



An Invitation to Observe Advent in Holy Stillness at St. Paul's

by The Rev. Carolyn H. Eklund

The cultural call of consumerism is almost at its “holiday” peak at the time of my writing this article...10 days BEFORE Thanksgiving. Let's see, it's 37 days before Christmas and the anxiety and excess of retail shopping certainly has caught me like a “deer in the headlights,” unprepared! Our culture pulls and tugs on us AT this time of year for “more and more” and “happier and happier” until we feel like crumbling under the weight of so much joy!! 😊

Then add the memory of a lost loved one, made more and more poignant against the calls for constant joy. It could make a person quite “blue” as we fight to offer a happy public face. I use the word “blue” on purpose. Blue is a liturgical color for Advent. It's an ancient medieval color called Sarum Blue. St. Paul's Church introduced this color a few years ago for our Advent observances. It symbolizes preparation, and it is also Mary's symbolic color. Since Mary figures so prominently in the Annunciation of Jesus in Advent 4 and she is the reason we give thanks and praise for the Incarnation of Christ (he who came in human form to dwell among us), blue is an appropriate color for our four week Advent Season.

Blue is also the color we refer to when we are feeling low. “I feel blue” is a common phrase when someone expresses depression or a period of sorrow. I doubt that very many people manage to live through these weeks of preparation for Christmas without feeling “blue” for a moment or two.

That's why this year during Advent we have scheduled what has come to be known in some churches as “Blue Christmas.” **Mark your calendars and bring a friend on Friday evening, December 12 at 7pm** for a brief, candle-lit, prayerful gathering of singing and praying in the nave of St. Paul's. The Rev. Mary Lee Wile and I are planning worship that will be a quiet time and will acknowledge that many of us experience sorrow in the midst of preparation and joy at this time

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A Note from the Rector Continued

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of year. The theme of Advent is Hope. We will reflect on those things we can hope for in our lives.

The following day, **Saturday, December 13 from 9:00am to Noon, you may also wish to attend an Advent Quiet Morning** led by The Rev. Mary Lee Wile. Mary Lee will be sharing her remarkable gifts as she leads us to observe stillness and to reflect on what we do to prepare for Christ in our lives.

There are other resources and opportunities here at St. Paul's for you and your family to observe the calm, prayerful time of Advent. **Join us Sunday, November 30** to begin Advent worship by lighting the first candle of the Advent wreath, the candle of Hope. **Join Ryan McCarthy's family at the 10:30am Eucharist for his Baptism.** "We receive you into the household of God..." And don't forget to bring with you **your pledge card for your 2015 giving** to God's work at St. Paul's.

Our Church School **Lambs, Lions and Eagles will be creating their own Advent wreath during Church School time in the Great Hall, 10:30am on November 30.**

The wreath will be to take home, and each child will receive an **Advent Calendar card** that will help parents teach our children daily reminders of what it means for Christians to prepare for Christmas.

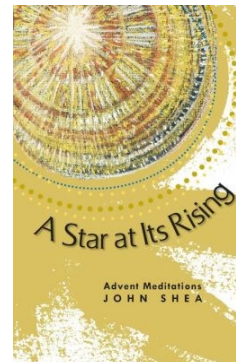


Advent Calendar Cards

Adults will receive an Advent Daily devotional booklet and teens will receive their own Advent calendar to follow each day. Come and pick up your copy on November 30.



Teen Advent Calendar



Advent Daily devotional booklet

As we prepare for the birth of our Lord and his coming "to judge the living and the dead," may you and your family enjoy peace and hope as we await the light of Christ. The Advent question for this season is, "What message of hope do you have and can you share with others?"

God's peace to you all,

Carolyn+

Advent & Christmas Observances

Calendar of Advent Observances

Sunday, November 30	8:00am, 9:30am and 10:30am	Lighting of the First Advent Candle Presentation of pledge cards for 2015
	10:30am	Church School Advent Wreath-making
Saturday, December 6	9:00am – 2pm	St. Paul's Christmas Fair <i>(OK! OK! It's a Christmas Fair in Advent. But oh, it's for a wonderful, charitable cause!)</i>
Sunday, December 7	3:00pm	Ecumenical Advent Lessons and Carols at St. John the Baptist Church
Friday, December 12	4:30pm	Caroling, meet at St. Paul's
	7:00pm	"Blue Christmas," St. Paul's Nave
Saturday, December 13	9:00am to 1pm	Advent Quiet Morning includes lunch

Calendar of Christmas Observances

Wednesday, December 24	4:00pm	Festival Family Christmas Eve Eucharist with "come as you are" pageant
	9:30pm	Special Choral Christmas Music offered by St. Paul's Choir
	10:00pm	Festival Christmas Eve & Holy Eucharist
Thursday, December 25	10:00am	Christmas Day Holy Eucharist
Sunday, December 28	10:30am	All Parish Eucharist with Lessons and Carols

DEADLINE ANNUAL REPORTS: December 30

SAVE THE DATE: 9:00am, Sunday, January 25, 2015 All Parish Eucharist in the Great Hall, followed by Annual Meeting and Election of St. Paul's leaders.

TREC-ing along the path to General Convention

How will we elect our next Presiding Bishop? What's going on with TREC – what do those initials stand for anyway and why do they make people nervous? How is the Episcopal Church involved with refugee resettlement? What's happening with the Task Force on the Study of Marriage now that a lot of states have Marriage Equality? How did the Union of Black Episcopalians respond to the death of Michael Brown? What's the role of deacons in the Church (yikes! is that conversation still going on?)? How can/should the Church respond to clergy (especially new priests) who are bullied by lay members of their congregations? How does the 2016 budget look? Hey, did you read about the Episcopal priest who was arrested (along with another pastor and a 90 year-old man) for feeding the homeless in Fort Lauderdale?

Next June, I'll be heading to General Convention as one of Maine's clergy deputies. I've attended four previous General Conventions, but my task at those Conventions was easy: hang out in the marketplace and help sell books. Going as a deputy will be a far more intense and complex experience. Newsletters, emails, webcasts, and a Facebook page work together to provide deputies with background, current issues, and general preparation – something every day, sometimes up to a dozen or more pieces of email a day. It's both exhilarating and daunting to enter this tumultuous conversation.

Because one of the concerns of Convention is that most Episcopalians don't even know what issues are under discussion, it seemed appropriate that since I'm in the process of finding out myself, I should try to let the rest of you know as well. I've introduced some of the



conversation threads in that opening paragraph.

This month I'd like to offer a chance to learn more about TREC: the Taskforce for Reimagining the Episcopal Church: "The Task Force for Reimagining the Episcopal Church has been charged by the 77th General Convention of the Episcopal Church to create a plan for reforming the Church's structures, governance, and administration." No wonder TREC causes anxiety: change is really, really hard for institutions as well as individuals.

If you go to the taskforce website, <http://reimagnetec.org>, you can actually take part in the conversation (should we maintain current location and structure – or sell and reform? streamline General Convention by shortening time and / or reducing number of deputies? invest more power in the Presiding Bishop – or the laity? free up more money to provide for local mission and ministry?.....) If you missed it in early October, you might want to watch TREC's "Churchwide Meeting" at <http://reimagnetec.org/video/> where they shared their ideas, and/or read a lively response to the webcast titled "Star TREC: a report on the October 2 webcast:"

<http://revdgrace.wordpress.com/2014/10/03/star-trec-a-report-on-the-october-2-webcast/>

If you ever wonder what the national Church does, and what it might do in the future, these resources are a great place to start. I hope you'll check them out, and realize all over again why we love this big, messy, magnificent, contentious, compassionate, liturgical Episcopal Church.

The Rev. Mary Lee Wile

Sunday School

"Eagles" and "Lion/Lambs" Sunday School classes have recently had lessons and discussions, several using Montessorri-style Godly Play presentations, on the Ten Commandments, the "Most Important Commandments," Noah, Moses, and the "Exile and Return." They've also been drawing, painting and making creatures from gourds and vegetables.

Inspired teachers Steve Thomas, and Nancy Pennell have been leading, and I've led some too. We've also had some great support in these classrooms from our young people and a few adults. We do need more adult helpers, as some weeks there can be a need for 2 support people in one of our two classes.

ADVENT I Nov. 30: The combined Sunday School groups will learn about Advent and make Advent wreaths for their families. **(We will probably need some helpers!)**



ADVENT 2, 3: Advent lessons from Weaving God's Promises, and Godly Play presentations, and Christmas crafts.

ADVENT 4: Kids who are interested in doing so, will be singing an original song about Mary with the congregation during the 10:30 service.

May you all have a festive and memorable celebration of Advent, and may "God rest ye merry!"

Jane Burke
Christian Formation Director

Neighborhood Caroling

hosted by the
High School Youth Group

Parishioners of
all ages are welcome!

Friday, December 12

4:30-6:30 pm

We will meet at the church
and then walk and sing in
the streets near the church.

We will return to the
church for hot chocolate
and refreshments.





Quiet Morning Retreat in Advent: Light

One of our evening prayers begins, “Lighten our darkness, we beseech you, O Lord,” and one of our hymns acknowledges, “I want to walk as a child of the light.” Especially during this

time of year, we can find ourselves longing for light, and so this year's Advent Quiet Day will offer suggestions for ways to move out of whatever darkness we might be facing and into the light of God — or perhaps simply to find a glimmer in the darkness.

Please join our deacon Mary Lee Wile for this quiet time of reflection and meditation on Saturday, December 13, 9:00 a.m.-noon, with lunch following. Please let the office know if you plan to attend so Mary Lee can prepare enough handouts and enough food. The office is 725-5342. Mary Lee can be reached via e-mail at maryleewile@gmail.com

The Rev. Mary Lee Wile

Sunday Forum: The Prophets

On Sunday, December 14, from 9:30-10:15, we will have the opportunity to hear the second of two forums on the prophets. From biblical times we identify people like Moses, Elijah, Elisha, Micah, Isaiah, Hosea, Amos, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, John the Baptist, and even Jesus as prophets. Prophets don't predict the future as much as they warn about dire consequences for ongoing destructive behavior and offer comforting words in times of crisis and disaster. They point toward a way of life (for individuals and for a society) that embraces attributes such as truth, justice, compassion, goodness, etc. Does God still raise up prophets today, or is that a function that happened only in biblical times? Do they function differently today than they did in biblical times? Who are today's prophets?

The Rev. Bob Patterson will bring to light what in his mind “qualifies” someone to be called a prophet and will speak about a modern prophet of his choice. Please join us in the Great Hall to explore this interesting topic.

Pam Nugent



Giving

“I wish you joy in the Lord always. Again I say: all joy be yours.” (Philippians 4:4)

On Thanksgiving Day, November 27 our 10am Eucharist will include this passage from St. Paul’s Letter to the Philippians. I am writing these words to you now because of the joy I have felt during the “Giving Moments” shared by parishioners of St. Paul’s in worship these past few weeks. They have filled me with the kind of joy that we give to each other in our community of faith. I invite you to read this e-blast from the Giving Committee and browse the pages. Perhaps you will return to some of the Giving Moments on www.stpaulsmaine.org



“All joy be yours,”

Carolyn+


What?

Giving to God

- is a way to transform our hearts
- is a holy habit and a spiritual practice
- is about our own need to give, not the church’s need to receive
- is about imagining what is possible

Ingathering Sunday: November 30, 2014



Why?



Spiritual. Reverent. Joyous. Giving. St. Paul’s Parish shows God’s love in the world by concentrating our work in four major areas.



Worship, spirituality, and music bring our parish of more than 430 communicants closer to God and fill us with the Holy Spirit.



Children and youth: Our Church School activities enroll nearly 30 young people. We’re growing!



Serving others: Our Outreach efforts provided support to more than 15 organizations last year. We know God calls us to do even more.



Strengthening our community of faith: Over 20 ongoing and seasonal programs help us grow together in God’s love.

Who?



One voice is small and quiet, but two voices are stronger. More voices make a song that will heal the lonely and forgotten. Several voices together make up a song that the whole world can hear, and those voices are the music God loves to hear.

- Linda

Giving helps St. Paul’s be a place of sanctuary in its most basic concept: a place to regain control of your life. To safely discuss your concerns, doubts, and fears. To “let go” and experience something wonderful.

- Paul





In giving to St. Paul’s, I give in thanks for this community. I give in thanks for solace, strength, pardon, renewal, and grace. I give in trust for what God will do with and through this parish.

- Cristle


Piktochart
 make information beautiful

THE MESSENGER

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Outreach

Proceeds from St. Paul's Christmas Fair go to support all the organizations listed below through our Outreach Commission. St. Paul's has a long history of seeding local initiatives that help those with the greatest need in our community and beyond.

Several well-known Brunswick non-profit organizations started right here at St Paul's and grew until they became self-sustaining agencies.

- ◆ **Mid Coast Hunger Prevention Project** and the Soup Kitchen began in "Codman Hall" located in our parish house prior to our renovation.
- ◆ More recently, St. Paul's and several other Brunswick and Topsham churches started **The Gathering Place**, a day center that receives an average of 50 - 70 guests each day, many of whom are homeless.
- ◆ Other recent 'seedlings' have been an expansion of the **Monday through Friday meals at MCHPP to include Saturdays**. People are hungry on weekends, too!
- ◆ We support a new group that helps kids who are in kinship foster care with clothing and school supplies, **"Ready, Set, Learn"**.
- ◆ **Warm Thy Neighbor**, providing heating fuel assistance, now under the Tedford Shelter umbrella, began at St. Paul's in the last decade.
- ◆ This past spring we decided to embrace our covenant with **7 Rivers Habitat for Humanity to raising over \$3000** by parishioners sponsoring/walking in the Habitat benefit walk.
- ◆ This year we also joined with St. Paul's Earthcare Commission and Warm Thy Neighbor to **provide window thermal inserts for 6 households** needing fuel assistance last winter.

Organization	2014 Outreach donations
Episcopal Relief & Development	\$700
Four Directions (ME Indigenous Peoples Capitalization Fund)	\$400
Freeport Community Services	\$700
The Gathering Place	\$1,600
Habitat for Humanity	\$100
Haiti Relief	\$700
Maine Interfaith Power & Light	\$440
MCHPP	\$1,700
Oasis Health Clinic	\$1,000
Ready, Set, Learn	\$400
Safe Passage of Yarmouth	\$700
Tedford Shelter	\$1,000
Trinity Jubilee	\$1,400
Warm Thy Neighbor	\$700
Total distributed	\$11,540

Phil Studwell

100 Years Ago...



This Christmas season marks the 100th anniversary of “The Christmas Truce” which occurred during the first winter of World War I. The truce was a series of widespread, unofficial ceasefires that took place along the Western Front around Christmas 1914. Leading up to Christmas, parties of primarily German and British soldiers exchanged seasonal greetings and songs between their trenches. On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, soldiers from both sides independently ventured into “no man’s land” where they mingled, exchanging food and souvenirs. As well as joint burial ceremonies, several meetings ended in carol-singing.

The truce, often seen as a symbolic moment of peace and humanity amidst one of the most violent events of human history, was not ubiquitous; in some regions of the front, fighting continued, while in others, little more than an arrangement to recover bodies was made. The following year, a few units arranged ceasefires with their opponents over Christmas, but the truces were not nearly as widespread as in 1914; in part, due to strongly worded orders from commands of both sides prohibiting such fraternization. In 1916, after the unprecedentedly bloody battles of the Somme and Verdun, and the use of poison gas, soldiers on both sides increasingly viewed

the other side as less than human, and no more Christmas truces were sought.

Though the truces of 1914 are remembered today with much sympathy, they were in no way exceptions; during many previous armed conflicts such spontaneous truces arrived probably as frequently and “magically” as was the case during the first year of hostilities in World War I.

May the spirit and peace of Christmas, found among these soldiers during one of modern history’s most horrific periods, abide with each of you this Christmas and throughout the years.

Paul Womer



Oratorio Chorale's Sing We Noel! Concerts

Glorious choral music, a carol sing-a-long, and a brass quintet, followed by hot cocoa, cookies, and **real whipped cream**. The Chorale will present two concerts at St. Paul's on Saturday, December 20, at 1:00 pm and 4:00 pm, with two receptions organized by St. Paul's and the Chorale. Each concert will last an hour. Families are particularly welcome to share the joyous music, children's activities after each concert, and the best cookies in town! Ticket information is at <http://oratoriochorale.org/concerts-and-tickets/tickets/>.

The Oratorio Chorale, in its 41st season, now makes its home at St. Paul's for the Holiday Concert, all rehearsals, and summer vocal workshops. Many Chorale members have said how welcome they feel at St. Paul's. Emily Isaacson, the Chorale's Artistic Director, is very excited about the use of our spaces and the potential for collaborations.

Last June, the Chorale performed Brahms *German Requiem*, one of the most gorgeous choral works ever written. Christopher Hyde, music critic for the Portland Press Herald, wrote:

"The performance of the requiem Sunday afternoon by the Oratorio Chorale, under the direction of Emily Isaacson at Woodfords Congregational Church in Portland, was one of the most moving musical events of the decade."

Over the weekend of November 22-23, the Chorale performed three performances of the *Mozart Requiem*, all sold-out, at Studzinski Recital Hall at Bowdoin. The soloists were from the Grammy Award-winning Roomful of Teeth, one of whose members won a Pulitzer Prize for music in 2013.

Terry Leitzell

Thank You

Dear family of St. Paul's,

Claude and I both wish to tell you how grateful we are for your prayers and support after my Election Day tumble. Your expressed concern, along with tangible gifts to help keep me out of the kitchen, have warmed our hearts and kept us smiling. Once again you have shown what a wonderful "family" you are, and we feel blessed to be a part of it. That kind of backing will do much to help us through the long weeks of

healing stretching out ahead of us. Thank you, and may God bless you throughout the rapidly approaching holiday season.

Sincerely,
Leslie Randolph-Brancart

Future Happenings

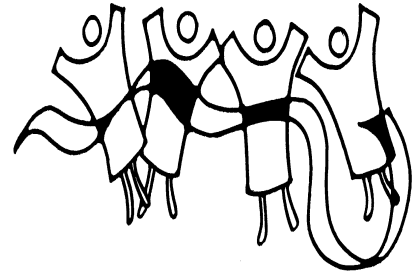
9:00am, Sunday, January 25, 2015

All Parish Eucharist in the Great Hall,
followed by Annual Meeting and
Election of St. Paul's leaders.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday!

12/02	Hugh Savage	12/29	Hannah Judd
12/03	Sally Jeanne Kappler	12/30	Charles Mull
12/04	Steve Thomas	12/30	Jordan Stanley
12/04	Rebecca Schuman	01/01	Chris Martin
12/06	Ann Peden	01/03	Anne Brautigam
12/06	Nicholas Dempsey	01/03	Harry Warren
12/09	Christopher Dempsey	01/06	Evelyn Troy
12/11	Lexy Weller	01/13	Jean Mulligan
12/15	Sharon Pedersen	01/14	Kristine Schuman
12/15	Emma Nickerson	01/14	Shane Weller
12/17	Keely Forestell	01/14	Elizabeth Levine
12/18	Dee Little	01/19	Susan Burroughs
12/18	Jonathan Appleyard	01/19	David Wooten
12/19	Ian Peck-Moad	01/19	Jackson Ruprecht
12/20	David Frazier	01/20	Ralph Thivierge
12/21	James Ford	01/21	David Guerette
12/21	Maeley Bedard	01/21	Mike Golek
12/22	Hope Haug	01/23	Morgan Moore
12/22	Mira Levine	01/27	Janet Callowhill
12/23	Marcia Clayton	01/28	Dudley Follansbee
12/24	Carol Thomas	01/29	Susan Martens
12/24	Mark Moore	01/29	Brandon Perry
12/24	Megan Moore		
12/25	Nicholas Smith		



Happy Anniversary!

12/28	Hugh & Caroline Savage
12/30	Mark & Beth Ann Nickerson
12/31	Steve & Carol Thomas
01/21	The Rev. & Mrs. Richard Hall

If we have missed your birthday or anniversary please let the office know so that we may update our files.

The Messenger is published monthly, excluding January and 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 submissions for the February issue by January 16.** Articles may be emailed to stpauls@stpaulsmaine.org or placed in Susan Tyler's box in the parish office.

**ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL
CHURCH
DECEMBER 2014**

27 Pleasant St.
P.O. Box 195
Brunswick, Maine 04011
Phone: 207-725-5342
E-mail: stpauls@stpaulsmaine.org

The Rev. Carolyn Eklund, Rector
The Rev. Mary Lee Wile, Deacon
The Rev. Chick Carroll, Deacon
Pat Ryan, Senior Warden
Paul Womer, Junior Warden
Jane Burke, Christian Formation Director
Robert Judd, Music Director
Susan Tyler, Parish Administrator
Melanie Chicoria, Administrative Assistant
Kimmy Edwards, Nursery Caregiver
Lois Kwantz, Junior Choir Director
Aubrey Farmer, Sexton

We're on the web
www.StPaulsMaine.org
and Facebook

