

THE MARS HILL PROCLAIMER

A newsletter by, for and about the people of St. Paul's Church

December 2010/January 2011

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THE RECTOR'S PAGE

"The King shall come when morning dawns and earth's dark night is past; O haste the rising of that morn, the day that e'er shall last; and let the endless bliss begin, by weary saints foretold, when right shall triumph over wrong, and truth shall be extolled." Translated from the Greek by John Brownlie (1859-1925), Hymn #73 *The Hymnal 1982* (vv.3-4).

Dear Friends in Christ,

I send these greetings to you in the midst of preparation for the seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. This is the beginning of the liturgical year of the church when we recall the beginning of our story with God incarnate. Advent is the first season. It is a time of anticipation for the birth of the Christ child in Bethlehem. And yet Advent also calls us to look for the second coming of Christ that he promised to his followers at his ascension. In a recent Adult Christian Education forum we discussed how challenging it can be to prepare for the second coming of Christ that our celebration of Advent clearly calls us to in our readings, prayers and hymns. It is much easier to be swept away with the anticipation for the celebration of our Savior's birth, not to mention the arrival of Santa Claus.

We indeed are called to prepare a place in our hearts and in our lives for the child king of heaven who was born penniless in a borrowed barn, and as a grown man died equally poor being laid in a

borrowed tomb. And yet we are also called to make that same space for the King who will return triumphantly when the morning dawns and earth's dark night has truly past. When that will be, we cannot say. I must admit that the Church calling us to a "celebration of anticipation" sounds a bit odd. But is it not anticipation of changes in our life that are yet to come that we celebrate with each birthday, not to mention weddings and the birth of children? Even funerals are a celebration of anticipation for the "*day that e're last*", not only for ourselves at the end of our lives, but for that day when Christ the King will return and the reconciliation of the world to God will be complete. On that day, in the words of the aforementioned ancient Greek hymn, "*the endless bliss [shall] begin,*
by

weary saints foretold, when right shall triumph over wrong, and truth shall be extolled."

As we enter this season of the cycle of the incarnation, the beginning of God's story with us and among us as one of us, I encourage us to hold the mystery of Christ revealed to us already, and yet to be revealed to us again on our hearts and in our prayers. Make space in your day for God to come into your heart during this most wonderfully busy and stressful time of the year. Sit with God. Breathe deeply. Let the perfect love of God enfold you. In doing so you will be making ready to celebrate when the King does indeed return.

In Christ,
Rev. Stacy+

Adult Christian Education
Sundays 930-1015am, Conference Room

***Note: no preparation outside of class required for Adult Ed classes in December and January**

December 5th, 2010: Watching for the Light: Theology of Advent and Christmas Hymns

December 12th, 2010: Watching for the Light: Theology of Advent and Christmas Hymns

December 19th, 2010: Reflecting on the Incarnation: Study of Christmas texts from Luke, Matthew, and John

December 26th, 2010: NO ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TODAY

January 2nd, 2011: Living Islam: Beauty, Truth, Compassion
(Speaking of Faith; see www.churchpublishing.org/speakingoffaith for more info)

January 9th, 2011: Living Islam: Beauty, Truth, Compassion

January 16th, 2011: Living Islam: Beauty, Truth, Compassion

January 23rd, 2011: Living Islam: Beauty, Truth, Compassion

January 30th, 2011: Annual Meeting, no Christian Education classes today (Final session of Living Islam will be on February 6th)

Looking ahead to Adult Christian Education in 2011, we will be reading and discussing the following books:

February *Horizons of Mission*. Titus Presler (The New Episcopal Church Teaching Series)
<http://www.amazon.com/Horizons-Mission-New-Churchs-Teaching/dp/1561011908>
<http://tituspresler.com/about.html>

This class on the history and theology of mission in the Episcopal Church will be taught by The Rev. Rich Frontjes, PhD student in Theology and World Christianity at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago.

March *Christ on Trial: How the Gospel Unsettles Our Judgment*. Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams <http://www.amazon.com/Christ-Trial-Gospel-Unsettles-Judgment/dp/080282496X>

(These titles would also make thoughtful gifts for the devoted readers in your life.)

Questions regarding Baptism, Confirmation, or other rites of passage? Please contact Rev. Stacy for further conversation. *The traditional dates for baptism* are: Baptism of our Lord (January 9th, 2011), Easter Vigil (Saturday, April 23rd, 2011), Pentecost (June 12, 2011), and All Saints Sunday (November 6th, 2011). However other dates for a celebration of Holy Baptism can be arranged.

Although the Bishop will not make his next official visit to St. Paul's until 2012, it is not too early to discuss *confirmation* as other locations for this rite of passage (as well as *reception* into the Episcopal Church from other baptized Christian traditions) are available in the spring of 2011.

Other events happening in your life that our Book of Common Prayer doesn't seem to address? Please don't hesitate to call Rev. Stacy for an appointment. Office: 815-756-4888, revstacy@stpaulsdekalb.org



Pondering resolutions for 2011? How about starting with getting to know your priest better! Dates and times for individual meetings with Rev. Stacy are available on her office door. She is also willing to

arrange to meet at other times and locations. Call 815-756-4888 for an appointment, or email her

at revstacy@stpaulsdekalb.org. Messages received at this email address are not seen by anyone except Rev. Stacy.

A SEASON OF PRAYER FOR SUDAN

In solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Sudan, The Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, The Most Reverend Katharine Jefferts Schori, has called for a Season of Prayer. The

Archbishop of the Episcopal Church in Sudan, The Most Reverend Daniel Deng Bul, has issued a Call to Prayer.

Sudan, and the region of Darfur within it, have suffered years of civil war and genocide. An important referendum on the future of Sudan and on self-determination for the people there is scheduled for January 2011. But there is no guarantee that this referendum will occur peacefully. In fact, there is every indication that violence and perhaps civil war will break out again following the referendum, no matter what the outcome.

Craft show thank you: Thanks to all who exhibited at the parish craft show on November 14, and to all who visited. Next year we hope for more exhibitors. We know that St. Paul's has many talented people with clever hands. Don't keep your light under a bushel, show us what you've been up to! Betsy Pool



Flowers in the Sanctuary at Christmas

For those who would like to donate for the flowers in the sanctuary at Christmas, please complete one of the

envelopes in the pews and place it in the alms basin or give it to an usher. As in previous years names of donors and dedications will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletins.

Please remember to wear your name tags each Sunday and also remember to leave them at church! They can be placed in the basket on the table in the parish hall following each service.

Recycling: In the kitchen there is a tall container clearly marked for recycling. Please use it only for things that we can recycle! The list is on the bulletin board.

DECEMBER E.C.W. LUNCHEON: *Join in the festivities and fellowship on Saturday, December 18 at 12:30 at the Hillside Restaurant. The Hillside is cozy, warm and eautifully decorated, not to mention their delicious food at reasonable*



prices, a wonderful place to have a holiday lunch with friends. This is a busy day but you have to eat lunch sometime! The sign-up sheet is on the table in the Parish Hall. Please contact Ellen Anderson with questions.



Open House at the Rectory...

*All parishioners are invited to visit Reverend Stacy and Reverend Rich, Rowan & Oscar at the rectory from 4 – 6 P.M. on Sunday, December 12. You don't need to bring a thing except yourselves!
Stop in for a chat and a treat.*

Music Program Notes

On both December 5th and 19th, the 10:30 A.M. service will be enhanced with the musical talents of Michael Duffy-Trumpet, Kristin Duffy-Oboe, Michael Ouellette-Clarinet, Carol Clark-Flute/Recorder, Linda Lorbach-Flute and David Aarons-Steel Pan. We are so incredibly blessed to have these very gifted volunteer musicians! The colors they add to the liturgical music are inspiring.

Did you know that two parishioners are sharing their musical talents in the DeKalb community? *Rick and Freyja Johns* will be performing in the DeKalb Festival Chorus on Sunday, December 12, 3 P.M. In addition to William S. Lloyd Webber's "Born a King", the Chorus will perform arrangements by Alice Parker, as well as two movements from Sergei Rachmaninoff's "Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom". The concert is at The Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. John, 26555 Brickville Road, Sycamore, IL. *You can also hear Rick and Freyja singing "Once in Royal David's City" as a duet for St. Paul's Christmas Eve late service.*

Special Christmas Eve Music The annual Impromptu Children's Choir will be singing for the 4 PM. service and will warm your hearts with "Once in Royal David's City" and "Go Tell it on the Mountain". You are sure to be inspired by these little voices that remind us of the true meaning of Christmas.

The St. Paul's Adult/Youth Choir will be singing for the 6 P.M. service. In addition to our traditional carols, hymns and service music, several choral favorites will be performed, such as "For Unto Us A Child Is Born" by G. F. Händel, "Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming" by Michael Praetorius, etc., and the contemporary, "Angels Carol" by John Rutter. Both services will feature several children and adult soloists on various songs and will include Franz Gruber's "Silent Night".

The choirs will be on break from December 25th, 2010 to January 5th, 2011. We will have pipe organ for all the later services during this time. The Adult/Youth choir will return to sing for the Thursday, January 6, 2011, 6:00 PM, Epiphany Service.

Do you have a request for a specific hymn? Our combined 9:00 AM service before the annual meeting (January 30, 2011) is a great opportunity for your favorite hymns to be sung. I have received and added Bob Brown's Communion hymn request. I would very much appreciate other requests.

Join the fun! If you have children who would like to sing for the early Christmas Eve service, or if you are an adult/youth who would like to sing for the later service, please give me a call (847) 328-4104 or email me at lorrainelanger@stpaulsdekab.org.

Thank you for your continued support of the Music Program.

Lorraine Langer, Director of Music



DIOCESAN CONVENTION REPORTS

My first Diocesan Convention was a mixture of the expected and unexpected. My expectations were drawn from my experience at other conventions I attend as a result of my job: nametags, hotel chairs, agendas and a whole lot of people who are trying to absorb as much information as possible in a short amount of time. While I certainly found all of these things at our convention, there was something about this gathering of people that was both welcome and unexpected. As I reflect upon the convention and what it did for me, I have come to realize that our church in DeKalb is a part of something greater...something that is changing and evolving...which is exactly what our parish is doing right now.

Our Diocese is facing many challenges; from within and without; ideological and cultural; and from a variety of groups, each of whom compelled to make their argument passionately and persuasively. We face issues of environmental change and the intersection of God and science, and a more human question about discrimination and social injustice that is all too present in our world. As Episcopalians, we need to decide where our voices will sing in the chorus...will we be loud or soft, motivated by love or by fear, or will we be silent...and let the world dictate to us what we sing? The answer to this question lies in the hearts of each of us. While we all have our own voice that is guided by our own spirit, we need to remember that the song is best when it is sung by all of us...lead by our hearts and given to us by our Father. Our differences need to become more complementary, like the soprano complements the bass, rather than divisive. That is what I learned at this convention...that we all share in the Communion of Christ our Lord, and that we should embrace our differences, or else they will divide and silence us.

—Brad Cripe, Junior Warden



What impressed me was the power of the big meetings and religious services. There was clarity and openness about the necessary and hoped for reorganizations in the Diocesan Center and the working together of Episcopal Charities and all the other activities.

We heard about the environmental stewardship focus and innovations such as the Julian Year. A group of recent college graduates will live in community with minimal support to work on various city missions.

What impressed me especially is the openness and civility of the business meetings and the joy in the services due to the addresses and the joy of the interspersed hymns and singing.

--Eva Marie Leonard



In an address to the convention, Bishop Lee told us maintenance and repairs of the Diocesan Center were deferred for a number of years following the signing of a contract with a development company to replace the building with a high rise multi-purpose structure. Finally, the development company determined that the economy was too weak to allow the project to go forward, and they paid a penalty to the Diocese to break the contract. At the same time, the various offices housed in the Center have not been working cooperatively.

Now the Diocese will embark on a program to repair and renew the existing structure, and to bring the offices in it into closer association. The physical changes will be supported by funds raised in a small capital campaign. To begin this campaign, one family has contributed three million dollars.

This plan for renewal at the Diocesan Center truly inspired me. I pray that this renewal will be completed successfully, and that it will lead to renewal in all the parishes in our Diocese. -- Henry Leonard.



Upcoming Events at Saint Paul's Church

Sunday, December 12

Third Sunday of Advent – Reverend Rich preaches

Adult Education topic: Theology of Advent and Christmas hymns

Vestry Meeting 11:45

Open house at the rectory 4 – 6 P.M.

Sunday, December 19

Fourth Sunday of Advent: Cloth for the Cradle Liturgy

Adult Education topic: Bible study of Christmas texts

Christmas party in the parish hall for Christian education students and friends following the 10:30 service.

Friday, December 24

Christmas Eve services: 4 P.M. – Children’s Eucharist
6 P.M. – Traditional Festival Eucharist

Saturday, December 25: No service at St. Paul’s

*The Adult/Youth Choir will be on break
from December 25, 2010 – January 5, 2011.
We will have pipe organ
for the later Sunday services during this time.*

Sunday, December 26

Rev. Stacy on vacation; services at 8 & 10:30 A.M.
(Fr. Jack Schauble presiding)
No Christian Education classes

*Wednesday, December 29
No midweek service*

Sunday, January 2

Rev. Stacy returns; services at 8 and 10:30 A.M.
Adult Christian Education meets at 9:30 in the conference room
Christian Education for children and youth on break

Thursday, January 6

The Feast of the Epiphany; Holy Eucharist at 6 P.M.
An all parish party follows in the parish hall. Details to follow!



TRANSITIONS

December Birthdays

Ellen Anderson December 6
Betsy Pool December 7
Sara Dudgeon December 16
Larry Retherford December 18
The Reverend Rich Frontjes
December 18
Michael Ouellette December 22

January Birthdays

Lynn Marie Roberts January 10
Nora Lindvall January 12
Janice Larson January 15
Michael Duffy January 27

Andrew Cripe December 27
Robert Brown December 30

December Marriage Anniversaries January Marriage Anniversaries

Terry & Jackie Dickow December 13, 1969	George & Jane Nenonen January 21, 1967
Robert & Margaret Russell December 22, 1990	Janice & Dan Guiborat January 26, 2002
Robert & Marguerite Harkness December 23, 1950	Al & Peggy Newby January 28, 1978
Larry & Hazel Retherford December 30, 1960	

The Legend of Befana
(Adapted from the "Befana" entry on Wikipedia.com)

In [Italian folklore](#), *Befana* is an old woman who delivers gifts to children throughout Italy on [Epiphany Eve](#) (the night of January 5) in a similar way to [Saint Nicholas](#) or [Santa Claus](#). This Italian gift-giving spirit is also known as Saint Befana, La Vecchia (the Old Woman), and La Strega (the Witch).



A popular belief is that her name derives from the Feast of [Epiphany](#) or in Italian, "La Festa dell'Epifania".

There is evidence to suggest that Befana is descended from the Sabine/Roman goddess named [Strina](#). In the book *Vestiges of Ancient Manners and Customs, Discoverable in Modern Italy and Sicily* by Rev. John J. Blunt (John Murray, 1823), the author says:

"This Befana appears to be heir at law of a certain heathen goddess called Strenia, who presided over the new-year's gifts. Her presents were of the same description as those of the Befana—figs, dates, and honey."

In popular folklore Befana visits all the children of Italy on the eve of the Feast of the Epiphany to fill their socks with [candy](#) and presents if they are good or a lump of [coal](#) or dark candy if they are bad. Being a good housekeeper, many say she will sweep the floor before she leaves. The child's family typically leaves a small glass of [wine](#) and a plate with a few morsels of food, often regional or local, for the Befana.

She is usually portrayed as an old lady riding a [broomstick](#) through the air wearing a black [shawl](#) and is covered in [soot](#) because she enters the children's houses through the [chimney](#). She is often smiling and carries a bag or [hamper](#) filled with candy, gifts, or both.

Christian legend had it that Befana was approached by the [Three Wise Men](#) a few days before the birth of the [Infant Jesus](#). They asked for directions to where the [Son of God](#) was, as they had seen his star in the sky, but she did not know. She provided them with shelter for a night, as she was considered the best housekeeper in the village, with the most pleasant home. The magi invited her to join them on the journey to find the baby Jesus, but she declined, stating she was too busy with her housework. Later, Befana had a change of heart, and tried to search out the astrologers and Jesus. That night she was not able to find them, so to this day, Befana is searching for the little baby. She leaves all the good children toys and candy (“caramelle”) or fruit, while the bad children get coal (“carbone”), onions or garlic.

Another Christian legend takes a slightly darker tone as La Befana was an ordinary woman with a child whom she greatly loved. However, her child died, and her resulting grief maddened her. Upon hearing news of Jesus being born, she set out to see him, delusional that he was her son. She eventually met Jesus and presented him with gifts to make him happy. The infant Jesus was delighted, and he gave Befana a gift in return; she would be the mother of every child in Italy.

Also, popular tradition tells that if one sees La Befana one will receive a thump from her broomstick, as she doesn't wish to be seen. This aspect of the tradition may be designed to keep children in their beds while parents are distributing candy (or coal) and sweeping the floor on Epiphany Eve.

Also, another commonly heard Christian legend of Befana starts at the time of the birth of baby Jesus. Befana spends her days cleaning and sweeping. One day the Three Wise Men came to her door in search of baby Jesus. Befana turned them away because she was too busy cleaning. Befana notices a bright light in the sky; she thinks this is the way to baby Jesus. She brought some baked goods and gifts for baby Jesus in her bag and took her broom to help the new mother clean and began her search for baby Jesus. She searched and searched for Baby Jesus, but never found him. Befana still searches today, after all these centuries. On the eve of the Epiphany, Befana comes to a house where there is a child and leaves a gift. Although she has been unsuccessful in her search, she still leaves gifts for good young children because the Christ Child can be found in all children.

Lectionary for Sundays in December 2010 and January 2011

OT = Old Testament EP = Epistle
NT = New Testament G = Gospel

December 12 – Third Sunday in Advent

OT [Isaiah 11:1-10](#)

EP [Romans 15:4-13](#)

G [Matthew 3:1-12](#)

[Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19](#)

December 19 – Fourth Sunday in Advent

OT [Isaiah 7:10-16](#)
EP [Romans 1:1-7](#)
G [Matthew 1:18-25](#)
[Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18](#)

December 24 & 25 – Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

OT [Isaiah 9:2-7](#)
EP [Titus 2:11-14](#)
G [Luke 2:1-14\(15-20\)](#)
[Psalm 96](#)

December 26 – First Sunday after Christmas

OT [Isaiah 61:10-62:3](#)
EP [Galatians 3:23-25;4:4-7](#)
G [John 1:1-18](#)
[Psalm 147 or 147:13-21](#)

January 2 – Second Sunday after Christmas

OT [Jeremiah 31:7-14](#)
EP [Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a](#)
G [Matthew 2:13-15,19-23](#)
[or Luke 2:41-52](#)
[or Matthew 2:1-12](#)
[Psalm 84 or 84:1-8](#)

January 6 – The Feast of the Epiphany

OT [Isaiah 60:1-6](#)
EP [Ephesians 3:1-12](#)
G [Matthew 2:1-12](#)
[Psalm 72:1-7,10-14](#)

January 9 The Baptism of Our Lord, First Sunday after the Epiphany

OT [Isaiah 42:1-9](#)
NT [Acts 10:34-43](#)
G [Matthew 3:13-17](#)
[Psalm 29](#)

January 16 – Second Sunday after the Epiphany

OT [Isaiah 49:1-7](#)
EP [1 Corinthians 1:1-9](#)
G [John 1:29-42](#)
[Psalm 40:1-12](#)

January 23 – Third Sunday after the Epiphany

OT [Isaiah 9:1-4](#)

EP [1 Corinthians 1:10-18](#)

G [Matthew 4:12-23](#)

[Psalm 27:1, 5-13](#)

January 30 – Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

OT [Micah 6:1-8](#)

EP [1 Corinthians 1:18-31](#)

G [Matthew 5:1-12](#)

[Psalm 15](#)