



The newsletter of St. Paul's Episcopal Church



Dear Friends,

Happy Advent! The cookies and chocolates at Spiritual Adventures last Wednesday all miraculously changed color to match the season — red, green, silver and gold. They all got a little more sugary too. It was snowing outside. Julianna was absent at the Abbott Heart hospital. The Otteson's were journeying back from a niece's funeral in Montana. The day was noticeably shorter than the one before, and the scripture told us to get ready.

Every year Advent delivers us this strange mix of signals. There is something holy, says the Church, in being present and expectant like this. Eyes open, fully engaged, hoping for...

Someone has said that the expectation of Advent is that of a lover waiting to greet an overdue train — on the platform, on tiptoe, straining to hear or see as the excitement builds inside them.

All around our church in Minnesota there are groups of people doing this deliberately. The practice is called the "Way of Love" and it is a little like a monastic "rule" or practice. There is one emphasis for each of the seven days of the week, like this:

Sunday: Worship

Gather in community weekly to thank, praise, and dwell with God

Monday: Go

Cross boundaries, listen deeply and live like Jesus

Tuesday: Learn

Reflect on Scripture each day, especially on Jesus' life and teachings.

Wednesday: Pray

Dwell intentionally with God daily

Thursday: Bless

Share faith and unselfishly give and serve

Friday: Turn

Pause, listen and choose to follow Jesus

Saturday: Rest

Receive the gift of God's grace, peace, and restoration

There is an Advent calendar with daily instructions that you can find at https://www.episcopalchurch.org/files/documents/wol_advent_

calendar_2018.pdf. If it fits in this Leaven we might include the calendar, or I will have copies of it at church. And read Luke. That is where we will be making our scriptural home this season, and he has lots to tell us.

Lastly, Nan Gierdahl gave me a copy of Southern Minn Girlfriends magazine (because she doesn't want me to miss out) and in it there is a nice article about Epiphany. It reminded me that the tradition of gift giving began with the three wise men from the East so I'm thinking of delaying gift giving this year until Epiphany, the twelfth day of Christmas. Instead I'm going to spend some time at the

metaphorical train station, and employ the practice outlined above. Maybe you will too.

Your friend in anist,

December Women's Meeting! December 9 after church.

December Calendar at a Glance:

December 2: First Sunday in Advent

December 5: Potluck 6:00. Holden Evening Prayer at 6:30pm.

December 9: OHS Carolers; WoSP meeting

December 12: Potluck 6:00. Holden Evening Prayer at 6:30pm

December 15: Cookie Walk at 9:00am

December 16: Lesson and Carols

December 19: Potluck 6:00. Holden Evening Prayer at 6:30pm

December 23: Regular Worship Service

December 24: Christmas Eve Service at 5:30

Cleo's MEWsings

Here comes winter! Hope you are snuggled up warm and cozy reading a book or listening to Christmas music or maybe watching a sappy Christmas movie (overheard several knitters admitting to be fans)! Time to put up the tree if you haven't or maybe bake cookies or just watch the snow fall.

We have several people who need extra prayers right now. Julianna Skluzacek had a heart attack and is at Abbott awaiting bypass surgery on Sunday, December 2nd. Steve Smith is having surgery on his thyroid Tuesday, Dec 4th. Praying for quick healing for both!

Healing well and back in church are Angie Parsons who had hip replacement surgery and Mike Weller who is walking just fine with a new knee! Also healing well is Maggie Lund who broke her hip and now has a new one! She will be home soon if she isn't already. Maggie has lots of stories to tell and is delightful to visit. Her mother was Ethelyn Prokopec who some of the old timers at St Paul's will remember.

Also keep Maggie Dixon in your prayers. Her surgery has been rescheduled for December 27th. Bernie Reisenauer has had pneumonia in the last month so keep her and all our frail members in your prayers. And Betty Kristo burned her arm when

cooking (some people just don't act their age!)

Has Jackie Ostlund told you about her and Pete's trip to Africa? Sound like quite an adventure! When asked what she liked best, she said everything!

In other news from Jackie, her twin grandsons both graduated from basic training: Alec was at Fort Benning and turned blue (received his blue cord as infantry soldier) and William graduated at Fort Leonard Wood in the Combat Engineer Program and will now start Airborne training.

And in more news from Jackie—she has a great grandson!
Grandson Jackson and partner
Morgan had a baby boy, Ryan
on October 1st. A real cutie!
Jackson is a private contractor in
Kabul, Afghanistan. They live in
Savannah GA.

Sheryl Keith's son Rollie Hermoso also just graduated from Air Force Basic Military Training, at Lackland AFB, San Antonio, TX on November 1. He went on to Sheppard AFB in Witchita Falls, TX for technical training. Say a prayer for all our servicemen and women everywhere.

Also heard Warehimes were off to California for Thanksgiving. Bet they enjoyed a few days of sunshine. And speaking of Kris and Roger, Roger starts his new job as Manager of Owatonna Public Utilities on Monday, December 3rd. And Kris has started her own graphic arts company. Saw her pottery at a flower shop downtown and with her help, the knitters have new project bags and a new name, "Janet and the Knit Wits". The name was the inspiration of Mollie Gfrerer's daughter, Luca!

Also starting a new job is Danny Molohon. That is the good news! The bad news is that it is in Phoenix AZ! She will be moving but partner Deanna Duffee will be around for some time.

Also heard some good news about Josh Buck, son of Deb and John. He is engaged! He and Caycee Gilbertson of Albert Lea will be married in September of 2019. Congratulations and our best wishes to all!

Lots of things coming up at church! Advent starts tomorrow, there a Cookie Walk, church decorating, brass cleaning, the OHS Carolers will be singing and heard rumors of Zachery Dietz directing a hymn some Sunday soon! Don't miss a thing!

And send Cleo your news!



Holiday Recycling.

Wrapping Paper

Yes, you can recycle Christmas wrapping paper — unless it's metallic, has glitter or has velvety flocking on it. And don't worry about the tape. That can be recycled, too.

Bows and Ribbons

These cannot be recycled. Bows are easily detected and removed by the screening equipment, but ribbons and plastic gift bags are not. They snake their way into the machinery and cause big jams. The only way to fix these jams is to shut the whole operation down and manually remove the ribbon.

Christmas Cards

Plain paper Christmas cards can go straight into the paper recycling bin, but the shiny Christmas cards printed on photo paper need to go into the trash. It's the same with ones that have lots of metallic embossing or glitter. You can rip the card in half and recycle the plain section

Boxes

Packages closed with paper tape don't require anything more than flattening. Boxes with a single strip of plastic tape are okay too. If you get one with a lot of heavyduty, wide plastic tape, peel one end up so you can pull the whole strip tape off, but you don't need to get every last bit of tape.

Cookie Walk

Saturday, December 15 9:00 to Noon

> \$4.00 per dozen for most Containers provided

220 South Cedar Ave, Owatonna

Let us do the baking for you!

What is a Cookie Walk?

A cookie walk is a sale of Christmas cookies made by members and friends of St. Paul's. Customers will be given a box and a food service glove. They choose their treats themselves and pay by the dozen.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

With a successful Cookie Walk Fundraiser, we have a shot at ending the year in the black! Here's how you can help:

- Spread the word: Hang posters at work, share the event on social media and via word of mouth.
- 2. Bake cookies and other Christmas treats for the sale. Please bring your baked goods to church Friday, December 14. Do not package the cookies. See Gretchen for more information.

Lay Schedule

Date	Lay Reader	Lector	Chalice	Ushers	Counter
Dec 2	Kristin	Francy	Maggie	Julie and Gayle	Francy
Dec 9	Kristin	Steve	Janet	Gary and Marty	Julie
Dec 16	Mark	Leanne	Diane	Gary and Marty	Gretchen
Dec 23	Nikki	Matt	Francy	Terri and Mike W	Kristin
Dec 2	Scott	Marion	Janet	Steve and Sheryl	Julie
Dec 30	Mark	Gary	Diane	Pete and Maggie	Mark
Jan 6	Kristin	Mary	Francy	Julie and Gayle	Francy
Jan 13	Nikki	Francy	Janet	Gary and Marty	Kristin



If you make a schedule change, please leave a message on the church phone.

Coffee Committees

Betty Kristo Gerri Schwenker Kathy Brittain Jenni Brittain Laurice Anderson Diane Spitzack Leanne Alt Bonnie Nguyen Sarah Brave Heart

Rebecca Krug

December

January TBD

New committee lists for 2019 are on the way. Let Kristin know if you have concerns or requests regarding your committee or if you wish to be on a committee and are not.

Altar Guild

December Robin McKey Betty Kristo

January TBD

Brass Cleaning December 8, 9:30am

Leaven is published monthly to keep the people of St. Paul's informed and united in thought.

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