

December
2017
Volume
XXXIV

THE EPISTLE

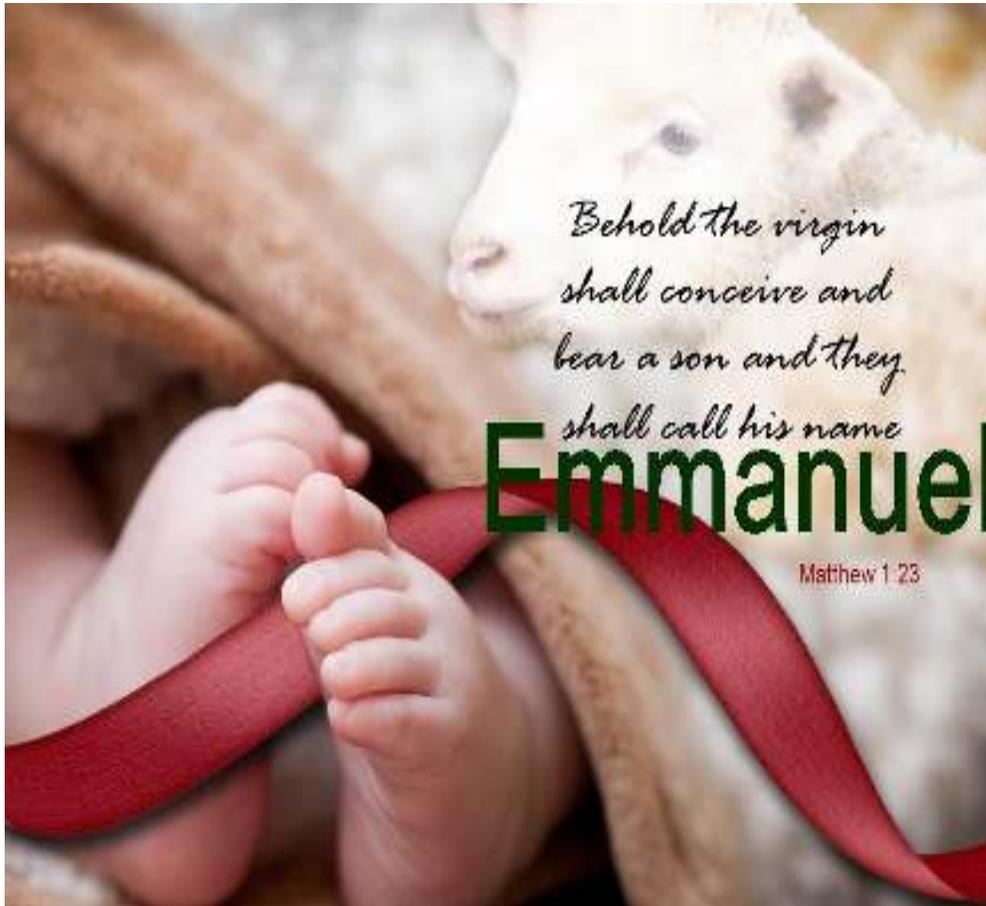
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Rector's Corner



Friends,

Happy New Year! As of Dec. 3rd we enter the Church's New Year with the holy season of Advent. If we don't take the time to be present in Advent we will miss it! Advent is a gift and like all gifts we get no benefit from it unless we open it. Each Sunday of Advent we draw closer to the incarnation (the birth of Jesus) and our anticipation builds. Just when we are being harangued by our culture to go out and buy, buy, buy!, we are asked by the Church to slow down, be quiet and ponder the great mystery we're about to celebrate again. This paradox is emblematic of how Christians live our lives each day in each season. Living in a world where we are measured by what we produce and what we consume reduces us down to spending units and erases our humanity.

Too often we see our churches as valuable in our numbers (Sunday attendance and giving) and not in our people. We too are guilty of reducing ourselves and each other down to spending units and not beloved human beings. As you mark this season of Advent I hope you'll take time to be in worship on Sundays, doing a craft at home like making a family Advent wreath and reading one of the Gospels again. Even if you just open your heart to God in quiet gratitude for your life once a day you'll feel the blessing of the gift of

Advent grow inside you.

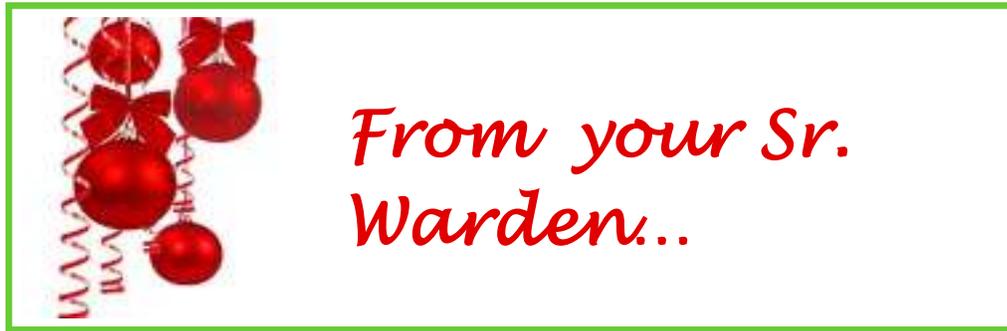
This Advent we will begin a new Wednesday 12:15 Eucharist in our chapel. This quiet and contemplative service is designed to give you a break during the week for prayer and will offer Downtown Jackson a mid-week opportunity for prayer as well. Our 11am Wednesday Bible study will continue in the small dining room for those who can join us.

I will be offering a book study through Advent (and beyond) on Brene Brown's very popular book Daring Greatly. A few years back I went to a weeklong seminar lead by Brene and her team to learn the tenants of what she calls "The Daring Way" which is designed to help folks live bravely and overcome the obstacles of shame and self-doubt in their lives. I have found her work transformative in my own life and am very happy to introduce St. Paul's to it. We will begin our study on Dec. 3rd during coffee hour after the 10:30 service. The class will be repeated on Thursday evenings at 7pm. We'll likely go through part of Epiphany with our study. You are encouraged to purchase, download or check out Daring Greatly at the library for our study. If the cost of purchasing the book is prohibitive for you please let me know and I'll make sure you get a copy.

December is a hectic month for everyone. Don't forget to stop, listen for God's voice and look for Jesus to come into your life in a new and fresh way in the coming year.

Faithfully,
Pastor Sarah+





With the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season upon us all, I hope we all take time each and every day for prayer, gratitude and quiet reflection. I know I need to! The holidays are not easy for me and I find the challenge of expectations to often become overwhelming. I am looking forward to spending time in study with Pastor Sarah as we collectively read *Daring Greatly* by Brene Brown. I have read this book and practically underlined the entire book!!! It has already been of tremendous value to me in relationships and situations in my life. I am very excited to begin!! I hope you are, as well!

Thank you, Pastor Sarah, for beginning this book study, especially during Advent. I hope many of you give yourself this gift of personal growth and enlightenment this season.

We will be electing four new members of the Vestry in January and we still need three people to step forward and offer their talents in serving in this capacity. PLEASE prayerfully consider if this is a ministry where you might serve St. Paul's. It is very gratifying Christian work for our parish and community. Thank you!

I wish all of you a joyous Advent and Christmas season. May we all keep Christ at the center of our celebrations as we enjoy our friendships and families. I pray you peace and love.

Yours in Christ,
Barbara Markowski



From our Jr. Warden...

Advent

The first season of the church year, beginning with the fourth Sunday before Christmas and continuing through the day before Christmas. The name is derived from a Latin word for "coming." The season is a time of preparation and expectation for the coming celebration of our Lord's nativity, and for the final coming of Christ "in power and glory." * So as with past years traditions it will be December 3rd that Saint Nicholas Bishop of Myra will visit St. Paul's Church! He was the Saint of children and sailors of the sea. There is a rich history of his great deeds, and not to be confused with Santa Claus. As I heard he is looking forward to visiting with the children when he arrives. His plan is to be at Holy Spirit Hall after the 10:30 service. Please invite any or all young ones to share in the spirit of this special time. As Rev. Sarah said in the sermon on Nov. 19th it is not about buy, buy, get, get. It is the gift you give that is the best of all. Saint Nicholas will be here to give. Please help him with an idea of how many may attend and a age group so he can adapt to the appropriate child as best he can.

Outside weather is showing signs of winter coming. The wind break has been installed on the steps of Holy Spirit Hall by the capable hands of Dennis Marsh, Michelle Gibson, Wayne Frey, Nathan Randall and myself. Many years of rock salt in the winter had rusted the frames of the wind break. A special thank you to

Addison Awnings' for their work rebuilding the wind break sections. A new type of ice melt has been delivered and ready for the foul weather to come. Our contractor for snow removal has been here and reviewed the plan for attack when it does snow. They will be using our supply of ice melt and not the rock salt of years past.

Our window upgrades are complete in the education building built in 1965. The soffit & fascia repairs around the Sanctuary are complete as well. Buildings & Grounds have several projects indoors to keep us busy without any major expenses like we did this past year. Building security will be an ongoing process. Rev. Sarah has made inroads into our community with Jackson govt. and other places of worship, reaching out in conversation and reaching out to Jackson city in general. I feel a positive move for truly making a change in God's Presence, in this changing world.

May we all find peace and good wishes throughout the holiday season.

Sincerely,
Kyle King
Jr. Warden



This is a heartfelt invitation to ALL women of St. Paul's....

There will be a holiday luncheon held on December 16, 2017,
at the Jackson Country Club, starting at 12:00.

Please sign up for this great event starting November 26, 2017 in the glass
narthex, or you can contact me (937-0807) to reserve a spot for you.

If there are concerns about being able to fund the cost of \$19.00,
please contact Rev. Sarah (787-3370).

I sincerely hope to see many of you there.

Thank you in advance for participating in this fun time.

Blessings to all,
Sue Hammett
President of ECW



Wayne Frey	December 2
Dr. James Freer	December 7
Dr. John Alipit	December 13
Diane Billingsley	December 15
Rev. Sarah Hurlbert	December 20
Jesus	December 25

Mike & Diane Worthing	December 3
Wayne & Romelle Frey	December 16
Rick & Sally McKinnon	December 30

The Women of St. Paul's Episcopal Church

ECW



ECW wishes to thank our Rev. Sarah Hurlbert and her wife Dee for graciously hosting this group in their new home at the November meeting. Lots of conversation, delicious food, and a chance to see their two beautiful Dalmatians and precious new bunny. A special thank you to Sparry Sparks for greeting us as we parked.

At the business portion of the above gathering, Peggy Wilds reported she attended the Diocese of Michigan Annual Meeting on Oct 7th. It was held at St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Rochester. The key note speaker there was the Rev. Julia Huttar Bailer, Priest in Charge at Trinity Church, Farmington Hills. She discussed the history of some of the songs in the 1982 HYMNAL and played a new arrangement of "Breathe on Me, Breathe of God."

A new date has been set for the Holiday Lunch at the Country Club of Jackson. It will be Saturday, December 16 at noon. The cost is \$19.00.

ECW thanks Helen Greene for making these arrangements. Watch for a sign-up sheet in the glass narthex coming soon.

Peggy Wilds and Carol Scheerbaum are working on the St. Nicholas' Party for the children of St. Paul's to be held Sunday, December 3rd which is sponsored by ECW.

The annual Nut and Candy Sale is underway where you can make purchases after the Sunday services in Holy Spirit Hall from now to the holidays. Profits are used for projects in which the Women of St. Paul's Episcopal Church are involved. Romelle Frey is Team Leader of this major fund raiser for us.

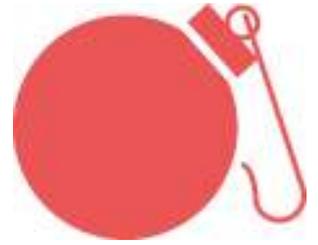
With no scheduled meetings in January or February, you might want to attend the Holy Eucharist Services on Wednesdays which Rev. Sarah will begin in December and continue into the new year.

Cheryl Gumper, Vice-President





Choir News



The choir is in full swing.
We have enjoyed the anthems
and the hymns.

We are looking forward to
Advent and Christmas music for
all to enjoy

Anyone is welcome to join in
with these dedicated church
members.

Genette, Choir Director

Bible Quiz

After Mary learned she was pregnant with God's Son, what relative — also miraculously pregnant — did she go visit?

- A. Esther
- B. Elizabeth
- C. Anne
- D. Anna

Answer: B (See Luke 1:39-41.)





CHURCH SCHOOL

The “Whirl” curriculum has been a blessing for teachers and students alike. We are continuing to study from the Old Testament, but are finding that the lessons apply to us in our daily lives.

We have ordered some take home Advent calendars and workbooks for all the children and their families. These will be going home with students on Dec. 3rd, the first Sunday in Advent.

Hopefully you’ve read in the announcements about our TWO service projects for the month of December. We are off to a great start with donations for ERD and toys for the “Priceless Gift Shop”. Thank you for supporting the Kiddo’s in their efforts!!!!

Class begins at 10:00 with a gathering time for combined classes where we learn songs, play games, and introduce the lesson. Then we split up to our classrooms to develop the lesson.

Everyone is welcome to visit and see how this curriculum is working. Maybe you’d like to substitute now and again????

The nursery is now open through the entire service for the convenience of parents.

Your Church School Volunteers

Zoe Baldwin, Molly Fearon, and Kim Perlos





ECW

Cordially Invites You to Our

ANNUAL Saint Nicholas PARTY

December 3

After 10:30 am Church Service

309 S. Jackson St.
Jackson, MI 49201

Please join us for sweets and treats,
and to visit St. Nicholas!





December 24, 2017, Christmas Eve

10:30 am Service

5:00 pm Service

11:00 pm Service

December 25, 2017, Christmas Day

10:30 am Service

December 31, 2017, New Year's Eve

10:30 am Christmas Lessons &
Carols/ Eucharist

OFFICE CLOSED

December 25, 2017

December 26, 2017

December 29, 2017

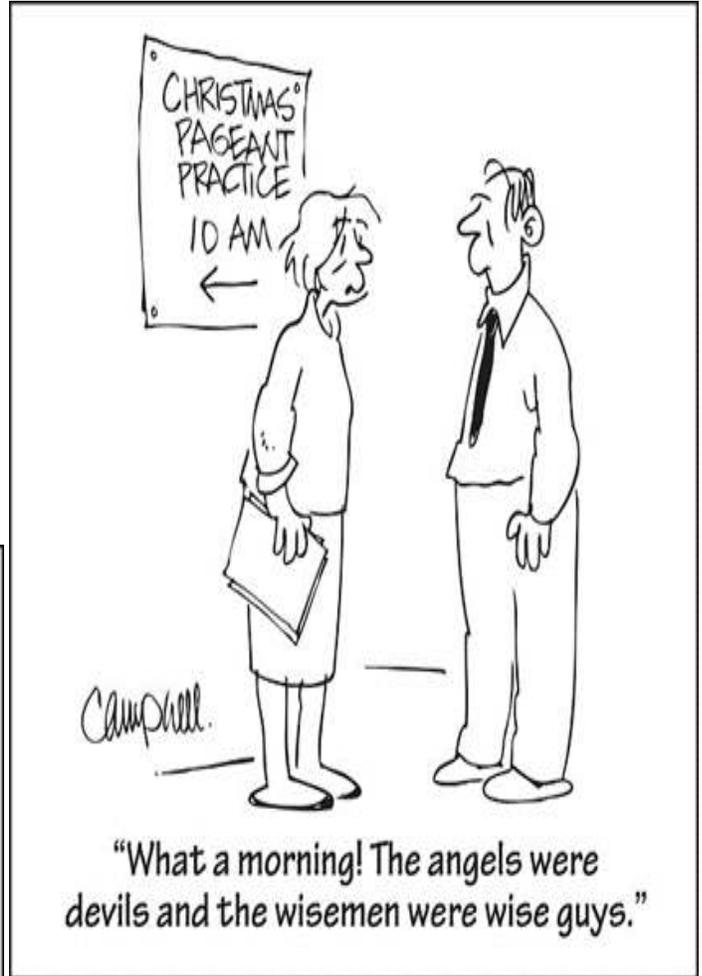
January 1, 2017



Hanging *of the* Greens

Come Join us on
Christmas Eve after
10:30 am Service

★
IT'S
BEGINNING
TO LOOK
A LOT
LIKE
Christmas



DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
						10 am Worship Mtg
3 ANNIVERSARY & BIRTHDAYS	4	5	6	7	8	9
8 Eucharist 9:15 Adult Forum 10 Church School 10:30 Eucharist/Coffee Hr / Advent Book Study	6 pm Knitting & Crafting	11 am Knitting & Crafting 5:30 pm Mission & Outreach 6 Toastmasters	11:00 Bible Study 12:15 Eucharist 6:30 pm Choir Practice	6 pm Handbell Practice 7 pm Advent Book Study	5 pm Family & Children's Aid Party	8:30 am EYSJ 11 am ECW 11 am Gail Shafer Ordination
10 NOISY SUNDAY	11	12	13	14	15	16
8 Eucharist 9:15 Adult Forum 10 Church School 10:30 Eucharist/Coffee Hr /Advent Book Study	6 pm Knitting & Crafting	11 am Knitting & Crafting 6 Toastmasters	11:00 Bible Study 12:15 Eucharist 6:30 pm Choir Practice	5:30 pm Building & Grounds 6 pm Handbell Practice 7 pm Advent Book Study		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
8 Eucharist 9:15 Adult Forum 10 Church School 10:30 Eucharist/Coffee Hr/ Advent Book Study	6 pm Knitting & Crafting	11 am Knitting & Crafting 6 Toastmasters 6:30 pm Vestry Meeting	11:00 Bible Study 12:15 Eucharist 1 pm Brownell 6:30 pm Choir Practice	6 pm Handbell Practice 7 pm Advent Book Study		
24 CHRISTMAS EVE	25 CHRISTMAS	26	27	28	29	30
10:30 Eucharist/Hanging of the Greens 5 Christmas Eve Service 11pm Christmas Eve Service	10:30 am Eucharist in the Chapel OFFICE CLOSED	6 Toastmasters OFFICE CLOSED	11:00 Bible Study 12:15 Eucharist 6:30 pm Choir Practice	5 pm Big B/S 6 pm Handbell Practice OFFICE CLOSED		
31 NEW YEAR'S EVE						
10:30 am Christmas Lessons & Carols/ Eucharist/ Coffee Hr / Advent Book Study						