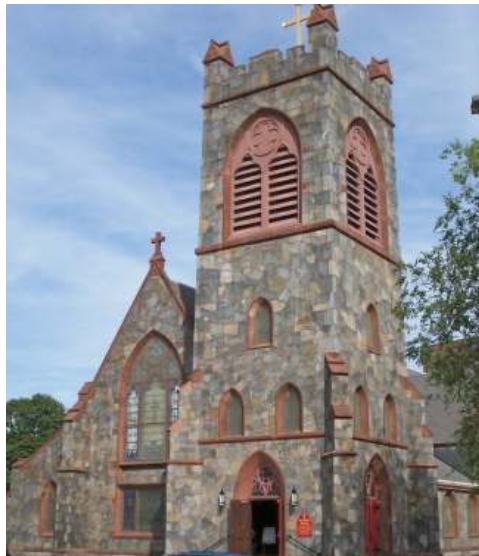


The Messenger



St. Paul's Episcopal Church
50 Park Place • Pawtucket, RI • 02860

December, 2011
Volume 62 Issue 118

Prayerfully going forth...
to love
to care
to work
to share
...in Christ's name



From the Rector _____

My daughter Abby recently sent me a cartoon with an irate turkey telling Santa Claus, "**December**, bearded guy. This month is for my holiday. Wait your turn!" Having been properly raised in the church, she added that there should probably be an Advent wreath in line, too.

It's that time of year again. A pre-Halloween trip to Wal-Mart weeks ago found the Christmas merchandise being put out. It's time to embrace the season of Advent.

Advent comes, it seems to me, as a great antidote to the increasingly annoying "holiday season" that our society foists upon us. This holiday season is one of growing consumption, growing anxiety, and growing exhaustion. It leads to that great cry that goes up once Christmas finally arrives: "thank God it's over!"

In contrast, the season of Advent bids us prepare and anticipate. It reminds us that Christmas is its own joyful and celebratory season that doesn't begin until we come to the vigil of our Lord's birth on Christmas Eve, and continues until Epiphany – the Twelve Days of Christmas. We therefore have the great gift of several weeks to pray, reflect, worship – and gradually grow in anticipation of the birth of Jesus. In addition, Advent calls us beyond the birth of Christ to the end of time (hence those unsettling lessons early on), thereby reminding us that the baby is born to lead us somewhere, to draw us into the kingdom of God.

Besides our regular Sunday and Wednesday worship, we have three special opportunities to observe the season of Advent. On Sunday, December 4, 5:00 pm, we will have our annual festival of **Advent Lessons & Carols** - a wonderful afternoon of great stories from the Bible interspersed with the unforgettable music of Advent, led by our choirs. The following Saturday – December 10 – will be an **Advent Quiet Day**, actually a "quiet morning". From 9 am until Noon, you will have the opportunity to find a spot in the church facilities to pray, read, write, knit...whatever it is you do when you seek to be open to God's presence. There will be a reflection or two from me, and we will end with the Eucharist, but the primary focus is your own chance to be quiet – a rare gift in this holiday season (see above). Finally, our monthly **Taizé Prayer** service is on December 18 at 5:00 pm, giving us a gentle mixture of chant and silence to end the day.

I hope you will make use of these offerings from St. Paul's. May you have a Blessed Advent.

Peace,



The Rev'd William Locke

From the Director of Music ---

Now that December has arrived, we are keeping the season of Advent. These weeks provide a rich opportunity to prepare ourselves for the celebration of Christmastide. As with all seasons of the liturgical year, Advent has its own particular themes. These themes are reflected in our music.

In the opening section of the Eucharist, after the procession, there is sung a song of praise. Sometimes it is the *Kyrie* (in Lent) or the *Gloria* (as it was through the fall), for Advent it is the *Benedictus Dominus Deus*, also called the Song of Zechariah (*Book of Common Prayer*, p. 92). This canticle is especially appropriate for Advent with its themes of God freeing the people, raising up a mighty Savior, and a prophet to prepare the way of the Lord (John the Baptist). It is sung to Plainsong, an ancient chant going back to the early church and rooted in the liturgy of Jesus' time.

For Advent we sing the *Agnus Dei* (Lamb of God) at the Fraction (the Breaking of the Bread before communion). The *Agnus Dei* is an ancient text, included in the liturgy since the fourth century. It is based on a verse of scripture (John 1:19) and was originally repeated as long as receiving communion lasted. In the Middle Ages it was reduced to three repetitions during the Fraction. The setting we sing is by the Chicago composer Richard Proulx (1937–2010). It matches the setting of the *Sanctus* (Holy, Holy, Holy) we sing this season (§ 125).

To keep the season of Advent, in addition to Sunday morning, the choirs offer Advent Lessons & Carols on December 4, at 5 pm. Why not invite a friend, relative or neighbor to join you? All three choirs (St. Paul, St. Nicholas, and Handbell Choir) offer music for the season, with lessons from scripture, followed by a wonderful reception. And on December 18 at 5 pm a Taizé liturgy, with simple music, candles, icons, prayers and some silence is offered. This liturgy can be an hour of respite and calm in the business of the season.

However you keep this season, may it be a holy time for you and those you love.

Patrick

A Word from our Patron Saint ---

For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.

But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God.

He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

1 Corinthians 1:25-31



Advent Quiet Day Saturday, December 10th 9:00 AM - Noon

In our ever more busy and noisy world, opportunities for silence and room for reflection and prayer are increasingly scarce. We will take one small step towards correcting that situation by having an Advent Quiet Day. This really turns out to be an Advent Quiet 3 hours. From 9 am til noon, you will have the chance to find a quiet and comfortable place within our wonderful facilities and use that time to pray, read, write, crochet—whatever you do when you want to be aware of the presence of God. There will be a reflection or two from the rector, and we will conclude with the Holy Eucharist. The bulk of the time is a rare chance to be quiet and prepare for the birth of our Lord.

Amidst the busy time of shopping, wrapping, baking and party-going - find the time to quietly sit for three hours in prayer on December 10th.

From our Youth Formation Director _____

Advent Project Due Dates:

Coming to a door near you: Advent artwork is being submitted at a steady clip. Artwork for the first two weeks of Advent is due Sunday, November 20; for the second two weeks, the due date is Sunday, December 4th. Please remember to include a short written reflection along with your artwork. Thanks to everyone who has participated...be on the lookout, artwork will be posted on doors throughout our buildings starting November 27th!

Older Youth Program:

Youth will continue to meet Friday evenings from 5:30-7:00 in December. We'll be working on creating our own group contribution to the Advent project, participating in the Winter Wonderland tree stroll at Slater Park on December 3rd, and we'll take a field trip to Lasalette Shrine on Friday, December 16th. Mark your calendars so you can be sure to join us!

Heather Annis



Send a whole kid to camp

It costs roughly \$700 per camper to run the Episcopal Conference Center each year. Camp fees only cover half of that, so ECC has to come up with the additional money every year. A campaign has begun to "send a whole kid to camp". St. Paul's has taken three "incomplete" kids for whom to raise the money. You'll see their figures in the parish hall along with a container. We invite you to bring in your spare change, now, and then each Sunday, to help send a whole kid to camp. Thanks for your help!

Worship Opportunities in December at St. Paul's:

Holy Eucharist
Wednesday Evenings
7:00 PM

Trinity Chapel


Morning Prayer
Monday - Thursday
9:00 AM

Trinity Chapel

Advent Lessons & Carols
Sunday, December 4th
5:00 PM

Advent Quiet Day
Saturday, December 10th
9:00 AM - Noon

Taizé Prayer
Sunday, December 18th




5:00 PM

Chant - Prayer - Candles -
Silence

Simple reception follows

Christmas Eve Services
5:00 PM
10:30 PM Preludial Music
11:00 PM



Christmas Day
Sunday, December 25th
8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
10:00 AM Holy Eucharist

Christmas at St. Paul's

*Christmas Eve
Saturday, December 24th*

5:00 PM – Holy Eucharist with the
St. Nicholas Choir and the Handbell Choir

10:30 PM - Special program of music for organ, choir and congregation

11:00 PM - Festive Eucharist with music for organ, choir



*Christmas Day
Sunday, December 25th*

8:00 AM - Holy Eucharist
10:00 AM - Holy Eucharist with carols

ZUMBA CLASSES— Wednesdays at St. Paul's!



Put on your sneakers, dress comfortably and get to St. Paul's every Wednesday **from 5:30 to 6:30 pm** for an hour of exercise! It's easy and fun to do. The Cost is \$5 a class: bring a friend with you. For additional information, please see Jeanne or Kailey Southworth.

Baldwin School Giving Tree - Once again we will "adopt" up to 50 children for Christmas. Names are available after both services. Gifts need to be new and wrapped. With Christmas on a Sunday this year, the deadline to bring your gifts will be Sun. Dec 11th. No time to wrap? The J2A kids will be glad to wrap the gifts for you on Sunday, Dec 4th and the 11th.



Christmas Greens and Flowers



We are asking for donations, as memorials or simply as a gift, to purchase plants and greens that will decorate the church for Christmas. The cost of a poinsettia is \$20. The deadline to submit your memorial requests is **Sunday, December 18th.**

Also, if you would like to sponsor a wreath for the church doors, please see Mary Ellen Kerr for details and cost. We will need help decorating the church for Christmas as well. Exact day and time not yet decided. Call the Church Office as Christmas draws closer.

Annual Booster Club "Cookie Walk"

The Booster Club will have its annual "cookie walk" on Sunday, December 11th (snow date the 18th) following the 10:00 AM service. The cost is \$3.50 per bag. The Booster Club would be happy to accept cookies from non-Booster members to sell as well!



Food Closet

Our food closet is nearly empty and it is difficult to tell those seeking help, especially this time of year, that we have nothing. When shopping, please consider buying a few extra non-perishable food items such as macaroni, sauce, soups, etc. Plastic grocery bags are needed as well!

Sunday Crock Pot Chain for the Homeless

Many thanks to those who have signed up and have been providing crock pot meals since the shelter opened on November 1st. Please be sure to check the Sign-up sheet posted in the Great Hall! You can bring your crock pot to church with you on Sunday morning or you can make sure it is here by 7 PM when the shelter opens at night. Perhaps you would rather donate a breakfast item for our shelter residents. Donuts, granola bars, pastries are all gratefully accepted and appreciated! The Shelter is open through the 1st of June.



Also needed for our shelter residents are refreshments - soda, juice boxes, etc.

Slater Park Tree Decorating



St. Paul's is sponsoring a Christmas tree at Slater Park: another annual favorite for the kids and families. Join us on Saturday, December 3rd at 10:00 am at the gazebo at the Armistice Blvd. entrance to the park. For additional information, please see Heather.



Advent Lessons and Carols Sunday, December 4th - 5:00 PM

This annual event celebrates Advent in readings and music. The readings are prophecies of the coming of Jesus in Scripture; the music includes anthems by the St. Paul, St. Nicholas and Handbell Choirs and hymns and carols for the season.

A trademark St. Paul's reception follows in the Great Hall.
All are invited and welcome.

VESTRY NEWS

Stewardship

Thank you to all who have sent pledge cards back to the church. If you haven't yet made your decision, please be sure to do so at your very earliest convenience.

St. Paul's Directory

We are in the early stages of putting together a new directory of church members and friends as well as updating our computer "databases". Enclosed is an information card which we would like you to fill out and return to the church office as soon as possible. On the back of the card you are invited to write in any special services you provide; i.e., plumber, electrician, carpenter, painter, etc. If you have any questions, be sure to see Joe Swinski.

Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 22nd
Following the 10:00 AM Service



Annual Reports

are due in the church office
On or before Friday, January 13th

OUR JANUARY, 2012 CALENDAR:

Pencil in these dates on your calendar — we'll have detailed information as the dates draw closer:

January:

- Sunday, January 1st: Happy New Year
- Monday, January 2nd: Office Closed
- Friday, January 6th: Epiphany Pageant and Worship
- Monday, January 9th: Vestry Meeting, 7 PM
- Friday, January 13th: Annual Reports due in the Office
- Sunday, January 15th: Taizé Prayer, 5 PM
- Sunday, January 22nd: Annual Meeting

Pencil in and save this date on your 2012 Calendar:

Fundraiser Pasta Dinner for ECC

Sunday, March 11th from 4 - 7 PM

St. David's-on-the-Hill, Cranston

Sponsored by:
Cranston 4 Church Committee to Save ECC

From the Parish Registers _____

December Birthdays

- 4th Doris Guindon
- 5th Ann Buckley, Lori-Ann Penta, Sandra Parise
- 6th Albert Sankey, Isobel Smith, Caitlyn Boissoneault
- 10th Peter Grant
- 12th Abigail Locke
- 14th Eleanor Butler
- 15th Fionah LeoMensah
- 16th Robert Forest, Amanda Doherty
- 18th Halsey (Chip) Stevens, Jennifer Porter
- 19th Ronald Salois, Helen Titmas
- 20th Barry Fuller
- 21st Meghan Costa
- 22nd Sandra Balay
- 24th Carol Varden
- 25th Jane H.A. Riley, Holly Scott
- 26th Ruth Pedro, Victoria Shokunbi, Louis Goodrich
- 27th Rebecca Refino
- 28th Ethel Locke, Joan Wilbur

Baptisms: Sunday, November 6th

- Zoey Harris
- Jaida Marie Joachim
- Grace Elizabeth O'Neill
- Hannah Marion O'Neill
- Gia Ronayne

Burials: Monday, October 24th

- The Rev. Fred Jellison



The deadline for the **January, 2012** issue of the
Messenger is
December 15th

Please send your news and announcements via email to Debbie in the
 Church Office: office@stpaulspawtucket.org
 Please include a phone number in case we have questions.



Parish Directory – Vestry, Wardens, and Staff___

Q. Who are the ministers of the Church?

A. The ministers of the Church are lay persons, bishops, priests, and deacons.

Q. What is the ministry of the laity?

A. The ministry of lay persons is to represent Christ and his Church; to bear witness to him wherever they may be and, according to the gifts given them, to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world; and to take their place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church.

The Catechism

The Rev. William Locke, Rector. 401-728-1148
The Ven. Dcn. Robin Higbie, Deacon 401-421-2457
The Rev. Patrick Campbell, Director of Music . . . 401-467-2563
Heather Annis, Youth Formation Director. 401-728-4300

Kerri Scott, Senior Warden 508-761-3348
Mark Force, Junior Warden 508-761-9153
Robert Benson, Treasurer. 401-864-0472

Vestry members

Brad Bellows 401-333-0741
Jayne Bellows 401-333-0741
Jeff Southworth. 401-726-3794
Donna DeCrescenzo 401-232-0867
David Despres 401-725-0393
Pam Doheny 401-595-5144
Mary Ellen Kerr 401-829-1530
Susan Monteiro 401-726-5296
Margaret Noel 401-935-7936

Debbie Smith, Parish Secretary 401-728-4300
Ruth Johnston, Music Director *Emerita* 401-728-3496

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