

The Messenger

DECEMBER
2022
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St. Paul's

A progressive community of faith with ancient roots.



Christmas Eve Service
7pm

Introduction to Advent /Christmas/Epiphany Focus

by Marna Franson

At a liturgy planning meeting a few months ago, we decided we wanted to focus on the themes of Asylum and Refugees for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. Since Jesus came into the world, according to the story, when his parents were temporarily displaced from home and then fled into Egypt to escape death after he was born, it felt like a good time to open ourselves to learn about and support those who are experiencing this reality of displacement. We will do this in three ways:

Prayer: Thanks to Charlie West, we became aware of a resource for praying: Bread of tomorrow: Praying with the World's Poor, edited by Janet Morley. We will send out a prayer each week to use in our personal devotions and we will integrate focused prayers into the Prayers of the People in our Sunday worship.

Local Updates: Telling a local story that connects us with Asylum Seekers.

Episcopal or Other Resources: Introduction to the work that the Episcopal Church is doing with refugees and migration, information from the ELCA, other related resources.

Action steps: How can we possibly respond? What can we do if we are feeling called to step into this work?

Check out the TWASP and a portion of the Sunday bulletin for these goodies. Let's get ready to learn, to pray, to consider in our hearts, and to act.

Alternate Gift Market by Meg Goodrich

St. Paul's will once again host the Alternative Gift Market this year. AGI is a non-profit organization that inspires support for humanitarian and environmental causes. They offer donors the option to designate charitable gifts through carefully selected agencies in the name of their relative, friends, and associates. On the last three Sundays of Advent - December 4, 11 and 18 - someone will be at the atrium table to assist you with the order forms, inserts, and cards; booklets will be available to read about the projects to support. The *Messenger* will have the Shopping list/Order Form which you can print off at home. Extra forms will be available at the table.

(visit <https://alternativegifts.org/giving/gifting/cause> to read about the projects at home)

Two Options:

- 1) Take the filled order form to church on designated Sundays with exact cash or check. Receive the cards and inserts. More forms available at church. OR
- 2) Mail your printed-off order form with payment to: St. Paul's Church, 201 E. Ridge Street, Marquette, MI 49855. Jacquy will contact you about how best to deliver your cards and inserts.

Questions--jacs1944@gmail.com. Please make Alternative Gifts a part of your Christmas Season this year.

December's Unfolding Moment

by Marna Franson

Hello all. I have fallen into a pattern of highlighting some events and happenings and work that is going on around us and within us. I hope that this list represents a broad snapshot of all that is happening.

1. *Superior Connection Ministry to the Unhoused*: St. Paul's has had the privilege of welcoming Marquette citizens who have been without housing to sleep in the Great Room and the Classroom. A request came from Superior Connections to open our doors for two weeks so that these folks can have a warm place to sleep from 8:00 p.m. until 6 a.m. After a quick dinner, they slept and were cared for by the staff and resources of this organization. It will probably be our opportunity to open our doors in this way regularly during the winter months. (**Note**: see Vestry Update, page 3)
2. *Asylum Seekers and Refugees*: The liturgy planning group has decided to weave an emphasis on asylum seekers and refugees into the seasons of Advent/Christmas/Epiphany this coming year. Please pay attention to TWASP ways to pray, learn, and act.
3. *A Women's Lectionary*: The liturgy planning team has decided that we will be using *A Women's Lectionary Year A* for this upcoming liturgical year. Beginning on November 22nd, David Carlisle will be leading Lectionary Study online on ZOOM at 2 p.m. each Tuesday. The link will be posted on TWASP. The *Women's Lectionary Year A* for purchase is available through Church Publishing, Amazon, Thriftbooks, and other places.
4. *Don't Wrap those Gifts!!!* Let college students wrap them for you! The combined campus ministries at NMU are having a fundraiser for their Spring pilgrimage to Iona, Scotland. Roving Wrappers will wrap gifts for a small fee on **November 27th** or **December 4th** at Marquette Hope on Fair Avenue or at Messiah Lutheran on **December 11th**, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. There is also an option to make an appointment for Roving Wrappers to come to your home to wrap during those times. Let Marna know if you are interested.
5. *A Concert by Darrius Morton* will be held **December 9th** at 7 p.m. The concert will be in the chapel. He will be singing songs by Strauss, Hailstork, and other composers. This will be open to the entire community and a freewill donation will be taken and applied to all the structural maintenance for our church.
6. *Chili and Labor Unions and Churches*: The next gathering I, at 5:30 p.m. at St. John's Church, Negaunee. So much great conversation! Lovely ideas and intentions and ideas for action.
7. *Discernment*: The vestry has met with Sue Ray and Gin Mannisto, the consultants for discerning the next generation of Mutual Ministry at St. Paul's. The Vestry and a few others will comprise the discernment team and are already praying. The four Thursdays of January have been set aside for this process. Please pray daily for this life affirming process in our congregation.
8. *A Charlie Brown Christmas and the Nutcracker*, **December 9-10** or **14-17th**: Who wants to go? It would be fun to attend together since one of our very own, Jimmy Ludwig, is directing!

Vestry Update

Our Vestry met on November 20. Among several items that we discussed was the wonderful news that the Bell Tower shutter that had been damaged is now repaired, and our bell is once again ringing. Meg Goodrich and Cathy Cole have generously volunteered to begin researching how to approach a Capital Funds Campaign. This will be necessary as we look at repairing the exterior of our building. Over the many years, our stone exterior has become chipped and worn away, and the grouting has eroded, leading to leaking and damage. This is a project that needs to be addressed if we wish to continue calling St. Paul's our home **UPDATE: Over the past two weeks, St. Paul's hosted guests from Superior Connections. These souls are homeless, and in need of a warm place to sleep. Several of the surrounding churches have been rotating in this program. Our Vestry will be discussing whether this will be a repeated outreach program. There are many aspects to consider when undertaking such a project, and we are giving it much thought, discussion and prayer.** We also discussed Marna's upcoming schedule. She will be preaching at St. Paul's only on the third Sunday of the month, because she is increasing her time with the NMU students.

December

Birthdays

Arlene Gordanier	3
Liz Lancour	7
Jo Wittler	10
Coralie Voce	10
Kevin Thew Forrester	12
Howard Harding	16
Burt Purrington	17
Jim Edwards	20
Liam Thew Forrester	25

Our next Messenger edition: January 2023

Please submit articles by **Friday, December 16th** by 6pm

Liturgical Leadership

Sundays

<u>Date</u>	<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Preside</u>	<u>Preach</u>	<u>Deacon</u>
December 4	Advent 2	Marna	Marna	Coralie
December 11	Advent 3	Marcia	Judd	Pat
December 24	Christmas Eve {7 p.m.}			
December 25*	Christmas Day	Bob	Bob	Mary

*Because this service is traditionally low attendance, there will be no music

The Messenger Team

Editor Meg Goodrich

Copy Editor - Jane Ryan Lay-out - Jim Edwards

Reporter - Bob Railey Copier - Sierra Larson

Building Use Update

by Cathy Cole, co-junior warden

The Vestry, along with our Missioner, Marna Franson, has been intentional about sharing the gift of our space as most Covid restrictions have been lifted.

As of this October, The Society of Friends (or Quakers) have been using the library room and the back Sunday School room for their worship, formation, and fellowship on the first and third Sundays of the month. They make a monthly donation for the use of the space and are appreciative of the St. Paul's community and sharing of our building. Please extend a warm welcome should you see them on a given Sunday.

More recently, Marna was approached by Superior Connections, a group that serves homeless individuals in the Marquette Community. (**Note:** see Vestry update page 3) With the onset of winter, St Paul's was asked on short notice to provide a two-week overnight shelter, (8 p.m.-7 a.m.) for individuals who are homeless. This organization is not affiliated with Room at the Inn which is currently at capacity. Superior Connections is overseeing and staffing a rotating shelter including Messiah Lutheran and the Presbyterian churches. Members of the Vestry and Marna agreed on a two-week trial basis to use rooms in the basement for overnight shelter. Over the past two weeks, St. Paul's provided shelter for approximately 12 guests under the supervision of Superior Connections. Any further requests from Superior Connections will be evaluated by the Vestry and communicated to the St. Paul's community should there be a decision to host again.

Many of you may have noticed the bars and dance floors of Queen City Ballet have been removed. Deb, the primary instructor of Queen City Ballet, used the chapel over this past year to provide affordable dance instruction for a growing number of adult students. Deb expressed her gratitude for being able to dance in the chapel but recently decided to move to the Masonic Building as her dance program grows. We are glad the Chapel was put to good use and helped the dance program to develop. We wish them well and are hopeful they will join us with their gifts of dance in a worship service in the future.

While on the topic of the creative arts, Jan Brodersen and Janice Peterson continue to provide weekly voice, piano, and string lessons in the chapel and sanctuary. Their gifts of music and teaching are truly gifts that keep on giving.



Jon Magnuson leads Tai Chi classes every Wednesday in the Chapel. Craig Kitchen offers singing bowl meditation twice a month in the Church. Currently, there is a weekly Sunday evening 12 step ACOA group meeting in the St. Paul's Library. For an up-to-date listing of weekly events happening at St. Paul's, check the TWASP.

The St. Paul's website lists the various spaces available for reasonable fees or contributions. Please contact Sierra to inquire about scheduling of a space or if you have questions related to the building use, don't hesitate to talk with a member of the Vestry or Marna. It is the intent of the Vestry and Marna that as we open our doors and provide a welcoming and beautiful space for others beyond our St. Paul's community, we make room for the Holy Spirit to grow in our midst.

The Birth of the Episcopal Church, U.S.A. *by Jim Sorenson*

The American branch of the Church of England found itself in a precarious predicament at the outbreak of the Revolutionary War. Since the church was regarded as an extension of the monarchy, not only were members of local congregations split between support of the crown and separation, but so were the sentiments of clergy. The result was devastating to local congregations; there were even cases of arson to church properties, including clergy housing.

Into the fray, certain clergy chose to serve as chaplains to the British Armies while others served with the revolutionaries.

After the war, the structure of the church was in shambles. Not only was there lingering division over the revolution, but the years of warfare took their toll on those wishing to prepare for ordination. Also, the church in England required oaths of allegiance to the monarch as clergy presented themselves for ordination.

It became obvious that clergy should be trained and ordained locally. One diocese, Connecticut, elected a priest who had once served as chaplain to the British army, Samuel Seabury.

Upon his election, he sailed to Great Britain and presented himself and his credentials to the Archbishop of Canterbury for ordination. When confronted with the requirement he take an oath

of allegiance to the crown, he made his way to Scotland where certain “non-jurying” bishops from England had fled when the oath became required during the reign of William and Mary was decreed. (Mary reigned from 1689-1694, time of her death, and William reigned with her and after her death, 1689-1704.)

His credentials were accepted by the bishops in Scotland and Seabury was made bishop in Aberdeen in 1784 upon agreeing to present the Scottish form of Communion in the yet-to-be made American Book of Common Prayer.



Realizing that the Church’s following the English form was in the process of global growth, the oath of allegiance was eliminated by the time William White of Pennsylvania and Samuel Provost of New York arrived in England to be ordained bishops in 1787. One more candidate from the United Colonies arrived and was ordained bishop in England, James Madison of Virginia (not to be confused with James Madison the patriot.) Madison became bishop of Virginia while continuing his presidency of William and Mary College in the colonies in 1790.

The first Book of Common Prayer of the American Episcopal Church was adopted by General Convention, 1789, and contained the Scottish form for Communion. That, along with omitting prayers for the sovereign, marked the most important changes in worship. Along with the Prayer Book, the official name for the American Church was set as “The Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States of America,” a designation indicating the church was not Roman Catholic, but headed by Bishops (Episcopal, the term meaning bishop-lead.) General Convention also decreed that the chief bishop of the new church be elected to a given term and referred to as “Presiding Bishop” and not “Archbishop.” The governance of the Church was set to reflect the new American system of two houses (Representative and Senate) and was labelled, “House of Deputies” (made up of a mix of clergy and laity) and “House of Bishops.” Samuel Seabury, as senior bishop, was elected the first Presiding Bishop.

The beginnings of the Anglican Communion were cast. With the acceptance of the Episcopal Church in Scotland and the newly formed Episcopal Church in America into fellowship with the Church of England, the die was cast. In time the Anglican Communion would span the globe as children of the C of E emerged from an empire which would gradually diminish.

[This is the last in the series of the birth of the Episcopal Church.]

Outreach News

by Mary Sullivan

Outreach Committee met on November 17th – here's what we discussed:

Emergency Shelter – (Note: see Vestry update page 3) This was brought to St. Paul's by Ryan Redmond (Superior Connections) and was discussed by the Ministry Support Team and Vestry reps Kris Mowafy and Fred and Cathy Cole and Meg Goodrich. The pressing issue is that RATI is full and there are anywhere from 8-15 people in our community who need emergency overnight housing. First Presbyterian and Messiah Lutheran Churches are opening their churches from 8:30 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. on a two-week rotation schedule. St. Paul's decided to try this for a week and see if it works for us. There are some significant differences between this emergency measure and how things were (we hosted RATI: 1) we do not have to staff the overnight session – Superior Connections provides the staffing – 1 professional and 1-2 NMU students. St. Paul's requested a minimum of 2 student volunteers in addition to the professional worker. 2) a light meal at 8:30 is provided by volunteers* 3) the hosting church can set its own protocols. We can establish areas of our church that are off limits to guests and require that smoking in the parking lot is supervised.

Giving Tree: brought to us by a student at NMU. After discussion we decided to enhance our traditional mitten tree and call it the Giving Tree. We will continue to collect mittens/gloves, hats, scarves, and socks – men's items are especially needed. These will be distributed to Great Lakes Recovery, RATI, Emergency Shelter, Free Store, and Ripple Effect. In addition, Lake Superior Village will provide us with 10 gift tags. These tags will give the name/gender/age/ clothing size etc. of a child and his/her "wish list" for Christmas. St. Paul's folks are encouraged to take a tag and provide the requested items, wrap them, and put the tag on the package. We will have a large box or a bin for this purpose. The packages will then be taken to or picked up by Lake Superior Village and distributed. It was noted that two or more people can work together to fulfill the "wish list."

Alternative Gifts ~ Meg and Jacquy will be heading this. Alternative Gifts can be purchased before and after church.

Aligning our efforts for Asylum Seekers, refugees, the homeless – Marna has challenged/inspired us to consider the theme of asylum seekers, refugees and the homeless during the Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany season. So, we took some time to list how we at St. Paul's are living this out and we came up with the following efforts: Team Brownsville, Asylum Seekers Task Force (with Messiah Lutheran Church,) RATI, Emergency Shelter, and supporting refugees from Afghanistan and Ukraine (through Episcopal Migration Ministries and Episcopal Relief and Development.) Are there others?

Other issues brought to our attention:

- Lack of day care in Negaunee/Ishpeming area. Issues: affordable, available during a variety of work shifts, on days when school is not in session, etc.
- Increasing our knowledge of the issue and history of the treatment of Indigenous people in the United States and the work of our Diocese via Walking Together/Becoming Beloved Community.
- Connecting with our Episcopal brothers and sisters at St. John's, Grace, and Little Lake to work together on the issues affecting Marquette County

Many things to contemplate, many opportunities to be God's heart and hands in our world.

"What we have before us are some breath-taking opportunities disguised as insoluble problems" ~ John W Gardner

Think Scrip for Gifts

As the Christmas holidays approach and thoughts turn to gift giving, please think SCRIP! We have many businesses to choose from with many of them carried in inventory. If we don't have what you select, we can get it in just a matter of days. Gift cards make great gifts whether mailing them or just filling a stocking. Your purchase helps St. Paul's as well as local and regional businesses that participate in our program.

You can place an order on Sunday after the church service, call Ann Smith (906) 249-9389 or Barb Carpenter (906) 362-3875 or mail your order to St. Paul's. We will make every effort to fill them ASAP.

Doing a New Thing. Rooted in Abundance

An Advent Reflection 2022 from TENS

submitted by Charlie West

The liminal space of Advent asks much of us. It is an existential tension between darkness and light, waiting and receiving, not having and having. We are asked to step into a memory we have never had as modern Christians – that time before the plan of salvation was incarnate in the Son of God; and we are asked to step into a miracle we can hardly fathom – the birth of a child, heralded by an angel and crowned as king, an outcast even before he was born. Advent is full of dichotomy.



As we travel through this short season we journey with the very sun. In the Northern Hemisphere we note the amount of light in the day lessens dramatically, the air around us cools, nature responds with starkness where once there was lush green. Change is so perceptible that it surprises us, no matter how many times we have experienced this season of waiting.

In such a time of change, we might look for what is constant, what is comfort. We seek the ideas, patterns, and moments that anchor us, that remind us that we have been here before and we will move through this again. We take stock of what roots us in our lives.

Many of us look to family at this time of year. Some of us focus on what is to come. In Church we learn of the story of our salvation, and the plans in place to bring everything into its completion. Through all of this we rely on the promise God made to God's people, a promise of abundance so spectacular that it can only come from an extravagant, generous God. A God who will lend us a piece of Their divinity in the humanity of flesh like ours. We are rooted in abundance. We are people of Advent Hope.



Questions for Reflection:

What tensions do you experience in Advent and how do you reconcile them?

In what ways do you experience abundance even when the skies are heavy, and the nights are long?

Cn. J. Davey Gerhard is the Executive Director of TENS. He lives in San Francisco, California where he works on diocesan staff for DioCal and worships at Holy Innocents in Noe Valley.



J. Davey Gerhard III
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CALIFORNIA

Winter Quarter Schedule

by Bob Railey

St. Paul's has gradually been recovering from the pandemic for over a year now. I have noticed that very few of those who asked to be removed from the activity rosters due to the pandemic have restored their names to the rosters, even as we have now relaxed nearly all of our coronavirus protocols. Our liturgy is enriched by the varied voices and faces who share in participation. If you have concerns about adding your name, please do speak to me.

Through **December 11**, the usual display of Winter Quarter Schedule (January through March) and the various activity rosters will be posted on the "sign-up bulletin board" in the chapel hallway next to the entrance to the men's rest room.

You may use the weekly schedule to sign up for specific role(s) on specific date(s). You may use the appropriate rosters to tell me when not to schedule you or to increase the number of activities in which you wish to participate. Completed schedules will be distributed beginning **December 18**. Questions—ask Bob Railey.

New lectionary for this Liturgical year

by Bob Railey

On Advent 1 (**November 27**), we began using the *Women's Lectionary Year A*.

This represents the most significant liturgical development at St. Paul's in a very long time. This transition will be much more significant than that from the BCP to the RCL Lectionary (that happened about the year 2000 at St. Paul's).

The reading texts will normally be available from Sierra (via her weekly e-mail of Part 1, Part 2 and ZOOM link) on Friday. If you wish a copy earlier than that, you may drop by the office and copy selections from the Year A book for the *Women's Lectionary*.

Preachers will be the ones most affected by this transition, since the designers of the *Women's Lectionary* have made significant changes in some "themes of the week" (which had minimal changes from BCP to RCL—and those mostly by adding "Tracks A & B" for the "Propers" after Pentecost. For lectors and backup lectors, the challenge will be in getting used to the many alternate terms for God introduced by this new Biblical translation which introduces a great many non-masculine terms for God.

I have really enjoyed exploring the new language of this translation. It will offer new ground for our preachers; hopefully, we who read the passages will do them justice (practice is even more strongly advised than for the NRSV and Inclusive Bibles that we have used for so many years).

In addition to the Lectionary change, the Seasonal Planners have decided that the focus of preaching and the prayers for this Incarnational Block (of the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Epiphany) will be immigrants, asylum seekers, and refugees; we invite this congregation of St. Paul's to join joyfully in this focus.

Bob Railey

Discernment Has Begun

by Kris Mowafy

On October 27, our Vestry team met with Sue Ray to begin the process of discerning a third generation of mutual ministry leaders. We have been tasked with identifying certain traits and personalities within our congregation to discover those people who may be best suited for roles within mutual ministry. Because we strive to make sure that every person in our congregation is well known by someone on the team, we found that we needed to add a few people to the team. We have since approached four others to invite them onto the team and are happy to announce that Jim Sorenson, Lynn Domina, and Barb Carpenter have agreed to join us. We will be meeting weekly during the month of January and will be ready to contact those who we feel are gifted with the attributes necessary for each role. Please keep us in your prayers as we complete this important project.