

Welcome to the December 2020 edition of St. Paul's Apostle. During the rest of the COVID-19 pandemic, we plan to make an abbreviated version of the monthly newsletter to keep members in the loop via email about our church's virtual activities and the spiritual resources available to us all. We sorely miss gathering in the church for worship, education, fellowship and succor. The Vestry hopes this communication serves as one more way to strengthen our bonds of friendship and faith until we can all be together again.

Message from the Wardens

Faith, Hope and Love:

2021 Stewardship Campaign Update

Each year, St. Paul's has been blessed to have a significant percentage of parishioners who make financial pledges in support of church ministries. The response to the 2020 campaign continues our tradition of giving by many. Thank you to all who have pledged.

We hope to receive all pledges by December 15 to provide time to prepare the 2021 operating budget in time for the January 31 Annual Meeting. If you have any questions, please contact Sr. Warden Tom Goode, Co-Jr. Warden Lee Coppernoll, or Co-Jr. Warden Peter Larson.

Sunday Morning Liturgy

Beginning on Advent Sunday, November 29th, we will move from Morning Prayer to A Liturgy of the Word. Traditionally called Ante-Communion, it is all of the Sunday liturgy up to the Eucharist, including the blessing. It will look like a "normal" Sunday liturgy, but without the Eucharist. This format will give us more flexibility in liturgical planning (e.g., Lighting of the Advent Wreath). In our broad-church style, we seek to offer as many of our tradition's rich liturgical forms.

Because of time constraints involved with online worship, we have had to cease Choral Evensong for the First Sunday of the Month until we can return to in-person worship.

Lessons & Carols

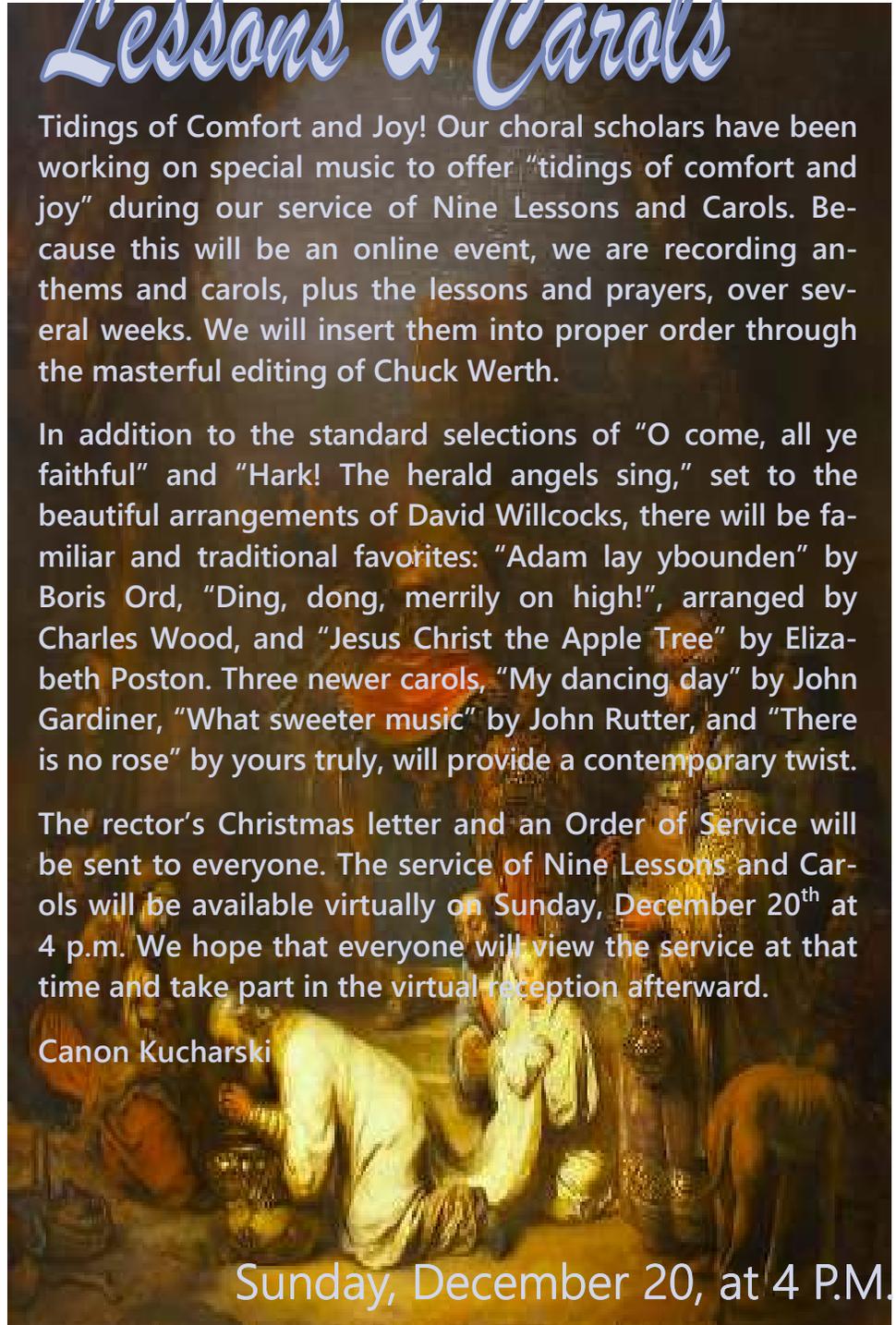
Tidings of Comfort and Joy! Our choral scholars have been working on special music to offer "tidings of comfort and joy" during our service of Nine Lessons and Carols. Because this will be an online event, we are recording anthems and carols, plus the lessons and prayers, over several weeks. We will insert them into proper order through the masterful editing of Chuck Werth.

In addition to the standard selections of "O come, all ye faithful" and "Hark! The herald angels sing," set to the beautiful arrangements of David Willcocks, there will be familiar and traditional favorites: "Adam lay ybounden" by Boris Ord, "Ding, dong, merrily on high!", arranged by Charles Wood, and "Jesus Christ the Apple Tree" by Elizabeth Poston. Three newer carols, "My dancing day" by John Gardiner, "What sweeter music" by John Rutter, and "There is no rose" by yours truly, will provide a contemporary twist.

The rector's Christmas letter and an Order of Service will be sent to everyone. The service of Nine Lessons and Carols will be available virtually on Sunday, December 20th at 4 p.m. We hope that everyone will view the service at that time and take part in the virtual reception afterward.

Canon Kucharski

Sunday, December 20, at 4 P.M.



From the Rector...

In this first week of Advent -- the beginning of a new Christian year -- we look to the first Christian writing, Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians, for the culmination of what we prepare to celebrate in the reality of God's incarnation. For the second time in that writing, Paul proclaims to us the foundation of our faith and the source that is our hope: "For if we believe that Jesus died and rose (4:14)." Only verses before, we read the earliest reference in the New Testament to the Resurrection: "and to await his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus, who delivers us from the coming wrath (1:10)." The bookends of those points -- our foundational Easter faith and a new Advent -- create an upward spiral of orientation and journey that guide our hope, and that Paul exhorted his first Christian community to live in.

Christian hope is not for that which we already know or possess. It differs radically from optimism that seeks to create the same -- to return to a known place of safety. Rather, hope seeks to change the underlying structures and realities that held the past, however pleasing, in search for a more just and righteous experience of the fullness that God offers all. That is the heart of our celebration of Advent -- our "looking forward" -- in expectation not for that which is not here, but for that which continues to become present. It is primarily a season of joy because it moves from realization to realization of the incarnation of God into our humanity and world:

It is said that You will come again, and this is true. But the word "again" is misleading. It won't really be "another" coming because You have never really gone away. In the human existence which You made Your own for all eternity, You have never left us.

But still You will come again, because the fact that You have already come must continue to be revealed ever more clearly. It will become progressively more manifest to the world that the heart of all things is already transformed, because You have taken them all to Your Heart.

You must continue to come more and more. What has already taken place in the roots of all reality must be made more and more apparent. The false appearance of our world, the shabby pretense that it has been liberated from finiteness through Your assuming finiteness into Your own life, must be more and more thoroughly rooted out and destroyed.

Behold, You come. And Your coming is neither past nor future, but the present, which has only to reach its fulfillment. Now it is still the one single hour of Your Advent, at the end of which we too shall have found out that You have really come.

O God who is to come, grant me the grace to live now, in the hour of Your Advent, in such a way that I may merit to live in Your forever, in the blissful hour of Your Eternity.

(Karl Rahner, Prayers For A Lifetime)

In joyous expectation,
Brad

A gift for St. Paul's that keeps on ringing

In 1994, Roland Perschon, a retired Milwaukee schoolteacher living in Pewaukee, had a set of eight bells cast by the Whitechapel Bell Foundry in London. The bells were offered to Nashotah House Seminary when Dr. Steven Peay was the seminary's Dean and President. Plans and money were raised to build a bell tower on the campus. Sadly, after Dr. Peay resigned as Dean, the administration that followed chose to not go ahead with the project.

Mr. Perschon contacted me shortly after he heard that I became Director of Liturgy and Music here at St. Paul's. He said: "You already have a tower; all you need are the bells." We have accepted with gratitude this special gift to the parish, valued at \$300,000.

These bells -- change ringing bells -- are not ordinary church bells that swing back and forth or are struck by hammers. Each bell is attached to a large vertical wheel that allows it to spin in a complete circle. This method of ringing bells, which originated in the early 1700s, is a uniquely English practice.

Change Ringing is a team sport, in which each person rings a tuned bell through a series of changing sequences that are determined by mathematical patterns. Anyone who has viewed British films or royal weddings or spent time in the English countryside will recognize this incredibly joyous pealing of bells.

These bells will be the last set of Whitechapel bells installed in the world, a significant distinction for St. Paul's. The Whitechapel foundry closed in 2017 after having cast bells since the mid-1500s. Whitechapel cast the Liberty Bell and the change ringing bells at Washington National Cathedral, among others.

There are 47 change ringing towers in the United States, most in Episcopal venues throughout the eastern and southern regions. St. Paul's tower will be a unique attraction for the city of Milwaukee. It might well serve as a memorial for all those who lost their lives as a result of COVID-19.

When hands are not available to ring the bells, a computer program can be set to ring the bells for holidays, Sunday morning services, and even the quarter-hours throughout the day.

Faculty and students at Milwaukee School of Engineering, and the principal of an English immersion school on Milwaukee's south side, have expressed interest in our bell tower project.

Canon Kucharski

The Antiphonal Organ – the sounds of silence

Organ pipes require one important item to sound -- moving air or "wind," as it is known in organ nomenclature. The Hebrew word for wind is "Ruach," which also means "spirit."

For the past 10 years, over 1,700 pipes in the gallery of our nave have made only the sounds of silence. Now we will have a happy ending to the silence.

A Brief History of the Antiphonal Organ

In 1966, John Weissrock, St. Paul's Organist/Choirmaster, became extremely impressed with a new organ designed by Robert Noehren for St. John's Cathedral here in Milwaukee. The instrument was built by Jerroll Adams and Richard Houghton of Milan, Michigan; it was the first in the city to use direct electric windchests and employ a European method for tuning pipes.

Mr. Weissrock eventually met with Messrs. Adams and Houghton about building an antiphonal organ for St. Paul's. Our antiphonal organ was designed to support congregational singing from the back of the nave, and "voiced" for the performance of music from the 1600s through the 1800s. It was also intended to function as the main organ for worship services while the chancel organ was being renovated during the early 1970s.

Mr. Houghton was given the title of Verger while working on the instrument. He lived above the thrift shop for several years and functioned as sexton until the antiphonal organ was finished. After the completion of that instrument, however, plans for the renovation of the chancel organ were not carried out fully.

But the renovation of the entire church in 2010 included the installation a new chancel organ by the Schantz Organ Company of Orville, Ohio. Much of the original pipework of the old organ was included in this instrument. A decision was made to disconnect the antiphonal organ and simply prepare for part of it to play when additional funding permitted.

Shortly after last Christmas, I reached out to Mr. Houghton to let him know that I was once again working at St. Paul's. I asked him about the possibility of reconnecting the entire antiphonal organ to the present organ console. This led to the return of the original builders to Milwaukee for an assessment of the situation. The answer was a joyful "yes."

So the entire antiphonal organ will once again, to quote St. Paul, "sing with the spirit (Ruach)" in all its splendor. A generous gift has made this possible. As the American Guild of Organists motto states, "Soli Deo gloria" -- To God alone be the glory.

Canon Kucharski .



Outreach

Saint Paul's
CHURCH

Notes from Common Ground *from Pat Ruttum*

Common Ground wrapped up an eventful Get Out the Vote campaign for the fall. We decided at our February 2020 Summit to start this non-partisan campaign to get people to vote, to walk the neighborhoods around some of our member organizations, and to find new ways to collaborate in the Milwaukee area and establish our power. We feel we accomplished our goals.

We launched the campaign in June with phone banks to register voters. Mary Walker and I were among the 200 people who participated. People from all over the country joined in. Eddie from the Bronx showed up on Zoom for every one of our 26 sessions. One of our organizers who was traveling east for Thanksgiving met with Eddie and gave him a case of Spotted Cow to thank him.

We held Get Out the Vote Zoom meetings with students from Marquette University, UWM, Alverno, Mount Mary, and the Medical College of Wisconsin. We worked with the Milwaukee Election Commission and Executive Director Claire Woodall-Vogg to "cure" 300 absentee ballots incorrectly filled out by voters and returned to them.

Common Ground, which is political, not partisan, joined with the Milwaukee Bucks, showing that former adversaries can become partners if they share our mission. Then-Bucks guard George Hill flew up from Texas to walk the neighborhoods with us to encourage voting. You can see pictures here: commongroundwi.org/news/bucksgotv. The Bucks' website also had video of Hill talking to citizens and urging them to vote.

We attracted news coverage several times locally. An NBC reporter flew out from New York City and filmed a day with us, but the network did not use the story. We were mentioned in a BuzzFeed article: buzzfeednews.com/article/lamvo/voting-nightmare-without-secure-housing-worse-during-pandemic.

On election day, we had teams out protecting seven polling places. Steve Filmanowicz joined us in this effort. We promised to turn out 15,000 voters, and we interacted with 16,302 voters. Many of the people we helped were first-time voters. Moreover, we developed leaders, broadened our base, made new partnerships, raised money, and demonstrated our ability to organize -- all this in addition to our COVID Healthcare Support Team (650 patients and counting) and our CG Healthcare Cooperative, which is the largest medical insurer in Wisconsin (see beckersasc.com/asc-coding-billing-and-collections/the-largest-health-insurers-in-all-50-states.html).

Thank you, St. Paul's family, for your ongoing support through the Outreach budget and the Friends of Common Ground Campaign. Opportunities abound for donations at common-groundwi.org.

Successful Interchange Peanut Butter and Cash Drive



Bill Fry and Deacon Sheila unload donated peanut butter.



Joanne Filmanowicz, Lee Coppernoll, Bill Frye, Kurt Bushman, Calvin Sampson, and Fr. Brad warm up on the lot.



Longtime St. Paul's member Flo Duke returned from Miami just in time for the Peanut Butter and Cash Drive.

Forty-five St. Paul's members showed up on Saturday, November 14, in the church parking lot to contribute peanut butter and cash to the Outreach Committee's food/fund-raising event in support of Interchange. Two large bins were filled with donations of peanut butter, and checks and cash were given in support of the organization's food pantry.

In addition to providing much-needed support for Interchange, the event gave St. Paul's members the opportunity to reconnect under socially distanced and fresh-air conditions. Host and Outreach Chairman Steve Filmanowicz provided a portable fire pit and chairs so members could warm up a bit. Those who showed up during lunch-time were treated to tacos prepared by Raquel Filmanowicz.

The Outreach Committee will accept financial contributions in support of Interchange through December 31. Send checks made out to St. Paul's, with "Interchange" on the memo line of the check. All gifts to Interchange through this initiative will be included on members' statements of 2020 financial gifts to St. Paul's.

Sunday Adult Formation Programs in December

Join fellow St. Paul's members, from the comfort of your home, for the Sunday Zoom Adult Formation Programs at 9 a.m. During December, Vestry member Dana Fritz will lead two sessions, one on the Gospel of Mark and one on holiday traditions, and Co-Jr. Warden Peter Larson will lead a session on Annunciation Painting. There will be no program on December 27.

December 6: Spending the Year With the Gospel of Mark

December 13: Annunciation Painting

December 20: The Many Traditions of Advent and Christmas

Advent Quiet Evenings, December 2, 9 and 16

During Advent, St. Paul's again offers an opportunity for members to gather for quiet contemplation and fellowship on the first three Wednesday evenings in December. Because of the pandemic, we will gather via Zoom at 5:30 p.m. for a half-hour of selected readings, silent prayer and reflection. Email Fr. Brad at brad.toebben@stpaulsmilwaukee.org if you are interested in offering the readings on one of these evenings.

Contacts

SaintPaul's
CHURCH

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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Parish email: lynne.fields@stpaulsmilwaukee.org

Worship Schedule

Sunday Morning

8:00 am Holy Eucharist in the Morning Chapel
10:15 am Choral Eucharist

Organ Recital and Choral Evensong

First Sundays of October thru May

Wardens and Vestry

Thomas Goode, Sr. Warden
Lee Coppernoll Co-Jr. Warden
Peter Larson, Co-Jr. Warden
Gerald Mainman, Treasurer
Christine Krueger, Clerk
Eric Dawson
Florence Dukes
Dana Fritz
Mike Gauger

Clergy and Staff

The Right Reverend Steven Andrew Miller,
Bishop of Milwaukee
The Reverend W. Bradley Toebben, Rector
The Reverend Sheila Scott, Deacon
Canon Joseph A. Kucharski, Director of Liturgy and Music
Tedd King, Associate Organist
Lynne Fields, Administrative Assistant
Patrice Hansen, Accounting Assistant

Artists-in-Residence

Milwaukee Chamber Choir