



The Messenger



The newsletter of St. Mary's Church, an Episcopal-Lutheran Community
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DECEMBER 2008

Daniel in the Lions' Den

*Father Macgill has chosen the title for his monthly newsletter message
from the Old Testament book of Daniel (chapter 6).*

We will soon be in the season known to us as Advent, and so I thought I would pass along some information about the Advent wreath and its meaning. Its shape, color, and light represent a season where something is happening now, and something is yet to come. It instills a sense of eagerness, holiness, and quiet. The Advent wreath is a circle to remind us that God, like the circle, has no beginning and no end and is ever the same. God has lived and will always live. Evergreens are used on the wreath to remind us that people who love God will live forever with the Creator.

The wreath has four candles—three purple and one pink. Purple is the color of repentance. The pink candle, lit on the third Sunday in Advent, represents joy. The candles of Advent represent the themes of Advent: kingship, repentance, and joy.

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A fifth white candle, or Christ candle, may be added in the center of the wreath. The Christ candle is lit on Christmas Eve. The candles we use in Advent also remind us that the incarnation has transformed the darkness of hatred and evil into the light of joy and love.

May this time of Advent be a very special time of prayer and refecton for each and every one at St. Mary's.

Peace in Him,
Father Dan

Welcome Karen Shelley!

St. Mary's will have a part time church administrative assistant, beginning January 1, 2009.

Karen Shelley, a former parish secretary of St. John's, Wilmington and St. Andrew's On-the-Sound, Wilmington, will assume administrative tasks at St. Mary's, primarily in the areas of church worship materials and communications, membership data, and financial support tasks.

Karen asked us to express how much she looks forward to serving Christ with the members of St. Mary's Church. She also wants to thank the volunteers for their ministries and thanks you in advance for your kindness as she transitions into her ministry with St. Mary's Church.

Please welcome Karen to our St. Mary's family of Christ.
Philippians 4:4-9

ECW TO HOST WINE TASTING IN DECEMBER

The ECW ("Every Church Woman") and St. Mary's Church will host a wine tasting event on Friday, December 5 at 6:00 PM. This will be the ECW's major fund raiser for the year, and proceeds will be used for outreach activities and support of local charities. Please plan to attend and also help out by selling tickets to your family and friends. Help us make the wine tasting a big success!

Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 7

St. Mary's annual congregational meeting will be immediately after worship on the first Sunday of December. This meeting will include a vote on the 2009 budget and the election of two new Vestry members. All voting members of St. Mary's Church are asked to attend this important meeting and participate in determining the future of our congregation.

ECW HELPS LOCAL FAMILIES DURING THE HOLIDAYS

The ECW ("Every Church Woman") group provided food assistance to a local family for Thanksgiving. This family of six includes four children who attend Burgaw Elementary School. The ECW purchased \$100.00 worth of food for a Thanksgiving meal (and hopefully lots of leftovers).

The ECW would like to assist a family at Christmas as well, but they will need the help of the whole congregation to do it. Please consider a donation to this project! Make your check payable to "ECW" and write "Christmas donation" on the memo line.

Christmas Poinsettias

Once again, St. Mary's members have the opportunity to honor or remember loved ones with the gift of a poinsettia. The poinsettias will decorate the altar and the chancel on Christmas Eve and Sunday, December 28. Poinsettia gifts will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

The cost for a poinsettia is \$10.00. Please make your check payable to St. Mary's Church and place it in an "altar flower" envelope (found in the narthex by the front door or in the Fellowship Hall on the bulletin board next to the altar flower poster). Write your "in honor" or "in memory" designation on the envelope and give it to Heidi Robbins no later than Sunday, December 14. Poinsettia requests cannot be accepted after the 14th.

Please plan to take home your poinsettia after worship on Sunday, December 28.

December Calendar Notes

Monday, December 1	Girl Scouts meeting at 6:30 PM
Thursday, December 4	Mid-week Eucharist at 11:30 AM
Friday, December 5	ECW Wine Tasting at 6:00 PM
Sunday, December 7	Worship at 11:00 AM (Lutheran) Congregational meeting immediately following worship Coffee Hour after congregational meeting
Monday, December 8	ECW meeting at 10:00 AM Girl Scouts meeting at 6:30 PM
Thursday, December 11	Mid-week Eucharist at 11:30 AM
Sunday, December 14	Vestry meeting at 9:00 AM Worship at 11:00 AM (Episcopal) Annual Christmas Party following worship <i>Deadline for January newsletter submissions</i> <i>Deadline for poinsettia orders</i>
Monday, December 15	Girl Scouts meeting at 6:30 PM
Thursday, December 18	Mid-week Eucharist at 11:30 AM
Sunday, December 21	Worship at 11:00 AM (Episcopal) Coffee Hour following worship
Wednesday, December 24	Christmas Eve worship at 11:00 PM
Sunday, December 28	Worship at 11:00 AM (Episcopal) Coffee Hour following worship

Heartfelt Thanks

The family of Stewart "Joe" Lowell wishes to thank you ALL for your expressions of sympathy and for your support and prayers over the last two years. They have meant so much to us. Joe's spirit lives on, and we look with hope to that day when we will meet again.

Kay and family

December 2008 Sunday Servers

DECEMBER 7 *Second Sunday of Advent*

Presider	Father Dan Macgill
Lay Assistant/Cantor	Brian Zygmunt
Crucifer	Bill Davis
Oblations	Kim Davis & Lynn Goddard
Usher	Kim Davis
Sunday School	Candi Alexander
Altar Guild	Marion Clark
Coffee Hour Angels	<i>ECW (Wine Tasting leftovers)</i>

DECEMBER 14 *Third Sunday of Advent*

Presider	Father Dan Macgill
Lay Assistant	Kristin McFarland
Crucifer	Jimbo Robbins
Oblations	Jack & Susan Stocks
Usher	Jack Stocks
Sunday School	Candi Alexander
Altar Guild	Annette Olesen
Coffee Hour Angels	<i>Christmas Party</i>

DECEMBER 21 *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

Presider	Father Dan Macgill
Lay Assistant	Bill Davis
Crucifer	Bob Goslee
Oblations	Julian & Donna Anderson
Usher	Julian Anderson
Sunday School	Candi Alexander
Altar Guild	Laura Zygmunt
Coffee Hour Angels	Bert & Dede Yepko

DECEMBER 24 *Christmas Eve*

Presider	Father Dan Macgill
Lay Assistant	Pat Casaw
Crucifer	Brian Zygmunt
Oblations	Bert & Dede Yepko
Usher	Bert Yepko
Altar Guild	Marion Clark

December 2008 Sunday Servers *continued*

DECEMBER 28 *First Sunday after Christmas*

Presider	Father Dan Macgill
Lay Assistant	Joan Weld
Crucifer	Bob Goslee
Oblations	Van Reid & Pat Casaw
Usher	Van Reid
Sunday School	Candi Alexander
Altar Guild	Heidi Robbins
Coffee Hour Angels	Julian & Donna Anderson

VESTRY MEMBER OF THE MONTH: Bert Yepko

PRAYER LIST

Please continue to pray for MarthaAnn Blake, Pam Graham, Helen Crouch, Jackie Robbins, the Von Oesen family, John Wynne, and Dede Yepko. Also, please pray for Jeannette Patterson (sister of Linda Hadden) and Bonnie O'Connor (daughter of Bettie Phelps).

December Birthdays

04-Cindy Keller
10-Catherine Moore
12-Susan Stocks
14-Brian Van Tassell
15-Marilyn Von Oesen
23-Judy Cromer
28-Larry Olesen

December Baptismal Birthdays

03-Mary Caputo
10-JoAnn Baietti
20-Jimbo Robbins
22-Lawrence Baietti
31-Cindy Keller