



December 2009 GoodNewsLetter

Christmas Schedule

December 20, Sunday

8:00 Holy Eucharist Rite I

9:00 Holy Eucharist Rite II & **Christmas Pageant**

10:10 St. Nicholas Guild Reception

11:00 Holy Eucharist Rite I & **Christmas Pageant**

5:00 Evensong – Anthems and Motets for Advent

Christmas Eve, December 24, Thursday

6:45 Festive Music with organ, choir, trumpets and timpani

7:00 Holy Eucharist Rite II

10:30 Festive Music with organ, choir, trumpets and timpani

11:00 Holy Eucharist Rite I

Christmas Day, December 25, Friday

11:00 Holy Eucharist Rite I

Advent Activities

Wednesday Evenings In Advent

December 2, 9 & 16

Schedule

- **6:00 PM Family friendly dinner** in Dean Willey Hall
- **6:35 PM Pageant Choir Rehearsal** in undercroft, meet in DWH & process downstairs with Miss Mary
- **6:45 PM FaithLens for grades 6–12 Youth**, in Parlor
Join Jordan and Laura Rousseau and Danyel Siler in examining current events in light of the week's Gospel readings; check out: <http://www.blogs.elca.org.faihlens/>
- **6:45 PM Is There a Universe?** Adults join the Very Rev. Dean George Back in DWH to examine *Is There a Universe?* The two hemispheres of the human brain see reality very differently. In this Sunday's forum at 10:10 the Dean will introduce an Advent spiritual journey toward seeing a 'uni-version' of reality. The space between the right and left lobes of the brain, between females and males, between religion and science, between heaven and earth, is the place of grace to integrate our spiritual lives

Where Riches is Everlastingly Making the Most of the Music of Christmas

Sunday, Dec. 6, Dean Willey Hall, 10:10 AM

Tim Sharp, executive director of the American Choral Directors Association, will offer a multi-media approach to helping get the most out of the musical sounds of Christmas, from the sublime to the mundane. Tim will help us locate the best in seasonal music, and will help us find meaning in it as he uses examples of the best (and worst) of the season. Coffee will be served.

Music

Choral Evensong with the Cathedral Choir

Sunday, December 20 at 5:00 PM

Anthems and Motets for Advent.

Youth

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 20. Join us for choir rehearsals on Wednesday evenings, December 2, 9 and 16 at 6:40 in the undercroft, after the 6:00 family supper in Dean Willey Hall. Parents are welcome to help with rehearsals and assigning costumes, or join the Dean's class described elsewhere. Childcare is available; please call the church office to reserve your spot(s), 235-3436.

The full Pageant rehearsal is at 9:30 AM, Saturday, 12/19 in the Cathedral. (Instrumentalists and cast principals/leads, please arrive at 9:00 AM.) Hearty thanks to Mary Reynolds for directing the choir and to all the parents and helping hands that make this wondrous event possible!

Happening Retreat

Dec. 27–29, Sun.–Tues.

Christ Church, Tulsa

Retreat Weekend for those in 10th, 11th and 12th grades.

\$80.00 registration fee, scholarships available

Contact: The Rev. Bert Bibens at 918-859-8586

More information and registration at <http://www.episcopaloklahoma.org/>

Important Info

E-Newsletter Only Signup

Many have asked us to stop mailing them the paper version of the newsletter because they prefer to download the electronic version online. If you would prefer this arrangement, please email us at spcoffice@stpaulsokc.org and let us know.

Outreach

Christmas at Santa Maria

Sunday, December 6, 2009, 5:00 PM

Santa Maria Virgin, 2141 S.W. 25th St

Join us to see the truly joyous sight of young children opening gifts given by all of us at St. Paul's.

St. George's Guild Benefit Sisters Of Swing

Saturday, Dec 19 at 2 or 7 PM

at St. John's, 5201 N. Brookline, OKC

Join in the fun, an annual musical extravaganza for the whole family, at St. John's Episcopal Church, 5201 N. Brookline, at 2:00 PM or 7:00 PM, Saturday, December 19. Refreshments are available, too. Bring your friends; share your good fortune with the Guild; and support continuing outreach to our downtown neighbors.

St. George's Guild – One Hour a Month!

Help is needed unloading the food delivered by the Regional Food Bank at 8:30 AM on the second Thursday of each month. The need is great and the laborers few; remember, many hands make light work! Rachel Pringle if you can spare an hour for this worthwhile venture.

Cathedral Books & Gifts

For Your Blessed Advent & Christmas Season

Gifts

What a variety of items we have for your special friends and family! We have many Advent wreaths, calendars and nativity scenes to enhance your Advent and Christmas. There are also choices of crosses, plaques, jewelry, ceramics, and Anglican Prayer Beads, garden stones and stakes, CDs, key rings, and ornaments which are among other items that are large and small.

Books

New books have been ordered for yourself or for you to use as gifts. There are several varieties of Advent daily devotionals, and Presiding Bishop Katharine Schori's new book *The Gospel in the Global Village*. There are books to help with your worship and study, and there are even lovely books regarding your pets and the Psalms, among a large variety of other books. Two new sections of books have been added: Fiction and Youth.

Greeting Cards

There is a huge assortment of Christmas cards and also all-occasion cards to be purchased. This is where you can find that special card that is hard to find elsewhere.

Children

Wow! What a selection of gifts. We have Advent and Christmas books and Gund stuffed animals. We have children's youth Bibles and story books. There are also stocking stuffers for \$1.00 or less.

Cathedral Books and Gifts will be closed from December 24, 2009 till January 4, 2010.

Fellowship

ECW – Upcoming Meetings

Advent Quiet Day will be Saturday, December 5, 2009, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

Young Adult Fellowship

Caroling

Friday, December 11, 6:00 PM

The Young Adult Fellowship will meet for caroling, watch your email or Facebook for more information.

Blessed Days

December 5 Given by Karen Resler In Celebration of the Birthday of Don Resler

December 6 Given by St. Nicholas Guild
In Honor of the Children of St. Paul's Near and Far.

December 9 Given by Dr. James and TRC Carol Hampton
In Celebration of the Birthday of Jaime Jennifer Hampton

December 26 Given by Stephen Ministers
In Celebration of and Thanksgiving for Canon Margôt Nesbitt's
Devotion and Wonderful Leadership in the Stephen Ministry

Memorials & Contributions

Endowment Fund

In memory: **Virginia Edwards**
Donor: Dr. Gail Garloch
Drs. Anh T. & Nhon N. Nong
Mr. & Mrs. Hung T. Nong
Ms. Diane Smith

St. George's Guild

In memory: **Dorthlynn Gaddis**
Donor: Mr. & Mrs. Steven Surbeck
Ms. Patricia Lester

Memorial Fund

In memory: **Dorthlynn Gaddis**
Donor: Mr. & Mrs. Robert Daudet
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Dennis
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Kallstrom
Mr. Franklin K. Naifeh

Leadership and Staff

The Episcopal Church, U.S.A.

The Most Reverend Katharine Jefferts Schori,
Presiding Bishop

The Episcopal Diocese of Oklahoma

The Right Reverend Edward J. Konieczny

St. Paul's Cathedral

The Very Reverend George H. Back
The Reverend Canon Susan Colley Joplin
The Reverend Canon Carol M. Hampton
The Reverend Canon Nathaniel Luke Back
The Reverend Canon Margôt L. Nesbitt
The Reverend Marilyn Robertson

The Cathedral Officers

Stephen H. Parker, *Senior Warden*
Robert Dennis, *Junior Warden*
Rick Hill, *Treasurer*
Rachel Pringle, *Clerk*

The Cathedral Staff

H. Scott Raab, *Canon Musician*
Allen Christ, *Parish Administrator*
Michael Vogt, *Information Technology Coordinator*
Jack Wise, *Communications Coordinator*
Marilyn Robertson, *Parish Nurse*
Ann Bonsteel, *Bookkeeper*
Anne Kueteman, *Cathedral Ministries Coordinator*
Karen Jarvis, *Christian Education*
Marilyn Rogez, *Childcare*
Tommy Shoemake, *Sexton*
Eric Ashong, *Assistant Sexton*
Gail Dyer, *Kitchen Staff*

Vestry

2009

Dian Everett, Hank Bowen, Patti Morgan,
Sherry Sullivan

2010

Kent Eldridge, Bart Wells, Gypsy Hogan,
Todd Olberding

2011

Molly Tolbert, Marshall Binns, Sharon Stewart,
Joann Speers

A Vestry Review by Gypsy Hogan

Columbarium Plans Continue

Vestry had a two-hour presentation and discussion on the columbarium plans. Dean Back and committee are honing the details and hoping others share their enthusiasm and desire to make it all happen.

Matching Funds Still Needed

Earlier this year, the Kirkpatrick Family Fund promised to give St. Paul's \$8,000 if the parish would raise \$12,000. The \$20,000 total is to go into an endowment for the garden and landscaping at St. Paul's at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation. The cathedral needs \$1,750 to complete the \$12,000 goal.

Austin in February

Vestry approved a \$3,200 request to send four St. Paul's clergy and one staff person to the Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes conference, Feb. 24-27 in Austin. Funds will be from the budgeted amount and the Discretionary Education fund. Canon Back has been involved in helping plan the event.

Support Goes to Camp New Hope

Vestry also approved a \$200 request for Outreach Funds to go to Camp New Hope for its annual Christmas Party for children with a parent or parents incarcerated.

Keeping Healthy

Deacon Marilyn Robertson reported more than 100 people attended the recent St. Paul's Health Fair where about 120 flu shots were administered.

Interesting Reading

The Episcopal Church has completed a report, Around One Table, that is available online at

www.episcopalchurch.org/aroundonetable. "At a time when some are discussing division within the Episcopal Church, this first-of-its-kind report uncovers and highlights the commonalities uniting all Episcopalians," the report states.

Keeping Up With Repairs

Building repairs continue with \$739.75 spent for emergency repairs to the basement lift station with a bid now being prepared for long-term repair. In addition, \$1,288.87 was spent to repair a boiler. Recently water was found in the Undercroft from some unknown source! As of the meeting, cathedral roofing repairs were still underway, while a final bill for \$3,500.89 had been received for electrical repairs to the cathedral dimmer system. (Anyone remember the Sunday when the lights went out?)

Hopefully, Better Months to Follow

The treasurer's report was bleak with pledged revenues dropping 34 percent, or a \$22,695 shortage for October. That followed a \$9,000 drop the month before. Senior Warden Steve Parker expressed concern, along with hope that the figures do not foretell a trend, but rather the traditional September/October slump. (Who knew that so many miss church during those months? Something about football games and events ...)

Back Talk

Dear Friends,

Do children waste a lot of days waiting for Santa Claus? Or do most adults waste a lifetime by not looking forward to a great blessing?

Waiting makes time slow down for a child. Approaching the arrival of Santa Claus, time almost ticks to a stop. Finally the meaning of words goes into reverse, 'I can't wait' means 'I'm really, really, really waiting!'

Adults think that a long life is good. We go through nasty procedures and expensive medicines to help us live longer. Yet we spend most of our daily life speeding up our activities and making time go by faster. Adults see Christmas like a freight train coming down the rails and we are stranded on the tracks. 'There's no way I'll get things done' the brain anxiously complains to the stressed body. There is not even time to sit down and read the latest article about how to have a long life. Most assume that a long life is what is added to the end, rather than what is alive 'along' our way.

Adults think that we must work hard every minute in order to make the future into what we want it to be. Anyone responsible for creating what is to come will have little time for true play and daily fun. The present moment is too short and too important to waste on merely being present. We must teach a child that time doesn't grow on trees, because children are born with a natural anticipation of the free gift of forever.

Do you remember the first Christmas that you were disappointed? I remember coming of age when I judged what I received against my extensive, thoughtful, list. Perhaps you still re-

member the gifts you never received. Or even worse, getting what you wanted and finding that no such thing fulfilled the primal hope and joy that you actually yearned for. Why would anyone dead to the presence of God today want to continue forever an eternal life of perpetual self-centeredness? What I 'long for', slowly, invisibly and over time, becomes what I 'belong to'.

Now, in the present moment, 'long for' the largest, greatest, blessing; the one wrapped in dark romance and cosmic mystery, exceeding all earthbound expectations. This Advent, re-appoint your disappointed expectations. Scrap your list; let time tick to the edge of stop, the threshold of forever. Anticipate 'divine Christmas presence' and your child-heart will beat for the One gift that surpasses all rationality.

Faithfully,

Gene H. Back

