

# The Messenger

## ADVENT

by The Rev. Katie Holicky

Beloved community, we find ourselves in the season of Advent! Every year when I tell our kiddos that we have arrived in this season, I tell them that this is the time we prepare our hearts, minds, and bodies to welcome Jesus. It is a special time and my personal favorite season of the church year.

I feel giddy, joyful, and excited as I reflect on all that has unfolded in the fall, and look ahead to that sweet night where we will gather on Christmas Eve

to celebrate the birth of Jesus. While this year will not be like years in the past, more of us are vaccinated, and we now know how to gather a bit more safely. I know my own calendar is more full than it was last year as we prepare to welcome family to join us for the holiday. Just as we prepare our homes to welcome guests, we are invited to prepare together as a church family. Yes, we prepare for Christmas Eve with liturgical planning and decorations, and we also are invited to slow down a bit during this busy time and prepare our hearts, minds, and bodies to welcome Jesus. This holistic preparation is what Advent means to me.

And so I wonder, what does Advent mean to you? How are you preparing to welcome Jesus this year? What spiritual practices might you try on? Are you enjoying traditions like Advent wreaths and calendars? Are you spending time pondering what hope, love, joy, and peace mean to you? Are you trying something new? Knowing that we are all tired and stressed from the ongoing pandemic, how might you be gentle with yourself and others this season of preparation? No matter how you are preparing this Advent, I invite you to slow down and do just that... PREPARE! Each year when we celebrate the birth of Christ, we are presented with the invitation to welcome Jesus into our lives anew. That is a big deal! Just like planning to celebrate with friends and family, it takes thought, care, planning. So, slow down, and listen to the Spirit speak to your heart as you prepare this Advent.

Join us for worship this month as we enjoy this season of preparation!

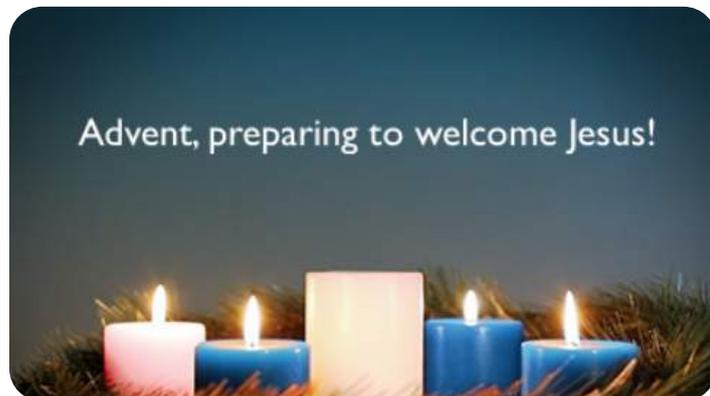
With hope, love, peace, and joy!

Rev. Katie Holicky, Assistant Rector



175 Years of Worship  
and Service

Advent, preparing to welcome Jesus!



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

27 Pleasant St. P.O. Box 195 Brunswick, Maine 04011



## HOPE FOR CHRISTMAS

by Linda Ashe-Ford

For the past few years, the St. Pauls' family had reached out to teens and children in foster and kinship care programs to let them know that they are not forgotten at Christmas. The children and teens in out-of-parent placements have already experienced so much loss in their young lives. We want them to know that they have not been forgotten. You can help by taking a wish off the Christmas tree at the church, fulfilling the wish, and **returning it to the church office by Sunday, December 12**. Another way to help is by donating grocery, store, or gas gift cards that we can give to our Kinship and Foster Families. Due to COVID 19, many of our families have experienced a reduction in or loss of income this past year. The gift of a store, grocery, or gas card can help families on a very tight budget make it through what will be a difficult winter. Any donation will be greatly appreciated and passed on to our families. Thank you for caring about the children and families who are often forgotten.

Contact Linda Ashe-Ford 207 841 3370 with any questions.





## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AT ST. PAUL'S

### First Sunday Life Together

*The Second Sunday of Advent 12/5,*

- 10:30 am Eucharist (in Nave & on Facebook Live),
- S'mores & fellowship in the parking lot following worship

**Welcome Home, Carolyn!** Our Rector returns from sabbatical.

*The Third Sunday of Advent 12/12*

- 9 am Family Worship (in the Hall & on Zoom)
- 10:30 am Eucharist (in the Nave & on Facebook Live)

### Sunday Worship 12/19,

*The Fourth Sunday of Advent*

- 9 am Family Worship (in the Hall & on Zoom)
- 10:30 am Eucharist (in the Nave & on Facebook Live)

### Christmas Eve Worship 12/24,

- 4 pm Family Service (in Nave & on Facebook Live)
- 7:30 pm Candlelight Holy Eucharist (in the Nave & on Facebook Live)

### Christmas Day Worship 12/25,

- 10 am Holy Eucharist (in the Nave & on Facebook Live)

### First Sunday after Christmas 12/26,

- 10:30 am Holy Eucharist (in the Nave & on Facebook Live)





## FROM THE MUSIC DESK...

by Randy Day, Music Ministry Director

During the first year I lived in south-central Pennsylvania, a new term was introduced to me: jug handle. The moniker referred to a turnout on a two-lane highway where one could quickly exit, follow the jug handle shape of the exit, then cross the road safely. How accurately that description fits with how the pandemic has affected St. Paul's approach to worship these past months! From simple two-person leadership at Rev. Carolyn's home and early live-streaming from the Nave in March 2020 till our outdoor gathering on Pentecost Sunday 2021, we've participated from our living rooms, dining rooms, parish hall, offices and used both Facebook live stream and Zoom platforms, both jug handles away from our standard practice.

Then came November 14, 2021, when we dared to attempt in-person worship indoors, back home in our Nave. Were we brave and courageous, or was our step forward infused with audacity and a bit of risk? Time will tell. Yet as I write this three days later, I'm still basking in the smiles, hugs, and tears shared. I truly wondered how many would show up, willing to still wear a mask and sit socially distanced. There was the concern of how many singers would show up to create a semblance of St. Paul's Choir, and how the gathered congregation would deal with not being able to sing.

Yet the overwhelming reality was that we who went one more step on the jug handle and entered the Nave on Sunday experienced a homecoming, a return to where we belong, where the spoken word and prayers and music resonate so easily with the present acoustic. To hear the spoken responses and prayers from the congregation brought a joy I can't describe, and the masked syllables uttered lent a group dynamic not heard in many months. For those who remained at home, I'm sure your experience on November 14 was far different. Maybe Sunday's service was same-old, same-old. Hopefully, you were able to chime in on the joy of the moment.

What matters is that St. Paul's, whether communicating via technology or live in the Nave, is still united. With God's grace and guidance, we are still a team, a group following our call to ministry, both to each other and to our community. We continue to do it with heart and voice.

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I leave you with the words of our first hymn shared on Sunday by the choir, #51 in The Hymnal 1982. First learned at an Episcopal conference, this hymn reflects why we gather and Who we serve, the Holy One who then urges us to leave the Nave and share the Word. Bask in the text, hear the melody in your head, find the hymn on Youtube, and be nurtured for the week ahead.



“We the Lord’s people, heart and voice uniting,  
Praise him who called us out of sin and darkness  
Into his own light, that he might anoint us  
a royal priesthood.

This is the Lord’s house, home of all his people,  
School for the faithful, refuge for the sinner,  
Rest for the pilgrim, haven for the weary;  
all find a welcome.

This is the Lord’s day, day of God’s own making,  
Day of creation, day of resurrection,  
Day of the Spirit, sign of heaven’s banquet, day of rejoicing.

In the Lord’s service bread and wine are offered,  
That Christ may take them, bless them, break, and give them  
To all his people, his own life imparting,  
Food everlasting.”

(from hymn #51, The Hymnal 1982)  
(words: John E. Bowers (b. 1923))

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## WINDOWDRESSERS AT ST. PAUL'S

by Dana Baer

*"This feels like ministry."*

Thank you to St. Paul's for hosting the WindowDressers Bath/Brunswick storm window insert build from October 18-22! Founded in 2011, WindowDressers has grown from a tiny operation in a Rockland basement to the region-wide non-profit it is today. Since being invited by the Earth Care Committee in 2014, St. Paul's has hosted WindowDressers every year since except 2020 when the covid pandemic forced a year of hibernation.

Many members of our own congregation were part of almost 60 volunteers, all masked, vaccinated, and comfortably separated physically who made 197 window inserts this year. 31 households received inserts, 10 of those at no cost. The WindowDressers mission identifies three specific goals: to help build community, to reduce greenhouse gasses and air pollution resulting from burning fossil fuels, and to help families affordably warm their homes. As one member of our congregation who volunteered this year said, "This feels like ministry."

The 197 inserts we made together will collectively save the equivalent of about 720 gallons of heating fuel every year they are in use. This will in turn prevent more than eight tons of carbon dioxide annually from ever being generated.

So, thank you St. Paul's for the generous use of the parish hall and your help! WindowDressers depends on partners and volunteers to do this important winterization and community-building project. You can learn more about this at [windowdressers.org](http://windowdressers.org), or Dana Baer (207-319-4992) will be happy to discuss this with you and answer any questions you may have.

Thank you St. Paul's!

Window  
Dressers

INSULATING WINDOW INSERTS



## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

### Happy

#### Birthday

Hugh Savage 12/2

Sally Jeanne Kappler 12/3

Rebecca Schuman 12/4

Steve Thomas 12/4

Myrna Koonce 12/10

Lexi Weller 12/11

Patsy Oehl 12/14

Emma Nickerson 12/15

Sharon Pedersen 12/15

Jonathan Appleyard 12/18

James Ford 12/21

Hope Haug 12/22

Mira Levine 12/22

Mark Moore 12/24

Megan Moore 12/24

Carol Thomas 12/24

Nicholas Smith 12/25

Isak Harrington 12/27

Noah Harrington 12/27

Mimi Havinga 12/27

Anne Brautigam 1/3

Jean Mulligan 1/13

Ralph Thivierge 1/20

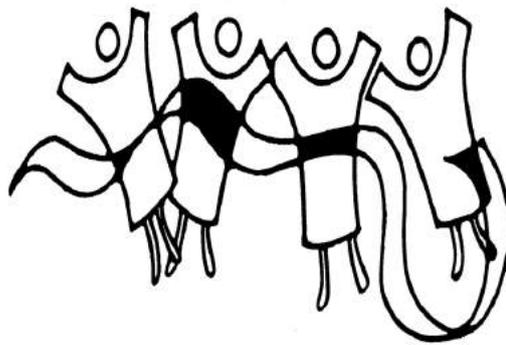
### Happy

#### Anniversary

Caroline & Hugh Savage 12/28

Beth Ann & Mark Nickerson 12/30

Carol & Steve Thomas 12/31



**Don't  
see your  
birthday or  
anniversary?**

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 20.** Articles may be emailed to [stpauls@stpaulsmaine.org](mailto:stpauls@stpaulsmaine.org)



## STAFF & LEADERSHIP

The Rev. Carolyn H. Eklund, Rector

The Rev. Katie Holicky, Assistant Rector for Children & Youth

The Rev. Mary Lee Wile, Deacon

Cliff Ruprecht, Senior Warden

Jan DeBlieu, Junior Warden

Randy Day, Music Ministry Director

Karen Tucker, Parish Administrator

Carolyn Farr, Administrative Assistant

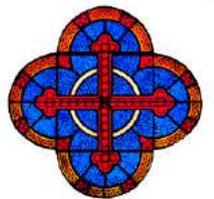
Andrea Lauerman, Sacred Ground Coordinator

Jane Redlon, Nursery Caregiver

Lynn Johnson, Assistant Nursery Caregiver

### Stay in touch!

- Check out our website for more details!  
[stpaulsmaine.org](http://stpaulsmaine.org)
- Follow us on Facebook!
- Sign up for our weekly emails!
- Please consider enrolling in electronic giving, It is a convenient way to provide consistent financial support to the church. See [stpaulsmaine.org](http://stpaulsmaine.org) to enroll



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