



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

December 2007

Dear Brother's and Sister's in Christ,

It's hard to believe, but Advent is almost upon us, and our Christmas celebration will be here before we know it. It is truly amazing how fast time can move. It seems like only yesterday that I came to St. Paul's, and here we are, four months later, and Christmas is fast approaching!

One of the sad realities of our fast paced world is that this very short season of Advent is often overlooked, if not completely ignored. In the mad rush of preparations for our Christmas celebrations, in the extreme commercialization of one of the most important Christian holidays, amidst all the parties, shopping, cooking and decorating, Advent seems to get lost.

Advent is a season of preparation, that is what it was originally intended for, but the original focus of that preparation was not on external things, but on internal things. Preparation for the birth of our Lord. Preparation for the second coming of our Lord. That is why Advent is considered a penitential season, even though it often does not seem like it. It is penitential in that it provides us with the opportunity to pray, reflect, repent, and prepare ourselves and the world for the coming of our Savior. Emmanuel "Lord with us!"

Advent was intended as a season in which we could prepare our hearts and souls for the light which Christ brings into our lives and our world. That is why we have the Advent wreath. It symbolizes the light of Christ breaking into the darkness of our world. Week by week, we light another candle on the wreath until on Christmas Eve all the candles are lit and the light of Christ breaks forth in our celebration, in our lives, in the world.

So amidst the busyness of the season and all of our external preparations for the coming celebration, try to take advantage of what Advent has to offer. Set aside some time to pray and reflect on what we are truly preparing for—the birth of our Savior, the second coming of our Lord—the breaking forth of His light into His world! Consider the incredible, and most important gift that we will ever receive, the gift of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Now I must move on to some practical things that are coming up for us at St. Paul's. Please mark your calendars for: the St. Nicholas party on Friday, Dec. 7th, and for the pageant on Sunday, Dec. 16th. Also, our Christmas Eve services will be at their usual times of 4 PM and 10:30 PM on Dec. 24th, with singing and caroling beginning at 10 PM.

I am looking forward to this Advent and Christmas season with all of you. I pray that we can come together prayerfully in anticipation of the coming of our Lord, and when His light breaks forth on Christmas, that we can joyfully come together and greet Him with wonderful praise, worship, and love!!!

And finally, once again, as I seem to do each month, there are still many of you that I've only met briefly, or see only at church on Sundays. I know it's a very busy time, but I'm happy to make the time and I'd love to have the opportunity to get to know all of you better. Please, get in touch with me and we can sit and chat in the church, the office, over coffee, whatever works best for you.

Yours in Christ's love,
Guy+

Prayer Boxes

Many of you may not be aware of the boxes at the back of the Nave on the right side as you exit. These boxes are for prayer requests, either for one's self or for someone you know who is in need of prayer. All you need to do is take a blank card out of a box, put the persons name on the top line and below that the prayer request. Turn the card over and put your name and the date on the back of the card and place it in the appropriate box, i.e. healing, faith, other needs. The Circle of Love Prayer Warriors pray for all requests daily. All requests are confidential. Anyone with emergency requests please contact the church office at 386-2348, for Father Guy, and if he is not available, you may then call Helene Jensen at 386-6004. The Circle of Love Prayer Group meets the 1st Tuesday of the month, to update monthly prayer request lists. Anyone interested in this ministry is invited!

To the members of St. Paul's

The vestry would like to thank all those members of St. Paul's who, through telephone calls, conversations or letters have expressed to us your thoughts and concerns about the issues and decisions we have dealt with in recent weeks. We truly appreciate your interest and input as we make decisions which affect all of you.

Yours in Christ
Members of St. Paul's vestry

Upcoming Events!

High Tea Time!!

Do you remember the last High Tea? Our church was filled with ladies dressed in their finest. Remember the music? The hats and white gloves? The Tea sandwiches and tarts? The Silent Auction? It's time to start thinking about our next spring Tea! Our ECW is currently seeking a chair or co-chairs for that special day. Are you that person? You may use our former "format" including decorations, recipes, etc. OR you may create your own Tea using your individual creativity. Either way, it's time to start organizing. Please notify Patti Muenich (386-8532) if you're interested!

Econofood Receipts We are VERY close to our goal of \$150,000 (\$131,611.78) of receipts from Econofoods! When we reach our goal, they will give our church a check for \$1000. Do not throw your receipts in the garbage. Please turn in your receipts to the box on the table near the office window! Please NO receipts from County Market.

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service The Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service will be held on November 21st at 7 pm at Bethel Highlands Church.

All are welcome.

Christmas Cantata at First Baptist You are invited to the First Baptist Christmas Cantata on December 16th at 7 pm. The Cantata will be performed by the First Baptist Choir and directed by Cheryl Forester. The Cantata this year is "Season of Wonder (Celebrating the miracle of Christmas) by composer Joseph M. Martin. Previous works of Martin are "The Winter Rose" and "Ceremony of Candles" . **It's free...come and enjoy!**

ECW Update

December is the month we prove the fabric is always stronger than the thin thread used to make it. And so it will be this December.

Join us in creating these activities that bring us friendship and blessings.

Bake bread for Operation Help Food Baskets.

Check the bulletin for date and time.

December 7th - St. Nick's Party is chaired by Brenda Terwilliger. Please call if you can provide your time with serving supper or making dessert. 386-1024.

December 13th.- "Turning Point" a shelter for abused women and children has always welcomed the comfort baskets that we deliver. Help us assemble and provide items for these baskets on this evening. Questions? please call Cinders at 377-1040.

December 16th - Christmas Cookie Bake Sale. Provide your favorite treat for this sale. This is also the day of the Children's Pageant. We need help packing, setting up, and pricing the goodies the day before the sale.

ECW Adopt a Family-Every year the ECW adopts an Operation Help Family. We shop for each member of that family and if you would like to help with that, please let us know.

Questions ? Call Patti at 386-8532.

We do have our St. Paul's cookbook that would make a great Christmas gift. The money from this book and all other activities fund the many outreach programs we help with over the year.

All those thin threads weaving together to make one strong fabric.

Patti Muenich

Christmas Special Choir

We are forming a special Christmas Choir for the 10:30 pm Christmas Eve service. We are seeking all interested men/women/young people to join us from both services. No auditions required, just willingness to sing. Rehearsal will begin November 15; and on November 29, December 6, 13, & 20th; all begin at 7:30 pm. Please consider celebrating this special night with singing. In addition, if you are willing to share your talent on Christmas Eve as a soloist, part of a duet or trio (either singing or playing an instrument), please let Chuck Giffen or Lois Wolfe-Steiner know so it can be planned. Thanks!

Outside Our Walls

We at St. Paul's have been reminded often to keep our focus on our own parish and community, despite developments outside Hudson. The various issues striking at the Episcopal Church, at the diocesan and national levels, do come to affect St. Paul's operations in tangible ways. Parishioners have recently asked to be kept informed of developments in the church beyond Hudson, so as not to be surprised when the way forward needs to be decided.

To begin, here is a synopsis of action taken by the 2008 Diocese of Eau Claire annual convention was held in Chippewa Falls November 3rd.

A primary purpose of the convention is to pass a budget. The proposed diocesan budget was held to a 2% increase, or approximately \$11,000. St. Paul's portion of that increase, however, is approximately \$7000. This is calculated at 22.5% of a rolling 3 year average of pledge receipts. St. Paul's past success is now increasing our burden in harder times. Steve Hamill and Garret Conover both stood to oppose the budget based on the unrealistic and uneven increase in apportionment. Though no one spoke in support of the budget, it passed overwhelmingly.

At the 2007 Diocesan Convention, a canon was passed that removed the voice and vote of those churches behind in their apportionment payments who had not made arrangements with the Diocese' Executive Council. This year, the 8 churches that fell into that category proposed to amend that restriction, moving the date by which they were to be current to the end of November, thus giving them all a vote at this convention and a vote on the budget.

The number of churches not paying full or even reduced apportionments more than doubled in the last year. This is an indication that the effort to move the smaller more vulnerable churches in the Diocese is in reverse. The few financially healthy and more dynamic churches are carrying an increasing burden of churches and missions not able to sustain themselves.

Further, there is no apparent plan or successful model for maturing those congregations to the self sustainability that spawns evangelism and growth. The undue burden placed on St. Paul's will be addressed at the Diocese and the parish will be updated as these conflicts are resolved, hopefully no later than our annual meeting in January.

Other Diocesan Business

The Convention also heard about missions supported by the Diocese of Eau Claire in Haiti and Jamaica. In Haiti, for \$200 a child is supported in school for an entire year. The Outreach Committee of St. Paul's decided to allocate some of our budget to this project. The Haiti mission for the Diocese is centered at Christ Church in Chippewa Falls, and is also partnered with the Diocese of Milwaukee. Specifically, the mission is focused on the rural town of Jeannette located in the mountains about four miles from the capital of Port-au-Prince. It is a very poor farming community, but over the years, the mission work has helped to establish St. Mark's School, where the sponsored children (as well as others) attend. The \$200/year sponsorship helps to purchase school uniforms and school supplies, as well as food for the child for the year. The presentation that was given was quite compelling and emphasized both the poverty and the success that this mission has achieved.

The Outreach Committee further allocated its budget to: BeFriends Ministry (\$100), Operation Help (\$500), Hope House (\$150), and Uwezo (\$650). The committee is getting more information on the Haiti Sponsorship before a commitment is made there, and it is also checking into the specific needs of the Networks youth ministry.

December Birthdays:

3	Helen Humphriss
4	Richard Martin Kendra Ryder
6	Carla Hamill
7	Jill Wenzel
8	Chelsea Singerhouse
10	Emily Conover
16	Bill Ryder
18	Vern Barber
21	Dorothy Ingram
23	Joanne Worall

26	Kelly Marben
27	Corky Weeks

December Anniversaries:

3	Bernie/Marlys McGaver
7	William/Karen Kortum
29	John/Rose Rasmus
30	Billy/Tori Marben

If your special day is not listed—Please contact the church office. Or email Tori at vbkmarben2@juno.com. Thanks!

St. Paul's Servant Schedule: December 2007

Date	Time	Acolytes	Eucharistic Min	Lector	Greeters	Pray bfr worship	Ushers
12/2	8:00	J Kadidlo	D Kadidlo	V Cooley	Dickersons	D Martin	Conovers
12/2	10:30	A Granberg D Ball	E Shoemaker M Blanchard	C Hackworthy	Granbergs	N Cicero	Singerhouse
12/9	8:00	T Granberg	B Dickerson	B Rupert	Muenich	R Brower	Dickerson
12/9	10:30	A Solie Jacob Ball	CR Hackworthy J Larsen	H Jensen	Marbens	C Hackworthy	Jensens
12/16	8:00	A Granberg	A Wurzberger	D Martin	Pogalz	E Slamkowski	Pogalz
12/16	10:30	P Solie B Blanchard	P McGinnis N Cicero	K Larsen	Jensens	T Marben	Marbens
12/23	See Kiosk to sign up to serve at these holiday services.						
12/24							
12/30							

Notes:

- If you cannot serve when scheduled, please arrange a switch and change the kiosk schedule @ 386-2348.
- Acolytes & Eucharistic Ministers: if help is needed, please vest during the Peace and join the Worship service
- All: If you are being scheduled incorrectly or are missing from a schedule and wish to participate, please contact Kim Larsen at 425-0015 or klars@mac.com.

Sunday School News

By Amy Dickerson

St. Nick's Party: Everyone is invited to attend the annual St. Nick's Party on Friday, December 7th. The evening is a wonderful night of fun, food and song, so invite a St. Paul's member to join you for the evening, offer a ride to someone, volunteer to help out, or just come for fellowship.

St. Nick's party will start with crafts at 5:30p.m for children 3yrs. old to 12 yrs. old. (Children under 6 should be accompanied by an adult to assist them with their crafts.) A special visitor, St. Nick, will pay a visit and have a little treat to hand out to the children of all ages around 6:15. (Please do not confuse St. Nick with Santa Claus). Dinner will be provided by ECW and served at 6:30. We will end the evening singing Christmas carols. The event is free and opened to all St. Paul's families. Please sign up on the sheet posted on the kiosk by Dec. 2rd so we know how many to plan for dinner and crafts. Volunteers are needed to help in the kitchen and supervise the crafts for the children. If you are able to help please contact Amy Dickerson at #381-5426, or sign up on the sheet posted on the kiosk.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT: The children are busy practicing for the Christmas Pageant which they will present at the 10:30 service on December 16th. The pageant gives the children an opportunity to give glory and praise for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ through words and songs. Please join us for the service followed by juice, coffee and rolls in the fellowship hall.

Sunday School Calendar of Events

December 2: No children's sermon, pageant practice during classtime.

December 7: St. Nick's Party, crafts at 5:30, Dinner at 6:30, Singing at 7:15

December 16: Christmas Pageant, Children report to classrooms at 8:30!

December 23-30: No Sunday school classes, Merry Christmas!

January 6: Classes resume, offering is money for Food for the Poor,

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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Non Profit Org.
U. S. POSTAGE
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We're on the Web!
Stpaulshudson.faithweb.com

St. Paul's Episcopal Church:

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E-mail = spchudson@sbcglobal.net

Hudson, WI

The Rt. Rev. Keith B. Whitmore, Bishop
The Rev. Guy Usher, Interim Rector
The Rev. Richard McGinnis, Associate

Services:

Sun. 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Traditional Service
9:15 a.m. Adult Bible Study/Sunday School
Children's Sunday School (Sep-May)
Youth Confirmation Class (Sep-Apr)
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist Praise Service
Tues: 6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer
Wed. 2:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study (Sep-Apr)
3:00 p.m. NETworks Youth Ministry Middle High
6:00 p.m. NETworks Youth Ministry Senior High
Thur. 9:00 a.m. Hudson Mom's Group Meeting
11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist/Bag Lunch/Bible Study

NETworks Youth Director: Dave Pulsfus
Episcopal Church Women: Patti Muenich 715-386-8532
Band of Brothers: Fr. Derek Washington 715-386-2348
Men's Social Ministry: Ed Slamkowski 715-246-9989
Sunday School: Amy Dickerson
Operation H.E.L.P. Volunteer Phone Line 715-386-0881
*Small Group Bible Study: Sunday and
Wednesday evenings
* Inquirer's Class is offered in the fall and early spring.
Call the church office for dates, times and locations

Clergy: