



St. George's Episcopal Church

Where everyone has a place at Christ's table



St. George's Episcopal Church

www.StGeorgesonline.org

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This is a free publication for members and friends

Volume 13, No. 12

Now and Not-Yet in Advent

By the Rev. Canon Paul S. Nancarrow, PhD

The first four Sundays this month are the four Sundays of Advent, our season of joyful expectation for the coming of Our Lord. Advent begins a new church year and a new lectionary cycle; this month we return to Year A of the lectionary, in which most of our Gospel readings will be taken from Matthew. We last heard Matthew's account of the story of Jesus three years ago, in 2004—so we might well begin the new church year with a little “refresher” in Matthew's Advent themes.

The Gospel lessons for the four Sundays of Advent follow a kind of *backwards* time line in the life of Jesus. The first Sunday's gospel is taken from Jesus' apocalyptic teaching, the warnings and promises he shared with his followers during the last days of his earthly ministry in Jerusalem. It sums up the basic theme of Advent preparation: “*Be ready*, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.” The gospels for the Second and Third Sundays in Advent look back earlier, before the public ministry of Jesus, to the work and ministry of John the Baptist, to the time when John was preaching his message of warning and hope in the region around the Jordan. John is always the focus of the gospels for the middle Sundays in Advent, when the Good News is our call to prepare the way, to make the path straight, for the coming of the Messiah. On the Fourth Sunday of Advent we return to the time before Jesus' birth, when Joseph received confirmation from an angel of the Lord that Mary's unborn child was not a child of faithlessness, but a gift of the faithfulness of God, the gift of a Savior who would be Emmanuel, God-with-us. In Advent, the Gospels move *backwards* in time, while they take

us *forward* in our understanding of the gift of God to us in Christ.

This backward glance of the gospels reminds us that Advent is a kind of “time between times.” It is a season when we seem to look two ways: back to the past, to the time of expectation before the first coming of Christ, and forward to the future, to the time of fulfillment in the second coming of Christ. It is a time that is rich with memories of what was, and ripe with hope for what will be. It is a time to be mindful of how deeply intertwined past and future really are: the future we look toward is shaped by the past we share, and the past we bring with us names the promise of the future we seek. Above all, Advent is a time to remember that God is with us in all our pasts, that Christ is coming to meet us in all our futures.

Living in the Advent time between times invites us to be more aware of the promise of the Gospel that is both “now” and “not yet.” Because the Word came into the world in Jesus two thousand years ago, therefore we live in the power of the Word *now*; but there is much in our world that is still not shaped and guided by the Gospel, so the fulfillment of the Word in the world is *not yet*. Because the Creator has entered the Creation in Christ, therefore the work of the new creation is already begun *now*; but the consummation of that new creation in the full reign of justice and peace is *not yet*. Because the Holy Spirit dwells in our hearts to form the life of Christ in us, we are Christ's Body *now*; but the full redemption of our bodies in life everlasting, face-to-face with God in the realm where there is no pain or grief is *not yet*. Advent calls us to embrace this time between times; Advent calls us to embrace both the *now* of Christ's accomplishment and the *not yet* of Christ's promise.

And that is our call, too, here at St George's in this Advent season. We can celebrate together both the *now* of our accomplishments and the *not yet* of our promise: the *now* of our faithful members and the *not yet* of new guests and members yet to join us; the *now* of our active ministries and the *not yet* of our spiritual transformation and fuller participation in God's mission; the *now* of the fellowship we share in the Spirit and the *not yet* of even deeper communion and community, the adventure of coming to know the *mystery* of each other, into which the Spirit calls us.

This Advent let us look forward and back, let us be present in the time-between-times, let us celebrate both the *now* and the *not yet*, in the Good News of Emmanuel, God who is with us, yesterday and today and tomorrow and always.

Youth News

by Heather Whitesell

The youth and I spent last Friday night (Nov. 16) making pizza and watching a movie. We even had a science experiment on – what happens to Cheetos when baked on a pizza! We talked about our contribution to the parish's Millennium Development Goals. The kids have come up with some good choices as to where to direct our funds. We will be helping out families in poverty stricken countries by providing prenatal care, sanitary water, and even chickens and fruit trees. The 30 Hour Famine is coming up in February. Look for more news to come!!

An Early Christmas Invitation...

by Randy Egan

We all love Handel's MESSIAH! We get to hear and sing it so seldom. Here at St. George's we traditionally include several Messiah choruses in our Christmas season music. We will do so again this year. To fatten up the choir for these large choruses, we welcome "seasonal singers" to join with us as we prepare these masterpieces. Your voice is needed and we would love to have you! Please speak with Randy.

STEP Food Drive and Holiday Gift Drive

by Camille Schroeder

How time flies. It seems like just yesterday that we were shopping for school supplies for STEP and now it is time for Christmas gifts and food. **The St. Louis Park Emergency Program's Food and Holiday Gift Drive** is in full swing. Toys are already being purchased and delivered for the annual Toy Shop at STEP. The need is great and your donations are necessary. Donations for children, ages 0 to 11, should be valued between \$30.00 and \$40.00 as each child will receive only one item. Stocking stuffers will not be given out this year. Target gift cards in the amount of \$30.00 will be given out for 12-18 year olds. If you wish to donate money, any amount is perfect. There is a great need and all donations are used appropriately. The food drive continues with special emphasis on holiday items that you might use in your own home. If you wish to give a monetary donation and wish it to be used specifically for food or toys, please indicate this on the memo line. Checks should be made out to STEP. Thank you for your participation in this annual event.

Environmental Stewardship

by Kathie Brown

The Minnesota Episcopal Environmental Stewardship Commission (MEESC) states its mission as follows: *We believe creation is a gift of God, and all creation is interconnected. We seek to instill this spiritual awareness in parishioners, clergy and staff of the Episcopal Diocese of Minnesota; and to promote stewardship of and advocacy for planet Earth.*

RECYCLING

Hopefully all of you recycle through your local curbside recycling program. I trust by now you recycle all aluminum beverage cans, metal cans from food products, glass jars and bottles, plastic bottles, newspaper, phone books and office paper and mail.

Paper items

Are you aware that most curbside recycling programs also collect the following?

Boxes for food items that do not go in the refrigerator or freezer e.g. boxes from crackers, cake mix, pasta, gelatin & pudding, cereal

- Boxes from health & beauty aids e.g. toothpaste, facial tissue, over the counter medications
- Boxes from products such as trash bags, zipper-type bags, printer cartridges
- Empty tubes from toilet paper and paper towels
- Gift and shoe boxes
- Shredded paper



Plastic Bags

And most grocery stores (Byerly's, Cub, Festival Foods, Almsted's, Jerry's, Kowalski's, Lund's and Natural Food Co-ops) and some city/county recycling centers collect plastic bags for recycling. This does not just include plastic grocery bags, but includes the following (make sure to remove all food residue from the bags):

- Retail bags with string ties and rigid plastic handles removed
- Newspaper bags
- Dry cleaning bags
- Produce bags
- Bread bags
- Cereal bags
- Frozen food bags
- Plastic wrap from paper products e.g. paper towels and toilet paper
- Zipper type bags (without rigid plastic closing mechanism)

Make it a goal to cut down on the number of bags you put in your garbage can each week by recycling as much as possible.

Outreach Spending

by Kathie Brown

The Outreach Committee has a budget that is used each year to make charitable contributions to worthy organizations. The 2007 budget of \$1,500 is being distributed as follows:

Dinner at your Door: \$225

Greater Mpls. Council of Churches: \$200

Meadowbrook Collaborative: \$225

(investing in families and children by offering health, education and safety services for the Meadowbrook neighborhood in the city of St. Louis Park.)

ISALAH: \$200

(Faith communities working on social issues at the local level)

Children First: \$250

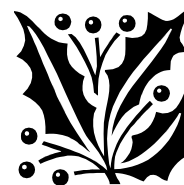
(was born out of a partnership among the education, faith, city, health and business communities to encourage everyone in the community to find ways to ensure the healthy development of our infants, children and teens)

Episcopal Community Services: \$300

University Episcopal Center: \$100

(Celebrating 100 years)

Your pledge dollars make these donations possible.
Thank you!





December Birthdays:

- 1 Charles Kimber
Al Kotula
- 3 Zach Johnson
- 4 Michael Grabner
Charleseta Kimber
- 6 Lou Michelich
- 8 George Grimes
- 10 Nicholas Hauser
- 12 Glennis Williams
Drew Monroe
Laura Harmon
Micaela Butcher
- 13 Karen Hurlbert
Helen Frey
- 16 Pamela Moore
- 17 Mari Mejia
- 22 Mark Monroe
Steve Harvala
Matthew Hamlyn
- 23 Lew Bennett
- 24 Loren Dwyer
- 26 Bob Miller
- 29 Blossom Tsang
- 31 Adam Johnson
Jeff Appelbaum
Karen Hamlyn

Thank you to:

- Carole Leonard, and her granddaughter, Hannah for cutting back the mums in the kidney shaped flower bed and for pulling out the geraniums in front.
- Everyone on Altar Guild for doing so much extra at this time of year and being faithful in your responsibilities.
- Max Kotula for being on the winning Eden Prairie football team.

Sympathy is extended to

- Bruce and Nancy Becker on the death of Bruce's mom, Julia.

Change of Addresses:

* Jean Anthony is now at the Masonic Home in Bloomington, the address is 11501 Masonic Home Dr. #D208-1, Bloomington, MN 55437.

Congratulations:

*Juan Leon, Abby Willing and Colin and Bredt Leon on the arrival of their little sister, Edith.

*Molly Jacobson, who will spend the next semester with St. Olaf in Spain. Have a wonderful time!!

*Maggie Nancarrow who will spend the next semester with Hamline in Ghana. Have a fun time.

Note received in the church office:

Dear St. Georgians, I've needed to get the Bulletin per month to feel close to you all. You're all vivid in my memory, still. Even if it was your cat that strayed, I love hearing of it! I am connected in all ways here with doctor, quaint Senior Citizen Orchestra that once a year plays for "65" senior residences for 1 hour each. I'm at St. John's Episcopal on Belcher Road in Clearwater, FL. The waters look clear! They may be less clear than one would want!! Love, Lois Dietrich

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from the Staff here at St. George's!



Fr Paul

Recycling comes to St. George's
by Patty Dittrich

After much discussion with the city of St. Louis Park, over the last 10 or so years. St. Louis Park has agreed to offer recycling to non-profits and businesses in the city. We do have to pay for the minimum in trash (currently \$39.19 a quarter), but we do get to put out our recycling for the city to pick up. They will also take our yard waste, which we currently pay \$2.00 a bag to dispose of. We also will have a garbage can we can use.

This is an exciting thing for St. George's.

New Year's Resolutions
By Carole Leonard

The New Year gives each of us the opportunity to make new resolutions for the year ahead. We ask that you consider making a resolution for 2007 to volunteer some of your time to help out at St. George's. We realize that many of us are already stressed with work, family, and just life in general and that now we are asking you to add to your already heavy load. However, our church needs our help, too. At St. George's, there are many ways you can help your parish family and many of them wouldn't take too much of your time. There is always a need for more ushers (at both services), coffee servers (at 10:00 a.m. service), lectors (both services), chalice bearers (both services), help with the mailing of the monthly newsletter, help with folding and collating the Sunday bulletin, etc. Wherever your talent or interest lies, we can find a slot for you. Please give this your prayerful consideration and if you are able to help, please talk with Wardens Dawn Bacon or Carole Leonard, Fr. Paul, or call the parish office and talk to Patty. We'd love to start the year off with a broader volunteer base. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Christmas Decorations

If you would like to contribute to the decorations that make St. George's so very beautiful at Christmas, please indicate your wishes below:

NAME:

AMOUNT: \$_____

In Memory of:

In Thanksgiving for:

Please return this sheet to either the collection plate or mail to the Church Office. The deadline is Sunday, December 16, 2007.

Calendar of Events December, 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday 1
2 8:00 am – HE, Rite I 8:30 am – Choir 9:00 am- Sunday School for all ages 10:00am – HE, Rite II	3	4	5	6 6:30 pm – AA (L/L)	7	8
9 8:00 am – HE, Rite I 8:30 am – Choir 9:00 am- Sunday School for all ages 10:00am – HE, Rite II	10	11 7:00 pm - Finance & Personnel (CEB) 7:00 pm -Mothers & More (L/L)	12 7:00pm- Vestry (CEB)	13 6:30 pm – AA(LL)	14	15
16 8:00 am – HE, Rite I 8:30 am – Choir 9:00 am- Sunday School for all ages 10:00am – HE, Rite II	17 Noon – St. Mary’s Circle – at the home of Betty Bauer	18	19	20 6:30 pm - AA	21	22
23 8:00 am – HE, Rite I 8:30 am – Choir 9:00am- Christmas Program 10:00am – HE, Rite II 11:15 am – Greening of the Church	24 4:00 pm - Family Eucahrist 10:30 pm – Festival Eucahrist Office Closed	25 Christmas Day 10:00am – HE, Rite 1 Office Closed	26	27 6:30 pm - AA	28	29
30 8:00 am – HE, Rite I 8:30 am – Choir 10:00am – HE, Rite II	31					PH- Parish Hall LL – Library Lounge CEB – Conference Room Christian Ed. Building

Ministers of the Eucharistic Assembly December 2007

	December 2 Advent I	December 9 Advent II	December 16 Advent III	December 23 Advent IV	December 30
	Isaiah 2:1-5 Psalm 122 Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:36-44	Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12	Isaiah 35:1-10 Psalm 146:4-9 James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11	Isaiah 7:10-16 Psalm 80:1-7,16-18 Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-25	Isaiah 61:10-62:3 Psalm 147:13-21 Galatians 3:23-25,4:4-7 John 1:1-8
Chalice	Karen Hurlbert Alan Poulsen Laura Harmon	Steve Harvala Eileen Harvala Leslie Olufson	Maraline Keeling Glen Wilson Cyprian Troyer	Karen Hurlbert Kathie Brown John Hagerman	Steve Harvala Eileen Harvala Laura Harmon
Lectors	Karen Hurlbert Mary Poulsen Leon Vann	Steve Harvala Eileen Harvala Caryl Eschweiler	Carole Leonard Maraline Keeling Paul Schroeder Gale Winikoff	Karen Hurlbert Marion Miller Kathie Brown	Steve Harvala Philip Eschweiler Pat Sturcken
Lay Eucharist Visitors	Julie Milligan Heather Whitesell	Laura Harmon Alan Poulsen	Glen Wilson Julie Milligan		
Greeters 10:00 a.m.	John & Nancy Taylor	Maurine Bernier	Mary and Alan Poulsen	TBA	TBA
Ushers	Bob Miller Bruce Becker	Ron Holbach Chuck Murphy Leon Vann Tom Zaub	Ron Erickson Bruce Becker Jane Jacobson Bob Jones	Ron Holbach Bob Miller Bill Stromberg Kitty Reese	
Acolyte 10:00 a.m.	Andrew Sell	Hannah Dodds	Zachary Dodds	Andrew Sell	Hannah Dodds
Coffee Hour 8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Ron Holbach Karen Hurlbert Mike and Nancy Johnson	Katherine Cady Myrt Glynn Alan and Mary Poulsen	Betty Bauer John and Jane Carlson	Carole Leonard Bob and Bonnie Jones	Carole Leonard John and Sandy Stonhouse

About St. George's

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www.StGeorgesOnline.org

or

www.SaintG.org

Parish staff:

The Rev. Canon Paul Nancarrow, Ph.D., Rector
Patty Dittrich, Parish Administrator
Heather Whitesell and Rachelle Troyer
Children and Youth Coordinators

Wardens and Vestry:

Carole Leonard, Dawn Bacon, John Carlson, Pat
FitzSimons, Eileen Harvala, Karen Hurlbert, Mike A.
Johnson, Gordy Justus, Leslie Olufson, Bill Stromberg,
Cyprian Troyer,

Our Mission is to:

Listen, Proclaim, Serve, Celebrate!

Non-Profit Org.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Advent and Christmas at St. George's

Sunday, December 2nd –9:00 a.m. - Intergenerational Advent Wreath making project.

Sunday, December 23rd – Advent IV – Christmas Program at 9:00 am, and greening of the church after the 10:00 am service.

Christmas Eve, December 24th – 4:00 pm- Family Christmas Service
10:30 pm – Festival Eucharist Service

Christmas Day – December 25th – 10:00 am – Holy Eucharist