

DECEMBER GOODNEWSLETTER

Music in December

Taizé Service with St. Paul's Taizé Choir

Sunday, December 2 at 5:00 P.M. in the Cathedral

The St. Paul's Taizé Choir will perform in a service based on the method of prayer utilized in the Taizé community in Taizé, France. It is a time of listening, a time to leave things before God, a time to be before God, to have one's soul open for God. Silence and music are essential elements of Taizé prayer.

Evensong with Special Advent Music

Sunday, December 16 at 5:00 p.m. in the Cathedral

Evensong with special advent music featuring the Cathedral Choir and H. Scott Raab, organist.

Choral Mass with the Cathedral Choir and String Ensemble

Sunday, December 30 at 11:00 A.M. in the Cathedral

The Cathedral Choir performs Mass of the Nativity by Richard Shephard with string ensemble.

Christmas Organ Concert and Carol Sing

Sunday, December 30 at 5:00 P.M. in the Cathedral

Dr. John Schwandt, Professor of Organ at the University of Oklahoma, will perform organ music of the season and lead us in singing everyone's favorite carols!

United Thank Offering

Sunday, December 2 at all Morning Services

Are you thankful for hot water when you bathe or wash dishes? Pass on the gratitude by dropping a coin in your UTO Blue Box as you say a prayer of thanks. Boxes are available in the narthex. The fall ingathering will be Sunday, December 2 at all three services.

Vestry Nominations & Delegates Sought

Nominations are being sought for Vestry and Convention Delegates to be elected at the Annual Meeting in January, 2008.

Each adult communicant of the Cathedral is encouraged to participate in the nominating process: to prayerfully and carefully consider potential nominees. Is there someone you would like to represent your interests? Ask if he or she would be willing to stand for election and if so to fill out a nomination form. Perhaps you want to serve on the Vestry or as a Delegate. You too, should feel free to submit a nomination form.

Forms will be available in the church office. Take them or mail them to the Cathedral, attention: Nomination Gathering Committee. Listed below are the offices for which nominations are sought.

4 Vestry Persons: Three year terms (2007-2009)

Qualifications

Confirmed communicants in good standing of age eighteen years or more.

Duties

The vestry has three primary responsibilities; to take care of the parish finances and parish building; to choose individuals to fill various positions of parish leadership and representation. As representatives of the interests of all parish members, they play a liaison role between them, the clergy and staff. Members are expected to serve on a committee or commission of the Cathedral.

Meetings

Monthly meetings on the second Tuesday evening at 7:00 P.M. Vestry Workshop will be held soon after the Annual Parish Meeting, and the Vestry retreat is in the Spring.

9 Delegates to Diocesan Convention: One year term (2007)

Qualifications

Confirmed communicants in good standing of age eighteen years or more.

Duties

As representatives of the Cathedral to the Convention, elected delegates are responsible for attending the regional meetings (dates to be announced), and the Diocesan Convention, which will take place November 14–15, 2008 at All Souls' in Oklahoma City.

Statements will be printed in the Sunday bulletin prior to the Annual Meeting.

Christian Formation and Confirmation

How can we cooperate with our Creator in the formation of our lives?

We are being informed daily by TV, books, internet, movies, etc. How do we let God inform us? Advent is a time of pregnancy, of preparation for a new year and fresh spiritual beginning. Come and consider your Christian Formation at the forums on December 9 and 16 at 10:10 A.M. in Dean Willey Hall.

St. Catherine's Guild Meeting

Tuesday, December 11 at Noon at the Home of Ann Baer

St. Catherine's Guild next meeting will be at Ann Baer's Home, 2324 NW 56th Terrace, so please call 842-5405 if you can come for lunch. For our program we are to bring a favorite prayer to share with the guild.

Pet Memorial

Sunday, December 9 following 11:00 A.M. Service, in the Chapel

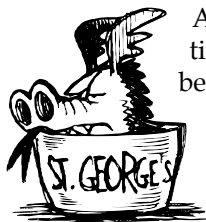
Have you lost a pet this past year? Come to a tender service in which we remember our pets who have died. Winter bulbs are placed on the altar as a prayer is spoken for each pet. How thankful we are to God for the companionship and joy our pets provide for us. Sunday, December 9, following the 11 A.M. service in St. Nicholas chapel.

Advent Quiet Day

Saturday, December 8 at 9:30 A.M. in the Cathedral

Sister Ellie Finlay will lead a day of contemplation on Advent themes on Saturday, December 8, 9:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. in the Cathedral. Lunch is included.

The Outreach Guild of St. George



As we observe the season of Advent, the Guild of St. George invites you to take time to thank God for the many blessings in our lives. Since 1983, the Guild has been an Episcopal outreach ministry serving those who have emergency needs. It is housed at St. Paul's Cathedral and is supported by the Episcopal churches in the metropolitan area.

As cold weather sets in, our poorest families would also love to celebrate the holidays with their children and families. It is more difficult than ever to pay utility bills and keep food on the table, let alone buy gifts, warm clothing or a turkey. If you would like to share your blessings with those in need, the Guild welcomes your gifts of food items, money and time. Each Christmas, we increase our budget to cover extra food, blankets, gloves and scarves, and small gifts for children.

It takes approximately \$7,600 to operate the Guild for one month. With this, we operate an emergency food closet and provide assistance with utility bills, prescriptions, bus passes for doctor's appointments and job interviews, and other valuable assistance.

Can you help?

If you would like more information about the Guild or how you can help, please contact the church office at 235-3436.

Item of the Month

December's Items — Soup and Ramen Noodles

Staple items – Soap, shampoo, toothpaste and other items such as calendars are always needed. Please place any contributions in the basket at the Reception Desk in the Education Building.

Financial Peace University

Informational Meeting on Sunday, December 9 at 10:10 A.M. in the Library

Class begins Tuesday Jan 8th. 6:30–8:30 P.M.

Financial Peace University is a life-changing 13-week program on personal finance. This course is designed to empower people to manage their money better, eliminate debt, and build wealth. FPU uses Scriptural teachings on money management which cover topics including: budgeting, debt reduction, savings and giving. On average, a family who attends an FPU class reduces their debt by \$5300 and saves \$2700 during the 13-week program. We would love for you to join us, as we learn how to put these Biblically based financial principles into action.

To learn more about Financial Peace University attend the information class on Dec 2nd, in the Library between the 9 o'clock and 11 o'clock services.

There is \$96.25 per family fee for the Financial Peace University Membership kit. Each kit contains the following:

- All 13 lessons on CD
- Complete set of financial management forms, including 3 months budgeting forms
- Workbook with 13 fill in the blank FPU lessons for use during class
- Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace Revisited book and personal testimony
- Envelope system
- Financial Calculator computer program and biblical screensaver
- Lifetime Family Membership allowing you to participate as many times as you would like at no additional cost

Classes are on Tuesday evenings starting Jan 8th–April 1st from 6:30–8:30. Registration ends on Dec 30th or when the class is full. Contact Sherilyn or Corey Herndon at 917-9782 for details.

Christmas in Watonga

Saturday, December 15 at 11:00 A.M.



The gift of giving—Help the children of Watonga enjoy a Merry Christmas by joining us for this very special outreach event on Saturday, December 15 at 11:00 A.M. The day begins with the installation of the Rev. Jim Kee-Rees as Indian Missioner for the Diocese of Oklahoma.

Celebration of New Ministry

Saturday, December 15 at 11:00 A.M.

A Celebration of New Ministry for the Rev. Jim Kee-Rees, Missioner of the Whirl Wind Mission of the Holy Family will be on Saturday, December 15. The service begins at 11:00 A.M. with a big feed (lunch) to follow. Bishop Ed will be the celebrant and many elements of Native American culture will be incorporated into the worship. The service will take place at the new Oakerhater Episcopal Center in Watonga, Oklahoma. If you have questions or need directions please call or e-mail Jim, 405-974-8907, jkeerees@episcopaloklahoma.org.

The Cathedral's St. Oakerhater Guild is planning to participate in this event with crafts, Christmas Carols and a visit from St. Nicholas with shoe boxes filled with gifts for the children and hams and gift certificates for each family. Join us for this glorious occasion. Contact James Collins or Canon Carol Hampton for more information.

¡Feliz Navidad con Santa Maria!

Monday, December 17 at Santa Maria Virgen

We join our Latino brothers and sisters for this wonderful evening, with a church service, meal, and Christmas Party (with the gifts from the Advent Event) on Monday, December 17 at Santa Maria Virgen, 2141 S.W. 25th Street.

Angel Choir & Christmas Pageant

All youth are invited to participate in this year's Pageant, to be presented at 9:00 and 11:00 on Sunday, December 23. Join us for choir rehearsals on Wednesday evenings at 6:40, after the 6:00 family supper in Dean Willey Hall. The Dean's *Christmas Joy* is the adult offering. The full Pageant rehearsal is at 10:00 A.M., Saturday, 12/22. Hearty thanks to Mary Reynolds for directing the choir and to Ashley Wells and Sharon Rysted for directing the Pageant.

Christmas Pageant and Reception

Sunday, December 23 in Dean Willey Hall



Each year the children of St. Paul's deliver the Christmas message to us. You won't want to miss this very special Sunday morning at St. Paul's on December 23, with a grand St. Nicholas Guild reception in Dean Willey Hall between the 9:00 A.M. and 11:00 A.M. services.

Happening

December 28–30, 2007 at St. Crispin's

Happening is a youth retreat weekend led by Senior High Youth. Youth who have completed ninth grade are encouraged to sign-up for this "chance to get away, to open your mind, and to become aware of God's love and God's gifts." Brochures are available at the reception desk or in the undercroft.

Live. Local. Bread-breaking.

A Vestry Review by Kimberly Lohman Suiters

“Help us to balance our eternal values with our present needs ...”—Fran Derrick, Opening Prayer, November Vestry Meeting

Silent Night

Holy night... All is calm... All is bright. We're coming to a consensus on the Columbarium, even as the design is being re-worked to better reflect the spirit of St. Paul's Cathedral. Architectural givens: we will have two walls with a connecting arch, artistic door panels to front niches, an integrated piazza that is round and possibly a labyrinth. An “Art Group” met to consider materials, functionality, and identity. Think images of soft but refined shapes, featuring twisting traditional tracery, grounded yet free, fluid yet stable... sleep in Heavenly peace, sleep in Heavenly peace.

Joy To The World

The pledges have come (and are coming). As of this printing in mid-November, 200 pledges total \$630k... and counting. We are 72 pledges away from surpassing last year's campaign. Also, in the words of our Senior Warden, Steve Parker, “The budget's in remarkably good shape.” November's revenue was \$40k higher than budgeted. Dian Everett pointed out that we're \$100k ahead of where we were last year.

Up On The Rooftop

Reindeer won't care, but this may give you pause (and could eat a portion of that \$100k we were briefly giddy about). The Cathedral may need a new roof, although not before Santa lands on it. Junior Warden Tom Steiner is comparing the cost of patchwork versus replacement.

Feliz Navidad

If you “wanna wish” a Merry Christmas to our friends at Santa Maria, St. Paul's will join them

in a fellowship party at their place on Monday, December 17th at 6 P.M. Mary Reynolds will sing, Santa Maria women will cook enchiladas, the men will be put to unforeseen good use, and we will continue to grow our relationship with a community that needs the safety of loving arms.

Oh Little Town

Of Watonga will celebrate Christmas with St. Paul's on the third Saturday of December as long as heavily-recruited Pere Noel Robert Denis doesn't scare all the children away.

9:00 A.M., gather at St. Paul's; 11 A.M., service begins; 12:30 P.M., lunch & gift exchange.

Deck The Halls

With great endowments. That's the pla-la-la-la-la-la-la-lan. Vestry approved a membership fee of \$750 per year to participate in a group of Episcopal churches with endowments \$500k & up. This year, the February conference will be held in St. Louis, featuring the Presiding Bishop as keynote speaker, and themes such as Branding (campaigns, not cows), Leadership, Growth, Endowment policies, and Technology as a Gateway to Heaven (the geeks are pumped). Vestry also approved \$5k for 5 clergy and staff to attend the conference.

Christmas Gifts That Give Forever:

- Cross pin or pendant*
- Hug someone
- Read Dean Back's book*
- Invite a friend to church
- Show a nursing-home friend Christmas lights
- Take time for St. George's Guild
- Meet a millennium development goal
- A sweet stocking stuffer*
- Sign a pledge to St. Paul's

(*Available in St. Paul's bookstore)

Memorials & Contributions

COLUMBARIUM

In memory: *Helen Foot Weaver*

Donor: Mr. Donald E. Weaver

ENDOWMENT FUND

In memory: *Francis Bennett*

Donor: Mr. & Mrs. Michael Mahaffey

In memory: *Eve Lear Berry*

Donor: Ms. Nira Smith

In memory: *William Cloud*

Donor: Mr. & Mrs. Michael Mahaffey

In memory: *Warren "Doc" Jordan*

Donor: Mr. & Mrs. Michael Mahaffey

In memory: *Robert Kott*

Donor: Ms. Nira Smith

MEMORIAL

In memory: *Robert Kott*

Donor: Mr. Robert P. White

In memory: *Bobbie Lindsey*

Donors: Ms. Marti Farrington

Ms. Nira Smith

Ms. Joyce Warren

Associated Glass Company

In memory: *Hugh Reynolds*

Donors: Mr. & Mrs. Rick Hill

MOBILE MEALS

In memory: *Tom Taggart*

Donor: Ms. Sally Atworth

OAKERHATER GUILD

In memory: *Robert Kott*

Donor: Mr. & Mrs. William T. Cunningham

Mrs. Stanley Donham

Mr. & Mrs. Rick Hill

ST. GEORGE'S GUILD

In memory: *Jean Hudak*

Donor: Mr. Ray Hudak

Ms. Helen Menarik

In memory: *Hugh Reynolds*

Donor: Dr. & Mrs. Harrison Smith





December Birthdays

December 1

Catherine Lewis

December 3

Tim Dowd
Dorothy Gilliland

December 4

Nancy Eales

December 5

John Dell
Don Resler

December 6

Lewis Pringle

December 7

Shawn Haney
Geoffrey Miller
Sharon Prior

December 8

Charlotte Corneil
Hannah Hutchison

December 9

Ladonna BlueEye

December 10

Caroline Dennis
Helen Stakem
Sandra Thayer

December 12

Alesia Beaver
Pierce Sapper
Emily Stapleton

December 13

Donna McAllister
Casey Richards
Jim Snodgrass

December 14

Tony Hutchison

December 15

Jay Malmstrom
Rhonda Marvin
Buzz McDonald

December 16

Cherie Tompkins

December 17

Alex Koumaris
Rebecca Lewis

December 18

Ann Bonsteel
Emma Christ
Patsy Ostrander

December 20

Linda Gens
Betty Powell

December 21

Stephanie Ochs

December 22

Madeleine Andrezik

December 24

Jerry Carter
Bill Johns
Carole Pyle
Mary Storandt

December 25

Evelyn Francik

December 26

Kylie Raper
Linda Rosser

December 27

Wilbur Johnson
Christian Keesee
Jane Magrath
Andrea Pringle
Jeanne Redd
Mark Mann

December 29

Jake Hart
Susanna LeMasters

December 30

Dennis Haywood

December 31

Marciel Barber
David Branscum
Anthony Dinh
Mandy Good
Lauren Luckowski
Lisa Luckowski

If you have a birthday in December and your birthday is not listed, please let us know! (235-3436)



January Birthdays

January 1

William Sonntag

January 2

James Cummings
Jackson Steiner
Betty Struby

January 3

Margaret Stempf

January 4

Christina Kueteman
Kennan Morrison

January 5

Brent Bell
Sid Howard
Paul Miller
Brock Reding
Marilyn Smotherman

January 6

Carolyn Barnes
Rod Beard
Sara Foster
Jani Hill
Matt Mahan

January 7

Joan Leeds
Tonya Mann
Leslie Regens
Sheila Spence

January 10

Bill Parker

January 11

Blue Clark
Porter Morgan, III

January 12

Andrew Barnett
Stanley Donham II
Dannie Bea Hightower
Kirsten Rysted

January 13

Mary Geren
Beth Leinau

January 14

Koby Goree
Elaine Honnold
Eric Laity
Melba Rhinehart
Scott Woods

January 16

Amanda Johns

January 17

Joan Bowen
Gregg Long
Pete Martin
Katy Towles

January 18

Todd Olberding
Chelsea Stephens
Teddy Wright

January 19

Judith Johns

January 20

Jim Lindsey
Kendal Lorenz
Hannah Martin

January 21

Billie Brown
Fern Cooper
Chelsea Morgan

January 22

Grey Allman
Kent Eldridge
Terry Gilliland
Meredith Harris
Todis McDonald
Steve Wallace

January 23

Sarah Gens
Gregory Stanfill
Shane Stidham
Kirby Yount

January 25

Julie Mills
Paula Tate

January 26

Jim Gray
Lauren Henrickson

January 27

Carly Herndon
Doris Long

January 28

Joanna Alexander
Gary Baer
Patty Donham

January 29

Angelica Bulnes
Alicia Champion

January 30

Michelle Kott
Dennix Lewelling

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Dear Friends

My father occasionally pondered aloud about the ethics of bringing a child into a world that is so filled with violence, suffering and pain. I remember feeling that it would have been a terrible mistake for him to have avoided me. All my father's serious thinking did not change the facts of history that I learned from my mother. Thinking had nothing to do with my birth, as I was an accident. I owe my life to thoughtlessness?

Jesus taught about thoughtlessness in ways that we enjoy ignoring. 'Take no thought for tomorrow, what you shall eat or drink or what you shall wear.' Life in the Kingdom of Heaven requires letting loose of the many ways we control our own existence, creating and dominating our own little kingdoms or 'queendoms'.

Cognitive science teaches that what you think or feel has very little to do with truth. Look at the history of violence within and among nations possessing noble religious, legal, political, cultural and intellectual ideals. Hitler's ravages emanated from the most academically developed nation of the time. Think tanks rolled through Iraq, but tanks with human flesh get bogged down in reality.

Many who claim to be Christians are actually 'Descartians', people who think that they are Christians by what they think. Jesus never taught any such nonsense; he taught that you know whom you are by facing up to what you do. A good tree produces good fruit. If you produce nothing, or little, or mostly sins, or devastation in the lives of people, you do not need more information, but re-formation.

We will spend some time this Advent season looking at 'Christian formation' as a full response to divine presence in human flesh. Such involves prayer, contemplation, worship, outreach, music, and the sharing of personal time in community and fellowship. This is not mere information for the head, but the production of loving fruit to feed body, mind and soul.

Because our origins are inconceivable to our brains many scientific rationalists presume that the universe is an accident. Truth is not a plan or an accident, but a surprise, a great Christmas gift. God did not avoid us, nor avoid our violent, suffering and painful human world. Instead our heavenly Father gives to us an innocent child, filling the dark universe with light and joy, warmth and freedom, peace and love. The thoughtlessness of God abides ever greater than the comprehension of humanity.

Faithfully yours,

George H. Back

Christmas Joy: Let Heaven & Nature Sing

The Dean's book *Christmas Joy: Let Heaven & Nature Sing* is available at the Cathedral bookstore, and there will be a book signing at Full Circle Bookstore, 50 Penn Place, December 3rd 6:30–8:30 P.M. Go to 'ChristmasJoyBook.com' for information about the book.

