been told that this will reduce our paperwork, streamline our record keeping, and accommodate our younger parishioners who do not use checking accounts or other supporters who do not use the normal weekly envelope. There will be fees for such a service, but experience elsewhere indicates that donations rise. In any case, rest assured, for those more comfortable with the traditional check/envelope system, it will be retained. In the interim, automatic bank transfers from a parishioner's account to St. Paul's are possible with most banks. We are also exploring the use of an "iPad Square" that would allow us to accept credit cards at the Christmas Fair. Many studies indicate that accepting credit cards increases sales. Stay tuned for further developments.