



The Messenger

St. Paul's Episcopal Church Suffolk, Virginia
The Seasons of Advent & Christmas

Getting It Done in Advent

St. Paul's Church

Our Address

213 North Main Street
Suffolk, VA 23434

(757) 539-2478

website: saintpauls-suffolk.org

Our Staff

Rector

The Rev. Dr. Keith Emerson
Home Phone: 934-9272

keith@saintpauls-suffolk.org

Music Director/Organist

Alan Reese

alan@saintpauls-suffolk.org

Interim Parish Administrator

Thomas Judkins

office@saintpauls-suffolk.org

Our Worship Life

Sunday, December 7

The 2nd Sunday of Advent

8:00 Rite 1 Holy Eucharist

10:30 Rite 2 Holy Eucharist

6:30 A Festival of Advent
Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 14

The 3rd Sunday of Advent

8:00 Rite 1 Holy Eucharist

10:30 Lessons, Carols, &

Pageant with Eucharist

Sunday, December 21

The 4th Sunday of Advent

8:00 Rite 1 Holy Eucharist

10:30 Rite 2 Holy Eucharist

11:30 Healing Service (Chapel)

Wednesday, December 24

The Eve of the Nativity

8:00 Children's Crèche

Pageant & Eucharist

10:00 Festival Eucharist

Sunday, December 28

The 1st Sunday after Christmas

8:00 Rite 1 Holy Eucharist

10:30 Rite 2 Holy Eucharist

Sunday, January 4

The 2nd Sunday after Christmas

8:00 Rite 1 Holy Eucharist

10:30 Rite 2 Holy Eucharist

6:30 The Music of Alpha

Tuesday, January 6

The Epiphany

5:30 Candlelight Eucharist in
the Chapel

As I sit down to write this article I am feverishly trying to get my house (and life) ready for Thanksgiving. For reasons buried so deep within me that even Sigmund Freud could not figure it out, I have committed to having several projects wrapped up by the time I sit down for Thanksgiving dinner. One project is to have the dining room painted. I want it to be my dining room, done in the colors of the Emerson china I inherited from my grandparents and not in the hideous dark grayish/blue yuk of the previous owners. The other major project is to have the attic finished and painted. This is the room my daughters will inhabit when they come to visit and they will be here over Thanksgiving weekend. The attic needed lots of work done after central heat/air was installed. I have done basic framing, installed insulation, hung drywall, and covered over exposed air ducts (which Abbey said had to be done before she would live there). I still have to prime and paint the space.

I can't tell you how relieved I will be when all of this work is done. I have been working on one project or another since I took possession of my house, which I lovingly refer to as 'The Old Rectory' because years ago it belonged to the church. It has been a labor of love, but now I would love to take a break!

Setting Thanksgiving as a date to have these two major projects completed is somewhat arbitrary. Just as easily I could have chosen Christmas or even some obscure date in February. Choosing Thanksgiving has put some pressure on me. It has ordered my free-time and focused my efforts. Everything I have done has been organized around having my house ready for Thanksgiving.

Perhaps this experience will serve as a spring-board to launch me into Advent - the season when we anticipate and make ready for the return of Christ. Far from being a time to put up decorations, wrap presents, and bake cookies in preparation for the birth of Christ, Advent invites us to make our lives and our hearts ready for Jesus to come to us anew. It calls us to remain awake and watchful, to be lean in life, to be repentant, and to be hopeful.

The Presbyterian Church where I was raised did not do much with the church seasons, but it did do something to observe Advent. Every year we children made a little Advent wreath - four purple candles and one white candle pushed into a piece of styrofoam we decorated with glue and glitter. The wreath served more as a countdown machine than anything else. It told me just how many more Sundays were left until "The Feast of Conspicuous Consumption" (as a friend of mine calls it), more commonly known as Christmas.

This Advent, with my projects behind me, I am looking forward to bringing some order to my home. I plan to get things put away, to give away what I don't need, and to clean what I haven't cleaned since I moved in, which, sadly, is pretty much everything. But the ordering and tidying of my outer world is will not be much of an Advent project if it is not accompanied by similar work in my inner world. Advent will be a time to reestablish and strengthen the disciplines of prayer, reading, and meditation. It will be a time to return to first things, important things, proper things. Yes, we can and should do this through the course of the year. But Advent invites us to do it now in an intentional and renewing way. I, for one, am looking forward to this kind of an Advent.

Keith ✦

From the Junior Warden

Stewardship Update

As of today, we have received 71 pledges for a total of \$156,136.00. We as your vestry have a goal of 100 pledges totaling \$236,000.00. This amount along with the cost saving ideas that have been discussed would allow us to balance the budget. If you have not yet sent in your pledge for 2009, we would greatly appreciate you doing so. We would love to be able to tell all of you before our annual meeting that we have a balanced budget for 2009. Thank you.

Thomas Judkins
Jr. Warden

Music Notes

Sunday Evening prayer & Concert Series Advent Festival of Lessons and Music

St. Paul's December Prayer & Concert service will feature Scripture readings from the Advent Festival and the music of Jim Newsom. Jim is an accomplished musician who grew up at St. Paul's. The service will take place on Sunday, December 7 at 6:30 in the evening. Plan to join us as a way to prepare for the birth of our Lord and please feel free to invite friends. A freewill offering will be collected for the Lire Parish Support Group.

Vestry Changes Meeting Date

The Vestry has decided to begin to meet on the second Monday evening of the month, rather than on the third Monday. The extra week will give parish leaders more time to plan and prepare for parish events and activities scheduled for the following month. Vestry meetings are open to the parish. We begin with a meal and conversation at 6:30. The business portion of the meeting begins around 7:00 and typically wraps up by 9:00. December's meeting of the Vestry will be held on December 8.

Lessons & Carols with pageant

Join us on Sunday, December 14 at 10:30 in the morning for a very special service of Advent Lessons and Carols with the Children's Nativity Pageant. This service, which combines two popular holiday traditions, will feature readings and dramatizations of the Nativity story. The service will conclude with a celebration of the Eucharist.

Christmas Eve Services

St. Paul's will offer two services on Christmas Eve. The first, at 5:30, will be oriented toward children. It will feature a Crèche Pageant with a celebration of Holy Eucharist. The second service, which begins at 10:00 in the evening, will be a festival celebration of our Lord's birth. Special music, including brass, is being planned.

Sunday Evening prayer & Concert Series The Music of Alpha

St. Paul's January Prayer & Concert service will feature the music of Alpha, a study program many members of St. Paul's enjoyed a few years back. One of the hallmarks of the program was its contemporary music. Charles Porter, a member of Trinity Church in Portsmouth and regular music leader at diocesan

events, will be with us to lead the singing. The service will take on January 4 at 6:30 in the evening. Plan to join us to start the new year off right. Please feel free to invite friends. A freewill offering will be collected for the Lire Parish Support Group.

Epiphany Evening Service

Plan to join us in the Chapel on Tuesday, January 6 at 5:30 in the evening for a very special service of Lights, Prayers, and Lessons. This service, held on the feast of the Epiphany, celebrates the Light of Christ being revealed to the world. It is conducted entirely by candlelight and concludes with a Eucharist.

Women's Study Group

Sharing Faith and Tea

The WSG (Women's Study Group) met Monday evening, November 10th, in the Guild Room. After an insightful discussion on the subject of God at work around us and pursuing a love relationship with us, we were treated to a "proper pot of English tea" by Sally Perry. Elsie Thornberry served us a variety of irresistible homemade cookie bars and we all went home very happily on a spiritual and sugar high! Thank-you Sally and Elsie!!!!

An Invitation

The ladies of St. Paul's are invited to join the WSG Monday, December 8th at 7 p.m. at the home of Betty Quayle, 217 N. Saratoga (directly behind the church). Our discussion topic will be: God takes the initiative and invites us to join Him. Fellowship and refreshments will follow. We who participate are finding that WSG is a wonderful way to draw closer to God and our fellow church women. Our discussion and social time is limited to 45 minutes each so we can be on our way home by 8:45 p.m. For more information you may call Irma Mottley at 539-8196.

St. Paul's Mugs Have Arrived!!!

In December the Women's Study Group will sell mugs sporting a drawing of the church and ECUSA emblem. They can be purchased individually or attractively gift wrapped for Christmas presents. The gift wrapped mugs will contain a 2 oz. package of St. Paul's Holy Grounds Columbian coffee. Proceeds go to the WSG outreach projects. Watch the Sunday bulletins for further details.

Food Pantry

It is the end of another very busy year, so it's thanks time. Your generous donations throughout the year has allowed us to serve 30-40 families each week.

The new shelves have allowed us to shop only once a month. Ed Fancher, Jerry Bangley, Rick Thompson supplied the transportation for these large orders, and the muscle too. Which brings me to thank the men's Saturday breakfast group for the sharing their room.

Our volunteers have been Pretlow, Heather & Ashton Pacheco, Ed, Julie & William Fancher, Rick Thompson, Toni Reynolds & friend Shirley, John Judkins, Miko & Christa Taylor, Irma Mottley, Elizabeth Jenkins and the J2A class. Last but not least is the Godfather of bread, thank you.

Now it is turkey time, we would like to receive 40 small turkeys (10-12lbs) that will fit in our freezer. There will be a need for trimmings, dressing, cranberry sauce, instant potatoes, canned yams, collards, canned fruit and small bags of Christmas candy. Turkey day will be Monday December 15th. Turkeys and trimmings should be here by December 14th and we will need volunteers to help pack and serve. Thank you.

Nancy Bangley

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Return Service Requested

New Newsletter Info

As part of our efforts to save money, our newsletter will now be sent out in conjunction with the liturgical season rather than monthly. This will allow us to save paper and postage. The next newsletter deadline is Dec. 31st and is planned to arrive to you by Jan. 7th.

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