

The Epistle

A Publication of

December 2009

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
201 E. Church St.; Marshalltown, Iowa 50158
Church phone: 753-6317
[Office e-mail: stpauls50158@msn.com](mailto:stpauls50158@msn.com)

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Now it is Advent, and the liturgical color for vestments and frontals is purple, just as are used in Lent. Advent is a time for self-reflection that may lead us to repentance. This is not to bring us to some self-improvement resolutions for fixing ourselves (which usually is ineffective), but God may bring changes. Our honest self-reflection can bring us to ask for the grace to live into the new life that God offers each of us. Self-reflection may be painful, but it is also filled with a joyful lightness as we move into new life. If there are ways that I can be of pastoral service to you as part of your Advent reflection, please let me know by sending an email to mjoakland@msn.com, calling the office, or calling my cell – 515-460-4814.

Please save some of your energy to attend the Advent Quiet Morning of Prayer and Reflection on December 12 from 9:30-11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary! Coffee will be available at 9:15. Some of our time together will be Deb Nuss sharing a musical meditation. I look forward to hearing her beautiful voice carrying us through this season. All are welcome – this is not planned for women only! And do invite others who would enjoy this opportunity for meditation, prayer and seasonal music.

This coming Sunday, December 6, we will be using Cantic 16, The Song of Zechariah, BCP – p. 92, as the response to the first lesson. Zechariah was the father of John the Baptist, who was rendered mute when he did not believe that his barren elderly wife, Elizabeth, could become pregnant. But, his speech was restored when their son was circumcised and named John. This beautiful song recorded in Luke's Gospel prophesies the coming of the Messiah, and the messenger, his son John, who will come to prepare the way through the hearts and minds of the people to be able to receive the teachings of Jesus. During Advent, please join me in praying these words each day for our spiritual growth in love toward ourselves, God and our neighbors:

In the tender compassion of our God
The dawn from on high shall break upon us,
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death,
And to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Luke 1: 78-79

Blessings in this Season of Waiting,

Mary Jane+
Rector

DECEMBER

ST. MARGARET'S MISSION

St. Margaret's Mission will hold their Christmas party Thursday, December 3, at 5:30 p.m. at Binford House. Pudd Handorf and Betty Bradner are hostesses.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

Church Women United will meet on Friday, December 4, at Binford House.

MESSIAH

Handel's "Messiah" will be presented Sunday, December 6 at 7:00 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 202 West Main Street. A featured program will begin the evening at 6:30 p.m., followed by a congregational carol sing at 6:45 p.m.

ST. PAUL'S GUILD

We will meet Thursday, **December 10, at 1:00 p.m.** at the church for dessert. Our program will be "Legacy of Aprons", presented by Joan Neven. You are invited to bring an apron of your choice.

Advent Quiet Morning of Prayer and Reflection

Saturday, December 12

9:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Sanctuary

Musical Reflections by

Deborah Nuss

Everyone is invited to attend

Bring your friends

VESTRY

St. Paul's Vestry will meet Thursday, December 17, at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room.

Hanging of the Greens will follow the service on Sunday, December 20.

Christmas Eve Service is at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 24. A carol sing will start at 6:50 p.m.

DECEMBER COFFEE SCHEDULE

Dec 6	Bill & Barbara Baltisberger
Dec 13	Betty Bradner
Dec 20	Fred & Ce Hubbard
Dec 27	Mike Heaverlo

The "**Daily Advent Reading**" books for 2009 are on the table in the back of the church. Please help yourself to one for the Advent season.

REMINDER: If you have bills for 2009, for which you want to be reimbursed, please turn them in to the church office by December 22.

Also, if you have year-end contributions to St. Paul's (or to other organizations to which you are contributing through St. Paul's, e.g. Food Box, House of Compassion, etc.), please bring or mail those gifts to the church office by December 22.

If it's necessary to DATE your check for December 31, that's fine, but we need to have the checks by the 22nd so that we can work with the numbers and have everything ready by year-end. If you have date-specific requests for any donations, it's even more important that you get your checks to us EARLY.

This will enable us to have everything done by December 31. Thank you--we greatly appreciate your cooperation in these matters.

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thank you to Barbara Baltisberger and Dale Holubar for preparing the Harvest Altar decorations.

THANK YOU

Dorothy Apgar
Barbara Baltisberger
Kay Beach
Audrey Hafar
Colleen Harmon
Mary Harvey
Sally Klinkefus
Pam Campbell

for baking, preparing and delivering 18 fruit and cookie plates.

ICON OF ST. PAUL

The Icon of St. Paul has now been placed in the sanctuary. Bishop Scarfe dedicated the Icon during his visitation Sunday, November 22. The Icon is given in memory of Dr. David Blaha.



MEALS ON WHEELS

Drivers are needed to deliver the meals on the third Wednesday of each month. If this is something you can help do, please call Barbara Baltisberger at 753-7494. Please call by December 10.

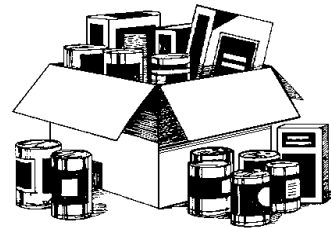
HOUSE OF COMPASSION

St. Paul's will be providing funds for gifts to a needy family in our community through the **House of Compassion**. Please consider helping through a check made payable to St. Paul's. HOC volunteers from the "supply closet" will do the shopping and wrapping!

St. Paul's will serve the evening meal at the House of Compassion, Tuesday, December 8. If you would like to help prepare and/or serve this meal, please sign up on the green clipboard on the table in the back of the church.

The volunteers, board and director of House of Compassion are grateful for your recent generous gift which enables us to care for people in need.






EMERGENCY FOOD BOX



As we all know, our economy has caused many more families to feel the increasing strain on their finances. We are seeing a steady increase in the need for our services here in Marshall County. Because of your help, we are able to provide emergency assistance to those persons who are referred to us. Your offerings of food are used for this purpose.

St. Paul's next opportunity to help restock the Emergency Food Box will be the second Sunday of the month, December 13. Please bring non-perishable food items to place in the cart. Or, if you prefer, you may send a check to the Emergency Food Box; P. O. Box 391; Marshalltown, IA 50158.

DECEMBER 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	 <p>Join us for worship this Christmas</p>	1	2	3 5:30 p.m. St. Margaret's Mission Christmas Party	4 9:15 a.m. CWU - Binford House	5
6 9:30 AM Worship	7	8 SERVE HOUSE OF COMPASSION MEAL	9	10 1:00 p.m. St. Paul's Guild	11	12 9:30-11:00 Advent Quiet Morning Happy Birthday! Orlin Klinkefus
13 9:30 AM Worship Emergency Food Box Sunday	14 Happy Birthday! Matt Colbert	15 Happy Birthday! P. J. Colbert	16	17 7:00 PM Vestry	18 Happy Birthday! David Bursley	19 
20 9:30 AM Worship 	21	22	23 No preschool until January 4 for Christmas Break	24 6:50 Carol Sing 7:00 Christmas Eve Service 	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS 	26
27 9:30 AM Worship	28 Happy Anniversary! Tom & P. J. Colbert	29 Happy Birthday! Dorothy Apgar	30 Happy Anniversary! Dr. & Mrs. Dan McInroy	31		

Lay Participants for 2009

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

All lay participants are to meet in the choir room for prayer 5 minutes before service time.

Date	Time	Lay Readers/Lectors	Acolytes	Ushers
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Each person is responsible for finding a replacement when needed and reporting the change to the church office.

Date: December 6 **9:30 AM**
Rector: The Rev. Mary Jane Oakland
Organist: Audrey Hafar
Lessons and Prayers: Ce Hubbard
Chalice and Acolyte: Kay Beach
Ushers: Nancy Stone and Mary Lou Tappe
Altar Guild: Nan Ryden and Marjorie Cook
Lock-up: Kay Beach/Mary Jacobson
LEV: Barbara Baltisberger and Mary Harvey
Coffee: Bill and Barbara Baltisberger

Date: December 24 **7:00 PM**
Rector: The Rev. Mary Jane Oakland
Organist: Audrey Hafar
Lessons and Prayers: Sheryl Readout
Chalice and Acolyte: Kay Beach
Ushers: Don and Sandy Crowley
Altar Guild: Sheryl Readout
Lock-up: Kay Beach/Mary Jacobson
LEV: Freida McInroy

Date: December 13 **9:30 AM**
Rector: The Rev. Mary Jane Oakland
Organist: Audrey Hafar
Lessons and Prayers: David Oakland
Chalice and Acolyte: Sheryl Readout
Ushers: Don and Pam Campbell
Altar Guild: Pam Campbell and Freida McInroy
Lock-up: Kay Beach/Mary Jacobson
LEV: Sandy Crowley
Coffee: Betty Bradner



Date: December 20 **9:30 AM**
Rector: The Rev. Mary Jane Oakland
Organist: Audrey Hafar
Lessons and Prayers: Ce Hubbard
Chalice and Acolyte: Mary Jane Halsted
Ushers: Tom and P. J. Colbert
Altar Guild: Ce Hubbard
Lock-up: Kay Beach/Mary Jacobson
LEV: Freida McInroy
Coffee: Fred and Ce Hubbard

Date: December 27 **9:30 AM**
Rector: The Rev. Mary Jane Oakland
Organist: Audrey Hafar
Lessons and Prayers: David Oakland
Chalice and Acolyte: Kay Beach
Ushers: Rex and Nan Ryden
Altar Guild: Sheryl Readout
Lock-up: Kay Beach/Mary Jacobson
LEV: Colleen Harmon
Coffee: Mike Heaverlo