

December 2015

## Lessons and Carols... a tradition

St. Paul's presents its annual Festival of Lessons and Carols on Saturday, December 12, at 4PM.

Be sure to join hundreds of other Milwaukeeans at one of the area's premiere holiday traditions to reflect upon the season in Scripture, music and prayer in the beauty of St. Paul's Church.

The St. Paul's Choir, under the direction of **Timothy Benson**, is joined by special guest organist **Lee Erickson** and features music by:

- ❖ **David Willcocks**
- ❖ **Alan Bullard**
- ❖ **Boris Ord**
- ❖ **Bob Chilcott**
- ❖ **Timothy Benson**
- ❖ **Z. Randall Stroope**

and hymns and carols of the season.

This is a wonderful way to usher in the Christmas Season! Bring your friends and neighbors! A reception follows in the Great Hall.

## Sunday School news...

### *Tree Decorating Party:*

St. Paul's annual tree decorating party will be held in the Great Hall on Sunday, December 13, right after the 10:15AM service. All kids and kids-at-heart are invited to join in making ornaments to hang on the Great Hall's Christmas tree. Lunch will be provided.

Be there for the food and fun!



### *Christmas Eve Family Service:*

On Christmas Eve the children's pageant will be held at the 4PM Family Service. Major parts will be available for high school, middle school and older elementary children. Non-speaking "gift bringer" parts will be available for early elementary and younger children. If you would like your child (children) to participate, please contact **Jen Pennington**, at [ejpaddington@yahoo.com](mailto:ejpaddington@yahoo.com).

Practices will be the four Sundays preceding Christmas Eve: November 29, December 6, 13 and 20. All will be held immediately after the 10:15AM service. Children who have "gift bringer" parts would only have to attend the December 20 practice.



### Mark your calendars! Thrift Shop Christmas Boutique

*Just in time for your holiday shopping!*

**SUNDAY**

**Shopping for Members of St. Paul's on December 6, 9AM to 2PM**

**Community Shopping, 12:30PM to 2PM**

**TUESDAY**

**December 8, 10AM to 1PM**

*Great Hall of St. Paul's Church*

**Holiday Decorations! Gifts! Treasures Galore!**

*Funds raised by the Thrift Shop support the outreach philanthropy of St. Paul's Church*



## From the Rector...

My church in childhood had no idea what Advent was. Later in my life, Advent and I became acquainted. I incorporated Advent into churches that hadn't kept it. For the most part, my church people appreciated a more spiritually grounded preparation for Christmas than shopping, parties, decorating and radio-laden Christmas songs. I added a purple stole in Advent to the robe I wore, untypical in our denomination. I was still getting to know Advent. I let our music department go with Christmas carols in Advent. Our hymnal had a dearth of Advent carols, so we were limited. Some Lutheran friends attended our church in Advent. They weren't able to sing Christmas carols until Christmas Eve. We did, until I learned and appreciated "waiting" for the arrival (advent) of Christ and Christmas. I learned Christmas is a season, not a day, and why we sing and celebrate *The Twelve Days of Christmas*.

Do you intentionally think about Advent, and how you will observe it? I hope so. It will be a more special time and deepen your understanding and experience of Christmas. Here are a few suggestions:

- ❖ **WORSHIP:** In Advent we light candles in a wreath in a special liturgy with scripture and prayers related to a theme of the day. Our prayers, music and liturgy change. See what differences you notice. The color of Advent is sarum blue, and a pink candle is lit on the third Sunday. See if you can find out why. Note the changes. If you come to the late service, notice the words to the hymns and how they lead us into Advent. The more intentional you become in worship, the more meaningful Advent will be.
- ❖ **SPIRITUAL REFLECTION:** Make a commitment to read the daily Advent Devotional Booklet church members write. Add the Living Compass Advent study, or read Forward Day By Day in Advent. If you make space daily, you are more calm and centered as you approach Christmas.
- ❖ **MUSIC:** Listen to Advent music in the season. If you need help in selecting CD's, ask Tim Benson. Listen to instrumental Christmas carols, and as one pastor says, wait until Christmas to add the words.
- ❖ **GRATITUDE:** We live between two Advents: Jesus' birth and God's reign when Jesus returns for us. I don't know what that means fully. I trust that God comes be with us in the first advent, and to lead us into a new order, a second advent, whether at death or a great cosmic event. While life events trouble and upturn us, remember we live in the light of a greater world. Advent prepares us for Jesus' arrival with us, and prepares us for our arrival into God's reign now. Each day, reflect on some new and unexpected way God arrives in your life. How can you express gratitude for these arrivals? Transform gratitude into acts of love, giving, sowing seeds of blessing for others, especially for the hungry and homeless, victims of injustice, people who are ill or sad. We share God's blessings with them. We also become aware of yearnings for God's kingdom to come, and how in gratitude we can help it come through our lives and gifts.

Observe an intentional Advent this season to be prepared again to receive Christ anew, and pray our lives will be further transformed for God's service. **Fr. Steve+**

## Deacon's Corner:



We live in a hurting world! In one week this past November there were several terrorist attacks around the world, the best known to us of course were the six separate attacks in Paris, France. It is hard to wrap our minds around all the hatred and violence around the world and especially that they are committed in the name of God. It is very easy to become bitter and respond with hate, but we have to remember the **Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s** words: "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

During Advent, let us remember that Jesus came into the world to bring us light, and His light will shine and overpower the darkness. We need to overpower hate with love! Let us commit to spreading love and goodwill to everyone we encounter in our daily lives. Ultimately we can only change ourselves, but the more we show love, the more likely others will follow suit.

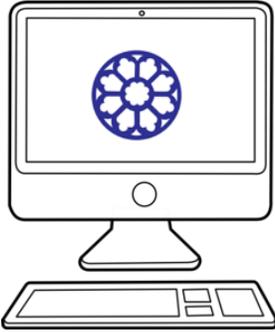
God Bless you all,

**Deacon Sheila Scott**

# Adult Education Forum for December

from Terry Zimmer

ALL SESSION BEGIN SUNDAY  
AT 9AM IN THE  
COMMUNITY ROOM



St. Paul's is unveiling its new website! Come join us at the Adult Forum at 9AM on **December 20** to see our new features and to learn how *you* can contribute information and memories to the site.



## Calendars are here!

The Layweeders are selling calendars for 2016. All pictures are of St. Paul's Church and the gardens surrounding it. Calendars are being sold for \$20 each.

In addition to the regular calendar an 18" by 12" magnetic calendar, featuring a picture from the courtyard is available for \$10.

Proceeds will benefit the Garden Fund. Calendars may be purchased from **Chris Krueger** at the 8AM service and from **Pat Ruttum** at the 10:15AM service.

Also please feel free to contact **Ken Brath** at [guysmiley26@hotmail.com](mailto:guysmiley26@hotmail.com) or 414-659-6948 to order. Thank you.

## Values, Identity, Vision & Action (VIVA)...an update

Dear Members and Friends of St. Paul's Church,

We began our VIVA journey in the Summer/Fall of 2014 with preliminary work on our values, identity and vision for the future of St. Paul's. Through Vestry discernment, parish workshops, and much-valued feedback from our members, we identified four Visions for Mission that would help guide us as we move forward while valuing, celebrating and retaining that which makes us a meaningful fellowship in Christ and a generous member of our local community.

The Vision for Mission for 2015 was a Vision for Nurture. This vision was meant to be an opening of ourselves to the experience of God's grace by nurturing and valuing our strengths as a faith community, in other words, by celebrating and expanding on those things that we do well and have added value to the experience at St. Paul's.

These efforts resulted in the creation of the Parish Life Committee (PLC), whose purpose is one of inclusion and outreach to current and prospective members of the Parish. The PLC has, hopefully, been a body that has encouraged inclusion and more active participation in the life of the church.

We have also experienced God's grace through our informative, thought-provoking and meaningful Adult Christian Formation series and through on-going efforts to enhance our Youth Christian Education program. The PLC and the Worship, Music & Liturgy Committee, in conjunction with Tim Benson, our choir and several other partnering music groups, have offered us many opportunities to celebrate the beauty and hospitality of St. Paul's through music and song. And our Communications Committee has made significant progress on the re-design of our website and our internal information systems.

For 2016, the Vestry has chosen our next VIVA goal of a Vision for Heritage. This vision will focus on our rich foundation of Anglican traditions through education and evangelism. We will attempt to find ways to value new diversity while honoring our heritage as we share God's gifts at St. Paul's in a distinctive way. As we begin 2016, you will be hearing much more from the Vestry about this vision, and will be asked to join us in forums, formal and informal discussions, surveys, etc., and offer your wisdom, ideas and suggestions on how we can continue and improve our visions for ministry at St. Paul's.

Sincerely,

**Bill Fry**

Senior Warden, St. Paul's Vestry

## Seeking a Transportation Coordinator

With winter coming on and mobility being a challenge for some of our parishioners, the Parish Life Committee is looking for a volunteer to coordinate rides for people needing transportation to parish events. This would involve connecting "ride needs" with "ride givers" via phone or email. It would not require you to be able to provide the rides yourself and should only take a few hours a month.

If you are looking for a way to serve your fellow parishioners, please contact **Bill Fry** ([williamlawsonfry@gmail.com](mailto:williamlawsonfry@gmail.com)) or **Terry Zimmer** ([ztleman@gmail.com](mailto:ztleman@gmail.com)).

Until we have a coordinator, if you need a ride or know of someone who needs a ride, or are willing to offer a ride to the Lesson and Carols service on Saturday, December 12, contact Bill or Terry.





# Advent & Christmas at St. Paul's Church

If you have not done so, be sure and pick up and enjoy the annual Advent booklet

## *Sunday, December 6*

- ❖ Thrift Shop Christmas Boutique, 9AM to 2PM in the Great Hall

## *Tuesday, December 8*

- ❖ Help the Flower Guild decorate the Sanctuary Christmas tree; if you can help contact Rand Schmidt at 414-444-5393 or rands@wi.rr.com; beginning at 10:30AM.

## *Friday, December 11*

- ❖ Complete the decorating of the Sanctuary beginning at 9AM; all help is welcome!

## *Saturday, December 12*

- ❖ Festival of Lessons & Carols and Festive Reception, 4PM. Members are invited to contribute "finger food" sweet and savory treats for the reception...let's offer a fantastic array of refreshments for our guests.

## *Sunday, December 13*

- ❖ Deck the Hall Party & Hot Dog Lunch: everyone is invited to create decorations and trim the Great Hall Christmas tree after the 10:15AM service.

## *Monday, December 14*

- ❖ Donations for Christmas flowers are due...see form below!

## *Thursday, December 24, Christmas Eve*

- ❖ Family Eucharist and Pageant, 4PM; Carols with Organ
- ❖ Traditional Celebration of the Feast of the Nativity, 10PM pre-service music by St. Paul's Choir, Processional, 10:30PM.

## *Friday, December 25, Christmas Day*

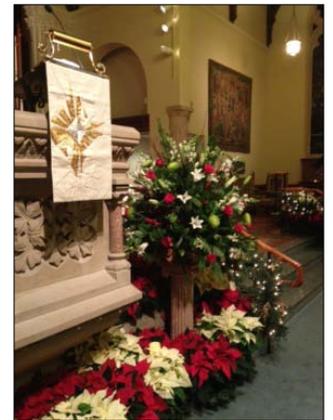
- ❖ Christmas Eucharist, 10AM.

**SUGGESTION: Post this page on your refrigerator so that you don't miss any of the events!**

You are invited to contribute to St. Paul's Christmas flower fund in thanksgiving for personally significant occasions in your life, to honor a living family member or friend, or to celebrate the life of a deceased family member or other significant person in your life.

**Please attach this form, with your donation, and give it to an usher, place it in the collection plate, put it in the Parish Office mailbox in the kitchen or mail it to the church. All donations must be received by Monday, December 14.**

*Please print your name and intention as you wish it to appear in the Christmas bulletin.*



Christmas Flower Donor(s) \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In thanksgiving for \_\_\_\_\_

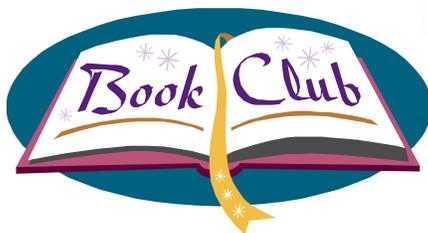
Please keep my gift anonymous \_\_\_\_\_ Amount attached \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## A message from Megan Mitschrich...

A big THANK YOU to all who volunteered this year at The Gathering! We are a formidable force in set up, serving and clean up. I appreciate all the time our volunteers give to this worthwhile opportunity for our parish.

I look forward to continuing our mission next year and remember we are always looking for more volunteers!

Thank you again.

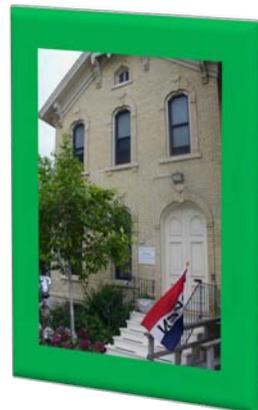


The Book Club will meet at 7PM on Tuesday, December 8, in the St. Paul's Library Room to discuss *Letters and Papers from Prison* by **Dietrich Bonhoeffer**.

## Thrift Shop to take a winter break!

St. Paul's Thrift Shop will be closed the entire month of February for cleaning and restocking and will open again on Tuesday, March 15, at 10AM.

If you have donations of gently used spring and summer clothing, purses, shoes, household goods, knickknacks or books, you may bring them to Church on any Sunday or deliver them to the Shop on Tuesdays (10AM to 3PM) or the first and third Saturdays (9AM to noon) in January.



## Gaming coming to St. Paul's...

Are you a fan of games...Scrabble, Clue, Sorry, Candy Land, Chinese Checkers, Chutes and Ladders, Life, Chess, Monopoly, Twister, Checkers and...if you are, the Parish Life Committee is hoping to sponsor an event for you and your family.

The tentative dates are the evenings of Saturday, January 16 or Saturday, February 6.

Coordinating the event is **Cathy Simpson** (cathy.simpson30@yahoo.com) and **Ben Johnson** (bdjohnsson@yahoo.com). They are looking for volunteers to help plan this intergenerational event. Please contact them if you would like to help.



## Your reports are due...

Committee chairs and leaders need to start thinking about your annual reports for the Parish Meeting. They are due to the Church office by Tuesday, January 12, 2016. Please send to **Lynn Fields** at: (lynne.fields@stpaulsmilwaukee.org)



## Gifts of Securities to St. Paul's

If you wish to make a gift to St. Paul's or pay your pledge with publicly-traded securities you may do so through the Trustees of Funds and Endowments, a program of the Milwaukee Diocese.

If you utilize this method please do so by December 11 to ensure that your transaction is processed before year end. For detailed instructions contact the treasurer **Gerry Mainman** at (414) 225-0408 or mkeman@wi.rr.com.

Phone 414.276.6277

[www.stpaulsmilwaukee.org](http://www.stpaulsmilwaukee.org)

[stpmke@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stpmke@sbcglobal.net)

Rev. Dr. C. Steven Teague,

*Rector*

Rev. Sheila Scott, *Deacon*

William Fry, *Sr. Warden*

Carrie Barbee, *Jr. Warden*

Gerald Mainman, *Treasurer*

**VESTRY**

Lindsay Anderson,

Theresa Castor,

Steve Filmanowicz,

Cynthia Kartman,

Margaret Schumacher,

Erik Skoglund,

Peter Slocum,

André Williams, Terry Zimmer

Christine Krueger, *Clerk*

**STAFF**

Timothy Benson,

*Music Ministry Director*

Nevenka & Nikola Dedic,

*Housekeepers*

Malcolm Soward-Gatford

Pricilla Rutt

*Buildings & Grounds Team*

Lynne Fields,

*Administrative Assistant*

Patrice Hansen,

*Accounting Assistant*



Mary Beth Haubrich, *Editor*

Sarah Gramentine, *Copy Editor*



**SUNDAYS**

8AM, Holy Eucharist

10:15AM,

Holy Eucharist with music

Nursery service available at

10AM

**WEDNESDAYS**

7:30AM, Eucharist

12 Noon, Eucharist & Lectionary

Study

**MISSION STATEMENT**

*We are a community of faith being transformed through Christ to embody the*

*healing presence of God's love to one another, our city and the world.*

## Builders and Dreamers *from Jon P. Barsanti*

In last month's issue of the *Apostle* the thought of starting an annual Endowment Builders listing of persons contributing \$50 or more during the course of a year was introduced as a possi-

bility. In this issue, we are announcing that such a listing (Builders and Dreamers) will appear in the parish's Annual Report for those individuals who made qualifying contributions during 2015 to one or more of following funds: Unrestricted Endowment, Music Endowment, Organ Endowment, Children & Youth Ministries Fund, Altar Guild Endowment Fund, Youth Music Ministry En-

dowment Fund, Stained Glass Window Fund, Building Maintenance & Restoration Fund, Outreach Endowment Fund, and Rector's Special Needs Endowment. Added to this list is the Technology Fund, that was only a dream last month and is now reality. Please consider each of these funds when you are making your year-end contributions.

Contributions to any or all of these funds should indicate the fund(s) in which your contribution should be invested. You may choose to allocate any contributions over \$100 to one or more of the funds (\$50 or more to each) and be recognized as a "builder and dreamer" of each.

*Blessed are they  
who plant  
shade trees  
under which they  
will never sit.*

It is not too late to make contributions to the Birthday Club for 2015. Contributors to the Club and Lenten Discipline contributors will automatically be listed since all of those contributions go directly into the Outreach Endowment Fund. Memorial contributions and bequests will continue to automatically be deposited in the Unrestricted Endowment Fund unless otherwise specified by the donors.

We recognize that there are a number of persons who would like to contribute to our efforts to provide and grow funds for the future needs of St. Paul's. We trust that the Builders and Dreamers list facilitate these acts of gratitude for you.