

# The Messenger

---



**St. Paul's Episcopal Church**  
27 Pleasant St.  
Brunswick, ME  
207-725-5342

**December  
2004**

## **Inside this issue:**

<i>Worship Commission</i>	2
<i>Senior Warden's Report</i>	3
<i>Kitchen / Flower Room</i>	3
<i>Notes from the Journey</i>	4
<i>Children's Activities</i>	4
<i>Church School News</i>	5
<i>Advent Spiral</i>	5
<i>Children's Craft Fair</i>	5
<i>Caring about our planet</i>	6
<i>Pledge Reminder</i>	6
<i>Christmas Fair Report</i>	7
<i>Birthdays</i>	7

How appropriate to be moving into our new parish house in Advent, to be hosting a Christmas Fair December 4 that is also an Open House, to be welcoming our bishop December 12 for a parish house blessing and pot luck supper, then to slow down December 19 and walk the labyrinth toward Christmas. If you haven't walked a labyrinth, it's a way of letting the foot lead the head. The practice reminds us that when life is too busy, we can put one foot in front of the other and, with the help of others, find our way to the center.

The center, of course, is no mathematical point, rather a dynamic set of relationships: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; Mother, Child, and animals; Shepherds, Kings, and Manger; Executive, Legislative, and Judicial. The Trinities go on and on. Physicists tell us the center, the nucleus, is no fixed point; rather a set of swirling relationships.

On the home front, we are engaging each parish commission to refresh and transform it's mission to best invite participation. Sometimes we take for granted this or that is always the way we do things, and this is the person who does it! Tradition has virtues, but we don't want to lock into traditionalism. The movement of Advent urges us to new birth. May we prayerfully prepare, celebrate God's gifts, and move into the new year refreshed and empowered to serve.

The Reverend Daniel Warren, Rector



## FROM THE WORSHIP COMMISSION

We enter the Advent season with special thanksgiving for the timely completion of the new building, and freedom from the constraints under which we have been worshipping since last March. The Altar Guild, flower committee, choir, acolytes, layreaders and chalice-bearers are adjusting to their new spaces, and traffic in the sacristy area has eased considerably. All of us appreciate the understanding and patience shown by the people of St. Paul's during the building process.

As we approach the end of this momentous calendar year, the season of Advent reminds us that a new liturgical year is already beginning. It offers an appropriate opportunity both to reflect and to anticipate.

In spite of the often hectic distractions of the past months, we have managed to keep our central focus where it belongs – on gathering as a community to hear the words of scripture, to pray, and to praise God in the Eucharist. At our Rector's urging, we have begun what we call a "bread ministry," in which we offer first-time worshipers at St. Paul's a loaf of fresh bread as a gesture of welcome to that community.

One of the great blessings we have enjoyed for a number of years has been the faithful, inspired work that Nancy Kelly has done with our acolytes. Thank you, Nancy! Nancy has earned a well-deserved rest; and Tom Nugent and Sharon Pedersen have come forward to take on the challenges of recruiting, training, and supporting acolytes of all ages and levels of experience for St. Paul's. If you are interested in the program, please get in touch with Tom, Sharon, or me.

As fall planning progressed over the summer, it became clear that the old Sunday morning schedule of three services plus Christian Education was simply too crowded to sustain an appropriately reverent atmosphere for worship. In order to maintain a dedicated time for a third Eucharist, it was agreed that the contemporary service would move to 5:00 p.m. on Sundays. The Reverend Dick Hall continues to lead that service with loving creativity, and its congregation continues to evolve, sometimes including some of us who regularly worship in the morning. It is truly a spiritually enriching way to close the Sabbath.

The Worship Commission and clergy have still not reached a solution as to how to include a Taize service or Choral Evensong in the new schedule of worship at St. Paul's, but we're working on it. Keep an ear tuned to announcements of special services. For example, the choir will be on hand for the 5:00 p.m. service on Dec. 12, when the Bishop will be with us to bless the new building. It is also our hope to offer a Choral Evensong sometime in January.

All of us on the commission wish you a holy, peaceful Advent and a joyous celebration of our Saviour's birth. Welcome to both new years!

Leslie Randolph-Brancart

## SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

We are essentially complete with the construction of our new building. Completing the "Punch List" of items that need to be finished will take about another week. For many of us it is very gratifying to see things moved in. As we are already utilizing all of our greatly expanded space including the office area for Christian Education on Sundays and Wednesdays, a small committee is reviewing how to make the rooms truly multipurpose. I would like to thank Walter Bull and the many people who helped him move everything out of storage and set up in the new rooms.

A small committee is working on guidelines for the use of the new building by outside groups. When we had to use space in other organizations buildings, there were forms and understandings about liability, cleanup and the type of usage. We feel it is important for us to have a clear policy and to properly utilize our new facilities for our own needs and for outreach to the community.

Faithfully,

Dick Trub

### THE NEW KITCHEN AND FLOWER ROOM

We are now using the new kitchen and flower room. We are still learning about where all our "things" .... china, glasses, flatware, utensils, pots-n-pans, consumables, etc... should go. I would like people to utilize these two facilities and hopefully our "things" will find their appropriate home. Some facilities modifications may be deemed necessary.

Please send any suggestions concerning modifications and locations of items in writing to Claude Brancart (e-mail preferred: [monkfish@blazenetme.net](mailto:monkfish@blazenetme.net)) The Kitchen/Flower and Building and Grounds committees will consider all suggestions and evaluate the feasibility of their incorporation. Construction modifications would not take place till early spring.

Claude Brancart



### CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL FLOWERS

Donations are being received for Christmas memorial flowers through Friday, December 17. If you would like to have a loved one(s) remembered, enclose your donation in the flower envelopes in the pews, print the name of the person(s) to be memorialized, and place the envelope in the alms basin at any service or bring to the church office. Envelopes will be in the pews on Sundays, November 28, December 5 & 12.

## NOTES FROM THE JOURNEY

So much has happened this fall, that it's hard to keep track of it all. In October we invited the older Church School students to our Haunted Hayride and cookout. By the light of a bonfire we ate hot dogs, made somemores and had a great time. We want to give a special thanks to the leaders and parents who helped with the trip. We helped move the church back into the new Parish Hall in November and started to decorate our new J2A rooms. We sold coffee, nuts and candy. Again we want to thank everyone who supported us in this sale. Some of us are planning trips, while others of us would like to serve others. We are busy, busy, busy. Look for our coming events including a Parish breakfast in January of "05" and thank you for your support and please keep us in your prayers.

The J2A groups at St. Paul's



## CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES FOR DECEMBER



Starting Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, each Church School Class will receive a class stocking to fill with prayers, money and small gifts to give to children in an area Head Start Class. Your child can participate in the spirit of giving by bringing in money and prayers or a small stocking stuffer toy suitable for a pre-school age child. Each Sunday in Advent we will present our gifts to have them blessed at the time of the offering at the 10:15 service.

Wednesday 12-1-04 - Festival Choir at 5:30 (No café)

Sunday 12-5-04 - Church School 9:15- 10:10

Wednesday 12-8-04 - Children's Craft Fair, Advent Bowl painting 4:30- 7:00, Festival Choir at 5:30

Sunday 12-1-04 - Church School 9:15-10:10

Wednesday 12-15-04 - Festival Choir At 5:30, Make Jesse Tree ornaments at 6:00

Sunday 12-19-04 - Children's Chapel at 9:15, Advent Spiral 4:30-6:30

Wednesday 12-22-04 - Festival Choir 5:50, "Christmas Story" practice 6:00

Friday 12-24-08 - "The Christmas Story" at the 5:00 pm Service

There is No Church School Sunday 12-26-04 & 1-2-05

## CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

It's late afternoon, the office is quiet as I am the only one about. The phone has even stopped ringing. For the first time in days it is quiet and I have time to reflect. It is just a few days before Thanksgiving and we as a church have so much to give thanks for and so much to look forward to. I am thankful that our rooms are filled with young people and that they feel so comfortable in their new church home that they are inviting friends to come to church school. I am so thankful that we have a new nursery full of bright sunny faces and that we are blessed with the laughter that these children bring to our church. I am blessed to share my new shiny office with the knitters on Tuesday and Wednesday nights. This room is full of their work and laughter and fellowship. I am also blessed to share the space with the Sunday morning bible study, knowing that come January they may outgrow my room. Now isn't that a blessing. As I sit here, I am blessed by the energy and love that is St. Paul's, blessed and thankful that our new rooms will not stay quiet for long. We, the people of St. Paul's, are filling them with our good works, fellowship and love. That is truly a blessing.

Linda Ashe-Ford  
Director of Christian Education

## ADVENT SPIRAL (ADVENT GARDEN)

Advent is a special time of preparation for the coming of the Christ and at time to renew our spirit. Many who attended last years spiral found it a very moving experience. Please make time to join us as we slow down and find a quite time to prepare for the coming of the light of the world. Walking the path of the Advent Spiral by the light of the Christ Candle that awaits us at the middle, allows each of us to reflect on the gift that God gives us in the birth of his son. Adding our own light to that path, reminds us that we must let our love of Christ shine for all to see. Please plan to join us for a time of quite meditation and renew your Christmas Spirit with the true meaning of the season by walking the Advent Spiral on Sunday December 19<sup>th</sup> starting at 4:30. The Spiral will be open for quiet meditation until 6:30.

The Spiral will be open from 4:30- 6:30  
Sunday December 19, in The Great Hall  
Light Refreshment in the Library Room



**CHILDREN'S  
CRAFT FAIR  
DECEMBER 8**

A time for the younger members of our parish to make presents for their family and friends. This is a great way to let our children share in the joy of giving.

Donations accepted



## CARING ABOUT OUR PLANET

On November 14 St. Paul's parishioners heard a sermon by the Rev. Dr. Margaret Bullit-Jonas, author of the "New England Bishops' Pastoral Letter on the Environment. Subsequent to the panel discussion on this topic between services, some St. Paul's parishioners have talked about the possibility of creating an *"EarthCare Team"* at St. Paul's Church. The purpose of this team would be to find ways to "Practice our faith by caring for Creation."

Plan to join us **Sunday, January 16, 2005**, for a brainstorming session after both Sunday services to determine how we and our fellow parishioners can become more effective stewards of our environment. For further information, please contact Helene Maraghy 725-5833 or Erika Morgan 729-9723.

### BAPTISM

Holy Baptism will be offered on January 9. If you or your child are seeking to be joined to the household of God through baptism, please contact the church office, 725-5342, as soon as possible to make your arrangements.

Our loving thanks to all of you for your prayers, cards, messages, food and flowers. The best part of this "experience" has been to realize how lucky we are to be part of the St. Paul's family

Pat & Dick Trub

## PLEDGE REMINDER

Please turn in your pledge cards at your earliest convenience. The vestry has budgeted \$283,000 for 2005 – a 13% increase over this year.

To date we have received \$ 188,417 in 2005 pledges which is a 14 % increase for those who have pledged, so we are on target. Thanks to those who have already pledged.

The dilemma each year for the vestry is to have pledging complete so that the budget can be finalized – the sooner the better.

We will start calling those we have not heard from the week after Thanksgiving – hopefully all pledges will be in so we will not have to call. Thanks for your promptness and generosity.



## OPEN HOUSE & 68TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FAIR

The Open House and 68th annual Christmas Fair were a great success! Thank you to all who participated and supported the Fair in any way. All of the proceeds go to support St. Paul's outreach programs. The final figures will be announced at the Annual Meeting. Our Fair Chair Follow-up Meeting is on Thursday, January 27, 2005 at 5:30 p.m. If you would like to consider participating in next year's Fair, you can join the Fair committee at this meeting or call Connie Burt (522-2538) or Rhonda Frothingham (729-3603). We welcome new ideas.

### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



12/02 Hugh Savage	12/10 Meghan Schofield	12/19 Ian Peck-Moad
12/03 Virginia Kane	12/12 Sean Clegg	12/20 Howard Bingley
12/03 Colin Cabelka	12/12 Emily Swan	12/20 David Frazier
12/04 Mary Chittim	12/12 Reed Kopyc	12/21 James Ford
12/04 Steve Thomas	12/13 Callum Smith	12/22 Robert Day
12/04 Cassie Ditzel	12/15 Jim Ditzel	12/22 Hope Haug
12/04 Rebecca Schuman	12/15 Erika Morgan	12/24 Charlotte Cooney
12/05 Jillian Close	12/15 Sharon Pedersen	12/24 Mark Moore
12/05 Kimberly Close	12/15 Shirley Schuster	12/24 Megan Moore
12/06 Nicholas Dempsey	12/15 Barbara Whitney	12/25 Nicholas Smith
12/07 Robert Brownell	12/15 Emma Nickerson	12/26 Russ St. Clair
12/07 Marjorie Wooten	12/16 Vivian Hills	12/30 Charles Mull
12/09 Christopher Dempsey	12/17 Keely Forestell	12/30 Mildred Young
	12/18 Jonathan Appleyard	12/30 Nicholas Demosthenes

### MESSENGER DEADLINE

The deadline for the January Messenger is December 20th. You can drop off any submissions at the church office in the Messenger box under the calendar. You may also email articles or ministries schedules to [SusanTyler@stpaulsmaine.org](mailto:SusanTyler@stpaulsmaine.org)

## **St. Paul's Episcopal Church**

P.O. Box 195  
27 Pleasant Street  
Brunswick, ME 04011

The Reverend Daniel Warren, Rector  
The Reverend Mary Lee Wile, Deacon  
Susan Tyler, Parish Administrator  
Gill Peterson, Organist & Chapel Choir Dir.  
G. Cameron Smith, Choir Director  
June Nering, Membership  
Steve Williams, Bookkeeper  
Leonard Fortuna, Sexton

Church Office 207-725-5342  
Fax Number 207-729-1910  
stpauls@stpaulsmaine.org

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
BRUNSWICK, MAINE  
PERMIT NO. 5

**The Messenger**  
December 2004

### HAVE YOU SEEN *KEEP THE FEAST*?

St. Paul's attractive, new hardcover cookbook makes a wonderful Christmas gift. Take advantage of multiple pricing and pick up several copies. Containing beautiful illustrations contributed by Betsey Bailey, a concise history of St. Paul's written by Connie Burt, and 296 delicious recipes contributed by parishioners, this is a book you'll want to add to your own collection. *Keep the Feast* is now available for \$14 per single copy, 2 copies for \$25, 3 or more copies at \$12.50 each. Books will be available at the church fair, after services on December 5 and 12, or through the office.

ALL PROCEEDS WILL BE USED TO PURCHASE  
EQUIPMENT FOR OUR NEW PARISH KITCHEN.