

December 2011



Service Time Changes and Special Services in December

December 4: Parish Meeting and Pot Luck

9:30 a.m. (no 8:45 a.m. or 11 a.m. services that day). Annual Parish Meeting will be held as part of the 9:30 a.m. service. The 7:30 am service will be held.

Voting for new vestry only at 9:30 a.m. service. To vote you must be present at the annual meeting (the 9:30 service).

Pot luck following annual meeting. We will gather for a pot-luck lunch in the parish hall following the service. Please bring a dish for the lunch.

December 18: Children's Pageant, Lessons and Carols

Children's Pageant. The annual Christmas pageant presented by the children of St. Paul's will be presented at the 8:45 a.m. service. Sign ups will be in the Parish Hall for children 3 years-up. Rehearsals will be Dec. 3, 10, and 17 from 9:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. If you have any questions, contact Dee Dee Tidwell.



Lessons and Carols. A Service of Lessons and Carols will be held in the Nave at 4:00 p.m. Patterned after the service from King's College, Cambridge, England, the St. Paul's Choir and Choristers will be accompanied by a brass quintet. Admission is free and child care is provided. A reception will follow in the Parish Hall.

Christmas Eve: Special Services

Christmas Eve. Services at 4:30 p.m. and 11 p.m. Child care will only be provided at 4:30 p.m. Service.

A program of carols and other music will begin at 10:30 p.m. before the 11 p.m. Service.

Christmas Day: Worship Schedule

Christmas Day. One service only. 10:30 a.m. Children may bring one gift for the altar. No child care provided. No Christian education.

January: Worship Schedule Time Change

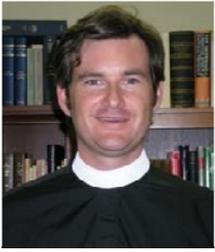
Middle service time change. Beginning January 8, 2012, the 8:45 am service time will move to 8:30 am. This will allow more time for Christian education. Classes will begin at 9:50 a.m.

Other services. The 7:30 a.m. service time will not change. We will be using Rite I at the early service. The 11 a.m. service will not change. Please call the parish office if you have any questions about these changes. Thank you for your patience and consideration as we make these necessary transitions.

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Preparation and Promise

A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. 5 And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." -- Isaiah 40:3-5



We meet these words of Isaiah in both the Old and New Testaments. In the Old Testament we hear these words as Isaiah commands the exiled Jews of Babylon to prepare themselves because God is about to act. Isaiah proclaims that the people's preparation will lead to God's action. In the New Testament we hear John the Baptist quoting these same words as he prepares the Jews for the coming of Jesus. John the Baptist wants the people to remember that their preparation precedes the coming God's great promise – the promise of the Messiah.

These words are helpful for us to remember during Advent because Advent is a time that we prepare for God's promise. During Advent we are called to prepare for the coming Jesus into our lives. One author writes:

"Advent is traditionally a time of preparation for Christmas. It is said that the door to the stable where the Christ-child has been born is very low – and only those who kneel find access. Being ready for Christmas should mean that our thoughts are focused not just on letters, cards and presents, but on repentance, humbling ourselves, and interior 'housecleaning.' John the Baptist warned his hearers to prepare a way for the Lord – to make a clear and level pathway. This involves removing any boulders that stand in the way, and filling any potholes. The boulders are the things we have done that we should not have done; the potholes are the things we obviously should have done." – Celtic Daily Prayers by the Northumbria Community

God is always coming to us – and in the season of Advent we rest in the truth that we do not have to make our way to God, because God has made His way to us.

During this Advent season how can you prepare for the eternal coming of God? In what ways can you "prepare a way for the Lord?" These are questions to reflect and ponder as we await "the glory of the Lord" on Christmas Day.

Colin+

Preparation and Promise: Part 2



Colin challenges all of us to think about how we can prepare ourselves for the eternal coming of God. I want us to think for a moment about preparing for the immediate and future (and necessary) changes that will be occurring here at St. Paul's.

New pipe organ. As you all know, the new pipe organ has been ordered. It will be delivered the first week of June, 2012, and be installed no later than July 20. We have in hand more than 80 percent of the necessary funds, with the remainder promised by August 30.

The old organ will be removed sometime in early spring so that the area at the front of the church can be prepared to receive the new organ. This means we will have different musical accompaniment for several months. Thank you for your generosity in making the new pipe organ!

Phase 2 Committee. On another front, the vestry has appointed a Phase 2 Committee. The committee is charged with developing a conceptual plan for St. Paul's campus based on the long range plan developed last year. Let me be clear in saying that we are NOT beginning a capital campaign. We are doing the necessary preparation to be in position to begin a capital campaign when the conditions are favorable.

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The members of the committee are: Don Clayton, Jonathan Bartsch, Kris McCusker, Phillip O'Reilly, Marcie Richmond, Rebecca Potts, Bill Emory, Kristi Hay, Tim Seneker, Fant Smith, and Andrea Broxton.

Change in Sunday worship schedule. As we prepare for the 2012, and that we might better prepare ourselves, there will be a slight modification to our Sunday worship schedule (see page 1). Beginning January 8, 2012, the 8:45 a.m. service time will move to 8:30 a.m. This will allow a more reasonable amount of time for Christian education classes. Class time will begin at 9:50 am. This change will mean that these classes will actually begin on time!

The 7:30 a.m. service time will continue unchanged. We will be using Rite I at the early service.

The 11 a.m. service will remain unchanged. Please call the parish office if you have any questions about these changes. Thank you for your patience and consideration as we make these necessary transitions.

Parish Meeting. Finally, the Annual Parish Meeting will be held on the Second Sunday of Advent (December 4, 2011) as part of the 9:30 am service. PLEASE NOTE THE SERVICE TIME!

There also will be a 7:30 am service. To vote, however, you must be present at the annual meeting (the 9:30 service). We will gather in fellowship with a potluck lunch in the parish hall following the service.

Blessings,

Polk+

ECW Christmas Social

Ladies save the date! The St. Paul's Episcopal Christian Women (ECW) Christmas Social will be Sunday, December 11, from 2:30 to 4:30 pm. in the Parish Hall and St. Andrew's Chapel.

This event is for any woman (over 18) who is a member of St. Paul's.

Let's Build an Ark!

By Pidge Cash

Goats! Sheep! Llamas! Water Buffaloes! Heifers! Camels! Chicks! Ducks! Rabbits! Geese! Pigs! Honey Bees!

Heifer International envisions a world of communities living together in peace and equality sharing the resources of a healthy planet. Heifer's mission is to work with communities to end hunger and poverty and to care for the Earth. Heifer's strategy is to "Pass on the Gift."

As people share their animals' offspring with others – along with their knowledge, resources, and skills – an expanding network of hope, dignity, and self-reliance is created that reaches around the globe.

St. Paul's is building another Heifer International Ark during Advent. The ark provides 15 pairs of animals to change the lives of people across the globe. To fund the ark, we must raise \$5,000. You will be able to select which animals you want to fund and you can even purchase a share of an animal. There are donation levels from \$10 and up.

Get the whole family involved. Stop by the Heifer table in the Narthex early in Advent and pick up materials that will promote awareness of the less fortunate peoples of the world.

We'll be at the Heifer table every Sunday in Advent. You may choose your animals to give to a loved one. You will be helping children and families around the world receive training and animal gifts that help them become self-reliant.

We'll have cards that you can personalize to tell your friends and family that you have honored them with a Heifer gift. We'll also have calendars

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and change-boxes that can be filled by children and used toward a share of an animal.

Peace Is More Than An Advent Greeting

By Ronny Clemmons

*Turn from evil and do good;
seek peace and pursue it. –
Psalm 34:14*



In the next few weeks, thousands of Christmas cards will be mailed around the world proclaiming the Annunciation to the Shepherds: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Far too often, however, the sentiments of brotherly love and peacemaking are repacked with other holiday tinsel, not to reappear for another 12 months.

Love and peace are inextricably linked in the Gospels, and Christians are commanded to pursue these goals in our daily lives. Yet wars, fear, bigotry, racism, and social injustice continue unabated, even in our own community.

The Episcopal Peace Fellowship (EPF), established almost three-quarters of a century ago, helps the members of our communion to achieve the Gospel mandates of peacemaking and care for our fellow man through active participation.

The EPF has worked under the banner of promoting justice, dismantling violence, and striving to be peacemakers since chartering in 1939; those objectives still guide today's organization.

In January 2012, an EPF chapter will be formed at St. Paul's. Among the group's objectives in our community are the promotion of peace, the pursuit of non-violence, establishing a climate of inter-faith tolerance and understanding, and addressing issues of social justice.

EPF programs offer myriad opportunities for members of St. Paul's to fully embrace the blessing promised to peacemakers.

The Murfreesboro chapter will work to fulfill the EPF organizational objectives through prayer, reading, group discussions, speakers, forums, and direct action.

Why do we need an EPF chapter at St. Paul's? Just consider what has occurred in the lives of members in this parish:

- WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iraq, and multiple "police actions."
- No child born since 1991 has ever lived a day without this country being engaged in war.
- The ongoing conflict between people of varying faiths.
- The continuing domestic violence against women, children and the aged.
- The growing number of displaced families who need assistance due to the economy.
- The 86 men and women residing on Tennessee's death row.
- The number of Rutherford County school-aged children who qualify for free school lunches has risen to 34%.

The real question is, "How can we not form an EPF chapter?"

Before the January chartering meeting, you can go the national EPF website at epfnation@ameritech.net and read about the work occurring across the U.S. Also, you can see the EPF FaceBook page at www.facebook.com/episcopalpeacefellowship.

For information about the St. Paul's chapter, contact Ronny Clemmons at 867-6318.

St. Paul's Quarterly Food Drive Report

Many thanks to all who brought in donations for St. Paul's last quarterly food drive for 2011. This drive yielded a total of 1,342 food items and \$100 in cash donations. The Rutherford County Food Bank is

very appreciative of St. Paul's participation and generosity!

Thanks also go to Ed Arning and the St. Paul's Boy Scouts for their wonderful help counting and loading food, and to Tom Collins and Tom Washer for making the delivery to the food bank.

Waiting for Superman?

By Steven Lefebvre



All around us we observe a pregnant creation. The difficult times of pain throughout the world are simply birth pangs. But it's not only around us; it's within us. The Spirit of God is arousing us within. We're also feeling the birth pangs.

These sterile and barren bodies of ours are yearning for full deliverance. That is why waiting does not diminish us, any more than waiting diminishes a pregnant mother. We are enlarged in the waiting. We, of course, don't see what is enlarging us. But the longer we wait, the larger we become, and the more joyful our expectancy. – Romans 8:22-25

Advent is the season of anticipation. But what are we waiting for? The Christ Child has already come! He has already died, resurrected, and ascended, but we still live in a world full of heartache and longing.

We decorate our homes with tinsel and garland, we hustle and bustle through stores, and we drink expensive alcohol and sing carols, but I fear these may only be distractions from the greater reality of this world: the creation isn't as it was made to be. Oceans are polluted, children are exploited, families are separated, and even though the savior of the world has lived among us, our hearts still ache for salvation.

So again I ask: if the Christ child already came more than 2,000 years ago, what are we waiting for? Is Jesus going to come back like a divine Superman and save us all? Did Jesus ascend and abandon us? Are we left to fend for ourselves until he comes back?

Of course not, we as followers of Jesus are also bearers of Jesus. The Christ child never left but rather dispersed and lived in the hearts of his followers.

Therefore, the season of Advent asks us to return. As we wander through the wilderness of our lives, as our ambition drives us to alien territory, as our suffering drifts us further into the sea of despair, the season of Advent calls us to come back to the beginning.

To allow the Christ that dwells in us, which guides us and empowers us to be healers of this broken creation, to be reborn. We return to find sanctuary from the pressures and chaos of ordinary life, to listen to the groaning and longing within our soul and to hear the quiet whisper of the Holy Spirit calling us to simply be.

And so we wait, actively sitting in the tension of who we are and who we wish to become. This promises to be painful and hard work: In the same way a mother waits for her unborn child, we will be stretched and our deepest fears will come to surface. However, our struggle will be deeply purposeful.

The apostle Paul says, "the longer we wait the larger we become." Waiting forms us into a people that are big enough to take on and reconcile the real forces of evil in this world. Waiting gives us space to truly address the truth about ourselves, the places where we aren't whole, where our insecurities and doubts hurt others. And the longer we wait, the more strength we have to lift our darkness up to God our healer.

The irony of this holiday season is that there is very little space for waiting. But I urge you strongly to find that space. Be vigilant. The Christ child isn't just growing inside of you, he is growing in every corner of the creation! I invite you to be present to this season's most wonderful gift: the Christ child growing all around you Shalom.

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Salvation Army Bell Ringing

Salvation Army bell ringing opportunities. Mark your calendars now! Dec. 14, 16, 20, and 21. If you have questions please contact Nancy Loucky at 895-3417.

Poinsettia Dedications

Christmas poinsettia dedications will be accepted through Friday, December 16. Envelopes for the dedications will be available on the welcome table in the narthex and on the Flower Guild bulletin board in the parish hall. They are labeled in red "Poinsettia."

These dedications will be published in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Please fill out an envelope either in honor, memory, or celebration and place in the appropriate box on the welcome table or in the Flower Guild mail slot in the parish hall adjacent to Children's Church. The suggested donation for a poinsettia is \$18.

Christmas Care Packages for Military Members

The Military Personnel Ministry will be assembling Christmas "Care Packages" on Saturday Dec 10. We are in need of home-baked goodies, Chapstick, eye drops, AA and AAA batteries, playing cards, chewing gum, and wipes – there are reminder "ornaments" on the tree in the Narthex if you would like to take one.

For your convenience, there is a receptacle in the Parish Hall for dropping off items. If you would prefer to make a monetary donation, please make the check payable to St. Paul's, with a notation – for Military Personnel. Christmas cards to be sent with the packages will be in the narthex on December 4. Please stop and sign them!

If you have a loved one, a friend, or a friend of a friend, who is serving abroad in the armed forces, please contact Lisa Richardson to have them added to our mailing list. We need their full APO address, and someone to contact to keep us updated on their current location.

Thank you to everyone who supports this ministry. The letters we receive back show how much these packages are appre-

ciated! If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Richardson. Thank you!

Ted Cassidy Honored by Society of Universal Dialogue

"On billion hungry in the world – what is your role?" That question is the theme for the year of Nashville's Society of Universal Dialogue (SUD). Ted Cassidy's answer to that question is clear and unambiguous: "What I know how to do and what I do well – plant a garden." That's exactly what Ted has done.

Many of you know that Ted Cassidy is a professional farmer and landscaper. Over the last year and a half, he has directed those skills to responding to hunger relief following the devastating earthquake in Haiti in January 2010.



Along with other members of St. Paul's and St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Birmingham, Alabama, Ted went to Haiti in July 2010, and planted an orchard of fruit trees and shade trees on the grounds of a children's nutrition clinic called Lespois Timoun, "Hope for the Children."

In May 2011, Ted and his wife Melissa went to Haiti a second time, this time to prepare for the planting of a large vegetable garden. In July 2011, Ted returned to Haiti a third time to complete the planting of the garden.

Ted has traveled to Haiti three times so far. But he did much more than just go. His leadership and skills in the planning and execution of the orchard, garden, and the irrigation system to support both were indispensable to the overwhelming success of the project.

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When the SUD sought nominees for recipients of its humanitarian awards, this year for “feeding the hungry,” Ted was an obvious candidate. That he was selected to receive the individual humanitarian award was equally a “no-brainer.”

The award was presented at SUD's 5th annual Dialogue Dinner on November 2, 2011 at the Hutton Hotel in Nashville.

Congratulations, Ted. We are very proud of you!

Upcoming Schedule at St. Paul's

December 2. Annual lighting of the tree on the square and the St. Paul's choir will sing.

December 4. Annual Parish Meeting with the Children's Christmas Party, No Christian Education.

December 6. Nashville Chamber Singers, under the direction of Angela Tipps, will perform a Christmas concert at St. Paul's at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free, and child care is provided.

December 15. Office closed partial day for church staff Christmas party

December 18. Christmas Pageant at the 8:45 a.m. service

December 18. Service of Lessons and Carols at 4:00 p.m. in the Nave.

Week of Dec. 18. No Morning Prayer

December 23-27. The office will be closed for Christmas starting Friday, Dec. 23 and will re-open Dec. 28.

December 24. Christmas Eve. Services at 4:30 p.m. and 11 p.m. with childcare at 4:30 p.m. service ONLY. A program of carols and other music will begin at 10:30 p.m. before the 11 p.m. Service.

December 25. Christmas Day. 10:30 a.m. Children may bring one gift for the altar. ONE SERVICE ONLY. No childcare, No Christian education.

Week of Dec. 25. No Morning Prayer

December 28. No Wednesday services

December 30. Office closed half day

January 2. Office will be closed

January 3. Office will re-open

January 5. No Wednesday services

January 6. Epiphany Party

Baptisms

Five people were baptized at St. Paul's on All Saint's Sunday.

- Eleanor Francis Hoover
- Jackson Denney Peek
- George Michael Wright
- Jackson Lee Wright
- Cason Kinnett Wright

Deaths

Richard Douglas Gleaves, Jr.
May 8, 1929 – November 13, 2011

Thank You

The family of Dick Gleaves wishes to express our sincere appreciation for all the expressions of love, all the wonderful food, and all the prayers that our St. Paul's family provided for us. Thanks be to God.

Birthdays

- 12/01 Stephen Sachs
- 12/02 Ryan Deken
- 12/03 Phillip O'Reilly
- 12/04 Janna McClain
- 12/05 Mike Stewart
- 12/06 Forrest Clemmons
- 12/07 Fred Kinney
- 12/08 Ron Messier

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12/08 Ariel Bawol
12/09 Angela Tipps
12/10 Edith Brophy
12/10 Thomas Washer
12/11 Eric Blum
12/11 Timothy Bradford
12/12 Thomas Van Zandt
12/12 Nicholas McGuire
12/13 Billie Freitag
12/13 Loretta (Loretta) Kimball
12/13 Brittany Whitmore
12/14 Kermit Davis
12/17 Mike Becker
12/18 Jonathan Bartsch
12/18 Jonathan Wilson

12/21 Evelyn Short
12/22 Ally Davis
12/23 Aerolene Cox
12/24 David Jones
12/24 Barry Huber
12/26 Sarah Davis
12/26 Bob Lynch
12/26 Bill Williams
12/26 Joan Kleinlein
12/27 Olivia Carpenter
12/28 Brian Burritt
12/28 Robert Bray
12/28 Drew O'Reilly
12/30 Carole Carroll
12/31 Denise Nunley
12/31 Melinda Haines
12/31 Charlotte Young

12/20 Jennifer Dooley

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Our Mission is to worship God and to bring all into a loving relationship with Jesus Christ

St. Paul's Staff

James K. Polk Van Zandt, Rector
The Rev. Colin M. Ambrose, Associate Rector
The Rev. Gene Wise, Rector Emeritus
Steven Lefebvre, Youth Minister
Angela Tipps, Organist, Choir Director and RSCM
Susan Greenall, Office Administrator
Kathy Warlick, Administrative Assistant
Nikki Butler, Nursery Director
Morris Hamby, 7:30 a.m. Musician
Joyce Adkins, Assistant to the Rector
Kathleen Herzog, Assistant to the Rector
Dr. David L. Rowe, Assistant to the Rector

Contact Us

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You can listen to Father Colin Ambrose's sermons online at <http://colinambrose.wordpress.com/>. Click on older posts at the bottom left to access archived sermons.)

To obtain a copy of Father Polk Van Zandt's sermons please contact the Parish Office at 893-3780.