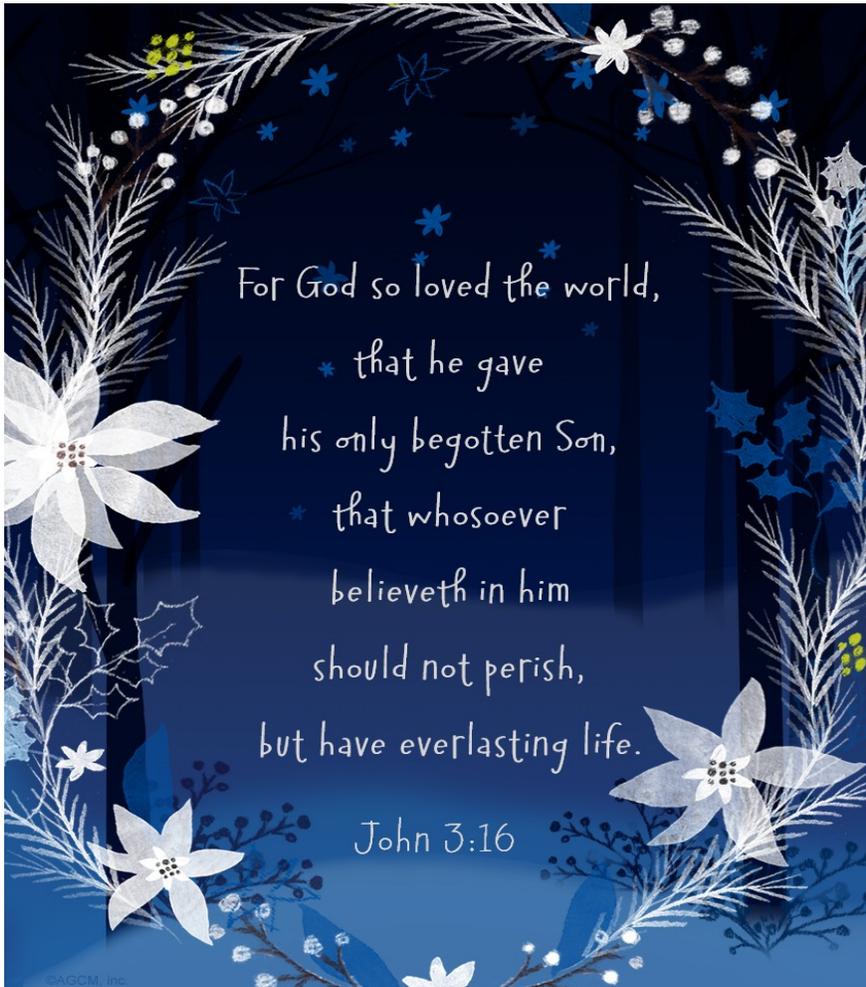


December
2019
Volume
LVII

THE EPISTLE

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Rector's Corner

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” – *Romans 6:23*

Friends,

We are in the throes of preparations for Christmas both in St. Paul's Church and in our homes and families. Gifts, decorations, food and travel take up our time during Advent. This is our outward preparation for celebrating the coming of Christ in the Incarnation of Jesus at Christmas. But what of our inward preparations? Advent is a season of gifts for us if we keep it in some way each day. You might color in your Advent Calendar or you might have a wreath at home. You might come to our Advent book study on The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe and discuss the deeper meanings of Lewis' writings on our shared faith. You might read a few verses in the beginning of Luke or Matthew's Gospels aloud and hear the story again in your own voice. However you keep it, please do find a way to keep Advent yourself or with family and friends this season.

The preparation of our hearts comes with our focus, even in small bursts, on the gift of Jesus Christ in our own lives. As was said by the writer of Romans, sin leads to death and we feel that in our own lives and the world around us. The degradation of our environment, the desolation of war, the dehumanization of humanity through greed, fear and envy keep death before our eyes each day. But... We have the most precious gift in the world in Jesus Christ come into the world for all of us. Sin and death are not the final answer. They have no lasting power in the world with Jesus Christ whose birth, life, death and resurrection overcome sin and death and give us life everlasting. The presence of Christ in our hearts allows us to be tuned to Him and follow Him each day. The promise of eternal life with God gives us a heavenly perspective on our earthly cares. The power of the Holy Spirit given to us helps us walk with Christ each day and love as we are so richly loved by God. Tending these realities through the practice of keeping Advent helps us experience Christmas in a deeper way and gain insight into what God is calling forth in us and our walk with Christ each day. My prayer is that each of us be filled with the Holy Spirit and the presence of Christ this season.

I am very happy to have India Treadway on our staff as Nursery Attendant taking care of our precious little ones. Terry, her husband, is our new Sexton and they are a wonderful addition to our parish staff and family. By the time you read this we will be three weeks away from receiving our new church directories. I'm so pleased with all the pictures and have to say we're a pretty good-looking bunch! Thanks so much to our volunteers and Secretary Alice who have worked tirelessly to produce this new directory. More info to come in the New Year about the ministry brochure we'll be producing to give to our new comers and refer to ourselves. What a blessing to part of an active and faithful church family!

May your Advent be fruitful and your Christmas bursting with joy!

Faithfully,

Sarah+



*From your Sr.
Warden...*



I am amazed at how quickly this year seems to have flown by. We are almost to Thanksgiving and then Advent, my favorite time of the year. But we aren't there quite yet...so, I continue to try to be present and humble during the season of Thanksgiving. I am reminded of all that I have been blessed with and especially grateful for this parish family during this time of year.

In November, we celebrated Stewardship Sunday with great food and fellowship at the Harvest Dinner. It was a nice turnout but continue to miss seeing so many of our 8 o'clock folks at these gatherings.

Valerie Rowley, Clark, Janet and Pastor Sarah attended the Diocesan Convention in late October. Looking forward to hearing about the good work done as well as highlights from Bishop Gibbs last Diocesan Convention appearance as our Bishop. If you haven't had the opportunity yet, please take a moment and introduce yourself to Terry, India and Jeremiah who are on staff now. We are grateful for all the wonderful servants who have filled in to keep this building clean and functioning while we searched for the right people to help. Thanks, especially, to our dishwashers for their tireless efforts throughout this entire process.

Cardio drumming continues with one or two new faces a month. Ages range from 3 to 79. All are welcome.

I ask for your prayers for those who are grieving during this time of year...for loved ones who are sick or who have died. For those who are alone, for those who are struggling, and for those who won't be family during this time of year.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle



AN ADVENT PRAYER

Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.

We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.

We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.

We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.

We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.

To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"

– HENRI NOUWEN



A holiday invitation to ALL women of St. Paul's...

You are cordially invited to join us at the Women of St. Paul's ECW annual Christmas luncheon at the Country Club of Jackson on Saturday December 14, 2018 at 12 noon. Please R.S.V.P. on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the glass narthex, or contact Sandra Kilian or Valerie Rowley for more info.

The cost this year is \$21. Those who have concerns about the cost, please contact Rev. Sarah. We would love to see you there!

If you would like, we are collecting hats, scarfs, mittens and/or socks prior to the event for the Priceless Gift Toy Shop to distribute to needy children. There is a box in the glass narthex for drop off.



Wayne Frey	December 2
Dr. James Freer	December 7
Elaine Themm	December 10
Dr. John Alipit	December 13
Diane Billingsley	December 15
Rev. Sarah Hurlbert	December 20
Jan Osborn	December 25
Jesus	December 25



Mike & Diane Worthing	December 3
Wayne & Romelle Frey	December 16

The Women of St. Paul's Episcopal Church

ECW



The December Epistle is here already. With November effectively behind us now we are all starting to get ready for the Christmas Season and all that entails.

The physical world is rapidly heading toward the darkest time of the year while the spiritual world and the church is heading toward the brightest event on the liturgical calendar – the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Advent brings hope as we prepare for the joy and love that His birth heralds. In that same vein the women of ECW attended a Taizé service at our November meeting lead by Christy Randall. It was an opportunity for us to stop and quiet our minds and hearts in preparation for the approaching season of Advent. The chapel was candle lit and we were led in chant-like hymns with piano and violin accompaniment interspersed with scripture readings and periods of meditative silence. It was a deeply spiritual experience and was so enjoyed by the women who attended that they hoped it would be repeated next year. Thanks to Christy for leading and Janet Hughes for her piano skills.

Lots of business to get to so here goes. Since the Epistle may go early, I'd like to remind you that the St. Nicholas party is Sunday, December 1. All children are welcome to attend. The more the merrier so invite your friends and neighbors to come and have fun and hear the timeless story of St. Nicholas. The ECW Christmas luncheon is set for December 14 at the country club of Jackson. Cost this year is \$21. There is a sign-up sheet in the glass narthex and all women are encouraged to attend this most enjoyable event. Please remember to get your hats, scarfs, mittens and/or socks prior to the event so that they may be brought to Priceless Gifts in time for distribution to needy children. There is a box in the glass narthex for drop off.

The nuts are in! If you have not picked yours up already, they are available after both services in Holy Spirit Hall. Some extras are also available to buy if you were unable to get your order in ahead of time. Please check your gift lists and see how many people would appreciate some of these high-quality nuts as presents. This is our major fundraiser and allows us to do both in-reach and out-reach during our business year. Your continued support in these endeavors is vital and most appreciated. Sales are Sundays after services or see one of the ECW board on "off" times to secure your choice of nuts. We also have Liturgical calendars left to sell. Cost is a mere \$4, and you have a year of the colors, feast days and Sunday readings at your fingertips – see Sandra Kilian or any ECW board person. There are still some dues pending but it is never too late to turn them in. Please see Cheryl Gumper to update your dues status.

Calling all mothers of young children!! Our January meeting will feature Dot Tetreault, LMSW who will educate us all on cyber bullying and the effects of social media on children. This is a wonderful opportunity for young parents to learn the pitfalls and protect their children from falling into them.

On behalf of ECW I wish you all a happy, holy and safe Christmas season.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie Rowley, Vice President ECW.

Choir News

The choir is busy preparing for Advent and Christmas.

We are looking forward to sharing these pieces with you!



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

Genette, Choir Director

Community of Compassionate Hearts

A weekend retreat to remember, and reconnect with God's heart within us.



**44th Annual
Spiritual Journey Retreat**
January 16 - 18, 2020
Colombiere Retreat Center
9075 Big Lake Road
Clarkston, MI 48347
(248) 625-5611

Spiritual Journey Retreat

The ECW Diocese of Michigan will hold it's annual retreat on January 16-18, 2020 at Colombiere Retreat Center, in Clarkston, MI. This Spiritual Journey is open to all women. See the brochure on the bulletin board in the glass narthex for registration forms and details.

Call Peggy Wilds if you would like a ride and more information.



Celebration of *Life*

A funeral for parishioner Valerie Bullen will be held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church on Saturday, December 28, 2019. The family will greet friends and relatives at 10:00 a.m. in Holy Spirit Hall, with the service to follow at 11:00 am. After the interment in the Memorial Garden, a luncheon in Holy Spirit Hall will follow for further fellowship.

Her full obituary can be viewed at <https://obits.mlive.com/obituaries/jackson/>

Friends! This month we will receive our new photo directories and if you got your picture taken you will get one! The directory is beautiful and has our photos and addresses only. A lovely brochure will be produced in the New Year with all our ministries pictured along with contact info on ministry leaders. We are ordering lots of the brochures so all our members as well as newcomers can take one home to refer to. Thanks to Janet Wesch, Margaret O'Connor, Melissa Velandra, Dennis Marsh and Alice Mulhearn for their dedicated work on putting this directory together! This team has produced a wonderful directory with beautiful photos. You'll get yours by Christmas!

- Rev. Sarah

Mission & Outreach



Happy Advent! As we look forward to all the preparations of the season, please remember those who are struggling this year. One neighborhood organization that has had serious challenges is the Jackson Community Food Pantry at 701 Greenwood Ave. A freezer malfunction allowed frozen chicken to defrost for a full week, leading to buckets of liquified chicken to soak into the carpet, sub floor and woodwork. They are only open one day a week so by the time it was discovered, it was an enormous putrid mess. They have been closed for 5 months while they navigated the insurance red tape, replaced equipment and all the flooring, woodwork, etc.

They are open again and serve 100 families or 400 people in our neighborhood. They are in desperate need of the following items: BABY FORMULA, protein, fresh produce, bread, cereal, rice, beans, canned goods, and feminine hygiene products. They also need cash.

We have put the items needed on the Angel Tree in the glass narthex. Please take an angel (or two) purchase your items and bring them to the church before Wednesday, December 18. We will be delivering our donations on that day. Obviously, if you are purchasing frozen turkeys, meat or fresh produce other than potatoes, deliver them Monday or Tuesday, December 16-17 of that week.

We also will be receiving names of single women from the AWARE shelter who are often forgotten at this time of year. They have not given us names yet, but they will be added to the tree as soon as we get them.

Thank you from all of us on the Mission and Outreach committee! You make our job so easy because of the love and generosity you ALWAYS show toward the needy in our community. It is a privilege and honor to represent you.

We pray you all the blessings this Holy season has to offer for you and those you love.

Barb Markowski and Barney Rudolph
M&O co-chairs



New Coffee Hour Plans

Pastor Sarah has already sent out some information but this article is a reminder of the change in how hosting coffee hour will now work. With the hiring of a Kitchen Manager and the formation of the Kitchen Cabinet, plans are now in place to make it easier for someone interested in hosting a Sunday Coffee hour.



The **new plan for coffee hour** is for the host/hostess to bring in a sweet item for about 40-50 people. Jeremiah, our new Kitchen Manager, will prepare a tray which will consist of fruit or veggies, cheese & crackers as well as a gluten free item for our dietary restricted parishioners. The host / hostess will be responsible for making the coffee,



setting out the juice and water, and trays as well as the sweet item they bring. Sweet items can be cookies, muffins, cake, brownies, pastries or whatever you choose. This new method should reduce some of the stress previously felt by people who didn't feel comfortable participating.

In addition, we have heard comments from people who would like to donate money but don't feel comfortable serving as a hostess. We appreciate your willingness to be part of this service for our parish family. If you want to donate, please write a check and put Hospitality on the memo line or just drop it into the plate at the end of the table where food is placed. Your donation is truly appreciated and will be put toward the trays that will be prepared weekly.

We are also seeking individuals who would serve as Monthly Team Leaders to help with the organization of the coffee hosting schedule and work with the other team leaders on projects as needed to provide our parish family and guests with wonderful fellowship opportunities.

The Kitchen Cabinet will be meeting monthly on the first Tuesday of each month, so please feel free to share your concerns or questions in time for the group to address them.

If you have any questions, please contact Rhonda Rudolph at rldolph61@gmail.com or (517) 474-4368.





Harvest Dinner Thank You!

Thank you to everyone for making our 2019 Harvest Dinner such a wonderful success. With almost 90 people attending, it was a true celebration of thanks and fellowship in our parish. We were blessed with wonderful food brought in by our church members as well as enjoying turkey, creamy seasoned potatoes, dressing, gravy and cranberry sauce prepared by our Kitchen Manager, Jeremiah. It was all delicious and I think everyone walked away with a full stomach. We are so blessed in our church.

In addition, I would like to thank Romelle and Wayne Frey, Jerry Phiffille, Barney Rudolph, Madeline Nadolski, and JoAnn Smith. A big thank you also goes out to everyone who helped clean up after the event on Sunday especially Deb Batchelder, Jo & John Alipit, Loren Swanson and the set up crew. All of your assistance was extremely appreciated.

Sincerely Rhonda Rudolph





**Hanging
of the
Greens**

Come Join us on
Sunday, December
22 after the 10:30
am service.



OFFICE CLOSED

December 24-27

December 31 (office closes at noon)

January 1, 2020



Special
Worship
Schedule

December 24, 2019, Christmas Eve:

5:00 pm Service

11:00 pm Service

December 25, 2019 Christmas Day:

10:00 am Holy Eucharist

December 29, 2019: **No 8 am Service**

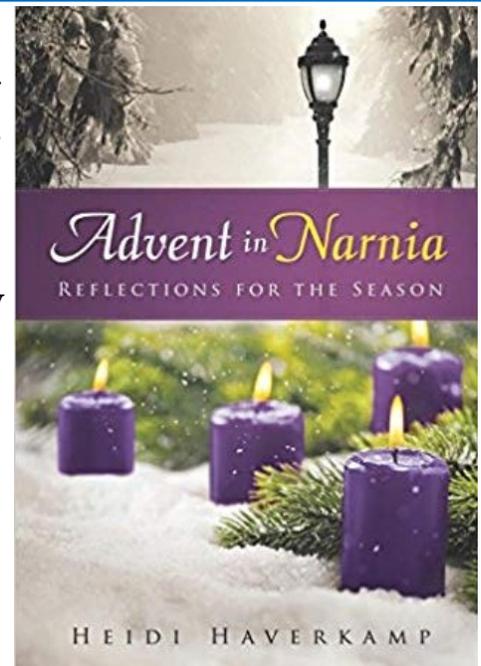
10:30 am Christmas Lessons &
Carols



Through December, the Wednesday
11 am Bible Study and 12:15 pm Holy
Eucharist will continue. However,
there will be **NO Holy Eucharist on
Wednesday, December 4th.**

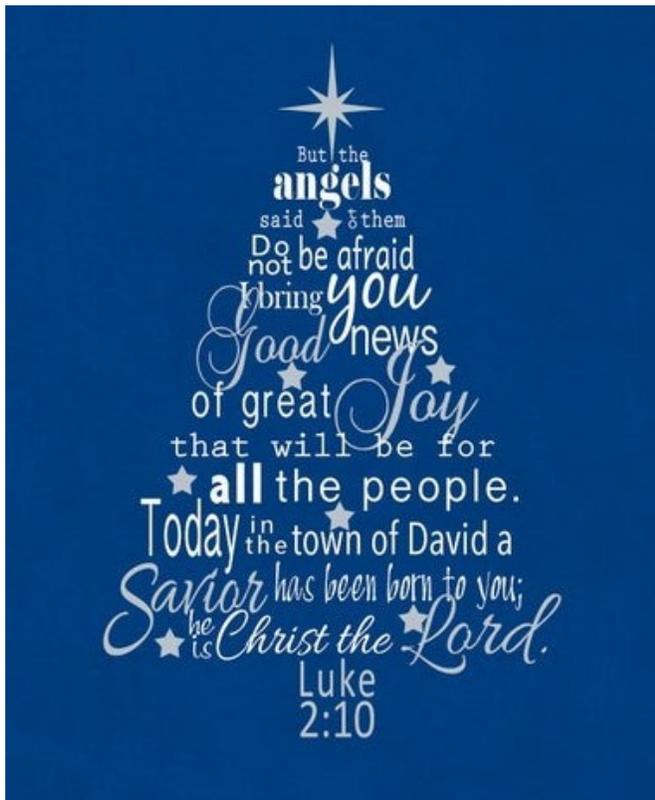


Our Advent Soup & Book Study will be held this year on Wednesday Evenings of Advent finishing up on the First Sunday after Christmas after our service of Christmas Lessons and Carols. Our book this year will be “The Lion, The Witch And The Wardrobe” by C.S. Lewis. Please have a copy on hand. Pastor Sarah will have a leader's guide for our study. Wednesdays at 5:15 pm we will meet in Holy Spirit Hall for a soup supper and study. Please find a sign up sheet in the glass narthex for soups and attendance. All ages are welcome to this study and I promise you won't miss Choir Rehearsal!



Dates are Wed. Dec. 4th, 11th and 18th and then at coffee hour on Sunday the 29th for our final conversation. Experience Advent as a child again and learn the deep truths in our faith that Lewis reminds us of.

Don't forget to sign up!



Over the next couple of Sundays, we will be sampling different coffees in both regular and decaffeinated. You will be asked to vote on one that you like. Please take your own notes based on the date. The first sample was provided on Sunday November 24, 2019. We will be asking for your feedback in the coming month.

JACKSON HISTORIC PRISON TOURS

The Jacktown Double

180 years of prison history
Two huge Prisons – One great tour!
Don't Miss this Tour!



Don't miss these other great tours

Michigan's First Prison – Bring your camera as you explore solitary, the yard and Michigan's first permanent cell block. Allow 2 hours.

Cell Block 7 – As part of the Largest Prison in the World, this huge cell block has its own history and famous inmates that inhabited it. Allow 2 hours.

Last chance to take this tour! Cell Block 7 is closing, and we may never offer it again!

I am offering a special tour at a reduced rate to St. Paul's members and their guests. This tour will begin at 1:15 on Sunday, December 15.

Many of you have expressed interest in doing this tour and now time is running out. I am reducing the price to \$35 per person if you sign up in the Narthex. If you cannot make this date, we are giving tours at 1:15 on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, through December 29.

You can sign up for this tour at www.historicprisonstours.com

Please see Barney Rudolph for questions or more info.



We have a new nursery worker who already started last Sunday! Her name is India Treadway and her husband is Terry Treadway our Sexton. She has lots of personal experience raising kids and is also a trained care giver for the elderly and disabled. She's had Red Cross CPR training and is a lovely lady. Our nursery is back in business!

Can visit the nursery and church school



Cannot visit the nursery and church school



Just a friendly reminder that our Nursery and Church School areas are nut free zones!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Anniversaries & Birthdays	2	3	4	5	6	7
8am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Adult Forum 9:15 am Church School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist/ 12 pm St. Nicholas Party 12 pm Worship Committee		10:30 am Bereavement Group 5:15 pm Cardio Drumming 5:30 pm M & O 6 pm Toastmasters	NO Holy Eucharist today 11 am Bible Study 5:15 pm Book Study/Soup Supper 6:30 pm Choir	11:30 am Staff Meeting 5:15 pm Cardio Drumming 6 pm Handbells	6 pm Kids Movie Night	1 pm Visitation/ Open House for David Sweet
8 Noisy Sunday	9	10	11	12	13	14
8am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Adult Forum 9:15 am Church School 10:30 am Commissioning of LEVs 10:30 am Holy Eucharist/ Coffee Hour		10:30 am Bereavement Group 5:15 pm Cardio Drumming 6 pm Toastmasters	11 am Bible Study 12:15 pm Holy Eucharist 5:15 pm Book Study/Soup Supper 6:30 pm Choir	11:30 am Staff Meeting 5:15 pm Cardio Drumming 5:30 B & G 6 pm Handbells	5 pm BB/BS Xmas Party	12 pm ECW Christmas Lunch @ Jxn Country Club
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
8am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Adult Forum 9:15 am Church School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist/ Coffee Hour		10:30 am Bereavement Group 5:15 pm Cardio Drumming 6 pm Toastmasters 6:30 pm Vestry Mtg	11 am Bible Study 12:15 pm Holy Eucharist 1 pm Brownell Lunch 5:15 pm Book Study/Soup 6:30 pm Choir	11:30 am Staff Meeting 5:15 pm Cardio Drumming 6 pm Handbells		
22 Hanging the Greens	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas	26	27	28
8am Holy Eucharist 9:15 am Adult Forum 9:15 am Church School 10:30 am Holy Eucharist/ Coffee Hour		5 pm Christmas Eve Service 11 pm Christmas Eve Service OFFICE CLOSED	10 am Holy Eucharist OFFICE CLOSED	5:15 pm Cardio Drumming OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE CLOSED	10 am Visitation 11 am Funeral Val Bullen 12 pm Funeral Luncheon
29	30	31	New Year's			
9:15 am Adult Forum 9:15 am Church School 10:30 am— Christmas Lessons & Carols		New Year's Eve *Office closes at noon	OFFICE CLOSED			