

The Very Rev. Fr. Troy C. Beecham, Dean

December 2017

A SEASON OBSERVED in many Western Christian churches, Advent is a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus. Traditionally Christians use this time to prepare and remember the real meaning of Christmas.

DERIVED FROM THE Latin “adventus,” which means “coming,” Advent marks the beginning of a new liturgical year and encompasses the span of time from the fourth Sunday before Christmas until the Nativity of Our Lord is celebrated on December 25th.

the period of preparation for Christmas now called Advent first began is difficult, though it was certainly in existence from about 480. Some sources say it goes back to the time of the Twelve Apostles or that it was founded by St. Peter himself.

EQUIVALENT TO LENT in some ways, Advent is a preparatory season, significant because it is a time of looking forward and waiting for something greater: the annual celebration of the event of Christ's birth, and for the time when He will come again. The early Advent season was mainly penitential, much like Lent.

NOWADAYS A PENITENTIAL
theme still exists, but it is
not as intensely observed.

It is blended with the theme
of prayerful, spiritual
preparation for the

second and final coming of the Lord as well as the joyful preparation for the annual festive remembrance of the Incarnation of Christ's birth.

TRADITIONS FOR OBSERVING
this time can vary from place to place, influenced by culture. Practices associated with Advent include keeping an Advent calendar, lighting an advent wreath, and special services of Lessons and Carols. Here at St. Paul's we hope you will join us for this special season.



SUNDAY ADVENT EVENTS AT ST. PAUL'S

December 3

The First Sunday of Advent: The Advent Wreath



Like many churches, St. Paul's always has an Advent wreath near the chancel steps, and we mark our progress toward Christmas by lighting an additional candle every Sunday. Although possibly rooted in pre-Christian traditions, the custom of lighting candles set in a wreath of evergreens lends itself well to Christian symbolism (eternal life, the Light of Christ, hope). We use four candles for the four Sundays of Advent, three

of them blue to symbolize royalty. Some churches, particularly the Roman Catholic Church, continue to use purple instead of blue, emphasizing the penitential aspect of a season of preparation similar to Lent. The candle symbolism is:

- 1st candle, blue: Prophecy candle or Hope
- 2nd candle, blue: Bethlehem candle or Preparation
- 3rd candle, rose: Shepherd candle or Joy (Gaudete Sunday)
- 4th candle, blue: Angel candle or Love
- The white candle in the center is the Christ candle (the spotless Lamb of God).

December 10

The Second Sunday of Advent



The Bishop will join us. We will make sandwiches to serve at Connection Café the next day, and join us for our Second Sunday Brunch. We will gather at noon at A Dong Restaurant in Des Moines.

December 17

The Third Sunday of Advent: The Greening of the Cathedral



Before we know it, Advent will be over and Christmas will arrive. Our tradition at St. Paul's is to "green the Cathedral." **This year this event will take place on the 3rd Sunday of Advent, December 17th.** This is a parish family event that all are invited and encouraged to participate.

We gather in the Undercroft right after the 10:00 service, where the decorations are laid out ready to be taken upstairs. There are many chores, and even our youngest and oldest can participate. A lunch is provided when we are finished.

Because of the size and weight of the Crismon trees, we will only be able to put them up if we have sufficient help. So please plan on joining your St. Paul's family to share in the joy of preparing the church for the birth of our Savior. Many hands make light work, and the lunch will be good, too!

The Altar Guild

December 24

The Fourth Sunday of Advent



Advent is the period of four Sundays and weeks before Christmas, and this year it occurs on December 24th.

We will have one Eucharistic service that morning at 10:00, and we hope you will join us.





**You Are Cordially Invited to the Annual
Cathedral Advent Tea**
Tuesday, December 5th

Four o'clock until seven o'clock in the evening

Scottish Rite Park Penthouse Party Room
2909 Woodland Avenue in Des Moines

*(Parking is limited, so please car pool when possible.
If you are able, please park on the street.)*

Please contact Stephanie Preusch (515-229-7737) or
steph@spresuch.com to sign up to bring a savory or a sweet,
as well as to serve and greet during the tea.

Cathedral Arts Series Advent Organ Concert
Thursday, December 21, 12 noon

Cathedral Arts is happy to present an Advent Organ Concert. The concert begins at noon and ends around 12:45 or 12:50. Feel free to come and go as your schedule requires, to bring your lunch if you wish, and enjoy top area talents! The music selections will focus on the Advent season but will include Christmastide selections as well. The recital is free and open to the public, so please come and bring your friends!



**LESSONS
&
CAROLS**

the promise of the Messiah - the birth of Jesus
Scripture - carols - choral music - hymns

Sunday, December 24th at 5:00 p.m.

A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols is a service of Christian worship celebrating the birth of Jesus. The story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus is told in nine short

Bible readings which are interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols, hymns and choir music, and traditionally opens with the carol "Once in Royal David's City."

The service originated in England in the 19th century, and has since been adapted and used by other churches all over the world, most often in Anglican churches.

This year's service will be on **Sunday**, December 24 at five o'clock. Sung by the Cathedral Choir under the direction of Dr. Rebecca Gruber, and with Cathedral organist Mark A. Babcock on the 68-rank Casavant, this beautiful service is a well-loved St. Paul's tradition.

Come to sing, listen, pray—and be richly blessed!



Christmas Services 2017

PLEASE JOIN US!

Christmas Eve Early Service

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols with Holy Eucharist ~ 5:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Late Service

Organ Prelude ~ 10:10 p.m.

Festival Eucharist ~ 10:30 p.m.

Christmas Day

One service: Holy Eucharist ~ 10 a.m. in the Cathedral.

The 5:00 p.m. Lessons and Carols with Holy Eucharist and the 10:30pm Choral Holy Eucharist will be surrounded by organ and carillon music appropriate for this great Festival in the Church Year.

The organ and carillon music combined with choirmaster Dr. Rebecca Gruber's careful preparation of the Cathedral Choir and the congregational carols will surely inspire those of us who wait again this Advent season for the "Savior of the Nations" to come bringing peace and redemption to a broken world.



Mighty God
Messiah
Everlasting Father **PEACE**
Wonderful Counselor
LOVE Jesus Prince of Peace
LIGHT OF THE WORLD LORD **JOY**
HOPE Son **IMMANUEL**
GOD WITH US



December Ordinations at St. Paul's

Saturday, December 16, 2017 ~ 2:00 p.m.

God willing and the people consenting, The Right Reverend Alan Scarfe, Bishop of Iowa, will ordain

Stephen Mark Benitz
Sinclair Conrad Paul Ender
Elizabeth Cone Preston

to the Sacred Order of Deacons in
Christ's holy catholic Church

Saturday, December 16, two
thousand seventeen at two o'clock
in the afternoon, Cathedral
Church of St. Paul, 815 High
Street, Des Moines, Iowa

Your prayers and presence are
requested. Liturgical color is red

Reception following

All are welcome!

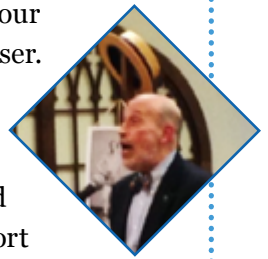


Des Moines' Ecumenical Eatery

Connection Café Cabaret Update

My heartfelt thanks to the
Bridge Board, the staff
at St. Paul's, Connection
Café, Bill Genstch, Bruce
Martin, and to everyone
who supported our
cabaret fundraiser.

It was a great
evening for a
great cause, and
with your support
we raised over \$3000.



"Yip-I-Addy-I-Ay!"

LET'S celebrate

Happy Birthday to the
following December people!

William Summers, Dec. 4
Martha Benda, Dec. 6
Diana Palmer, Dec. 6
Rebecca Dublinske, Dec. 10
Ladu Boyo, Dec. 12

David Butler, Dec. 17
Isabel Allaway, Dec. 22
Miranda Gruber, Dec. 23
Cheryl Stearns, Dec. 23
Scott Linn, Dec. 27
Patti Graham, Dec. 28
Skeet Wootten, Dec. 28
Peggy Aerisolphal, Dec. 29

James Bannister, Dec. 30
Margaret Brennan, Dec. 31

Happy Anniversary to

Phyllis Blood and Terry Melton, Dec. 2
Judy and John Spence, Dec. 29
John Zickefoose and
Elvin McDonald, Dec. 31



2018 Diocesan Youth Ski Trip!

Youth in Grades 6-12

January 12-14, 2018

The Youth Ski Trip is an annual winter-fun weekend. This year's Ski Trip will take place Friday, January 12 through Sunday, January 14, and will take place at a new location: Camp Sacajawea and Seven Oaks Recreation in Boone.

Group registrations (for food and lodging) are due to the Diocese by December 18, 2017 via online, fax, or snail mail. More information can be found by contacting registration@youthskitrip.com. This will put you in touch with Dale Schirmer of Grace, Cedar Rapids, and Amy Mellies of St. John's, Ames, who are this year's ski trip coordinators. They will be happy to assist you!



FOOD BANK NEEDS

With the holidays approaching, below is a list of the most needed items for the Food Bank of Iowa.

Healthy versions of the following items:

- ✓ 100 percent juice
- ✓ Canned fruit
- ✓ Canned vegetables
- ✓ Beans
- ✓ Peanut butter
- ✓ Canned meat
- ✓ Pasta
- ✓ Crackers
- ✓ Canned spaghetti sauce
- ✓ Hot Cereal
- ✓ Cold Cereal

Other Needed Items:

- ✓ Diapers and wipes
- ✓ Infant/baby formula

Cash donations are also accepted for wholesale food purchases and fresh products. When doing your own grocery shopping, please be mindful of others in need. For a full listing of needs and ways to help, please visit www.MoveTheFood.org.

Thank you!

December Shelter Meal

Because of the holidays, St. Paul's will not be serving the Shelter Meal in December.

Monetary contributions are welcome anytime, and will be credited to your personal St. Paul's contributions. The date for the January Shelter Meal is Wednesday, January 24th, 2018.



Have You Considered Chapter Nominations?

The Chapter is the “governing” board of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul. Many of its duties are prescribed by canon law, such as the responsibility for parish finances and care of church property. However, in a real sense, the Chapter serves as representatives of the members of the parish, provides leadership and vision as the parish moves forward in prayer and commitment to mission, and serves as the communication body between parish members and the clergy/staff of the Cathedral.

At the Annual Meeting in January, the parish will be asked to elect four new members to the Chapter.

If you are interested in serving on the Chapter, or would like to nominate someone you feel would be a

good candidate, please contact a member of the nominating committee: Marilyn Sand, Tim Whipple, John Kerss and Stephanie Preusch.

If you are nominating someone else, please be sure you have his or her permission first. Our goal is to have a slate of candidates published in early January.

The Nominating Committee



Nominations



Annual Parish Meeting

Please mark your calendars and save this date:

Sunday, January 28 2018 ~ One service at 9:00 a.m. followed by a brunch and the Annual Parish Meeting. Look for more information in the January issue of the Journey.

Safe and Secure Online Giving Now Available!

We offer safe and secure online giving on our website by using the QR (“Quick Response”) Code printed on the right. Credit and debit cards are accepted. You can set up an account or quick give. An account allows you to set up a donation schedule and/or track your donations. Quick giving allows you to bypass this step. You may choose to give to our general budget, to the Cathedral Preservation Fund, or Cathedral Arts.



St. Paul's Offers Text Giving!

TEXTTOGIVE

You can automatically give by texting the amount you wish to donate to this number:

515-207-8133.

The Journey is published 11 times a year, usually on the third Thursday of the month to reach homes by the first of the following month. Your articles, news, photos are welcome!!

The deadline for the December issue will be Monday, December 18.

Please mail to administrator@cathedralchurchofstpaul.org Or bring to the Cathedral Office.



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SEE INSIDE FOR OUR 2017
CHRISTMAS SERVICE SCHEDULE!



PLEASE BE SURE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE: CATHEDRALCHURCHOFSTPAUL.ORG

