



St. Paul's ePistle from McHenry

December 9, 2015

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SPECIAL PRAYERS REQUESTED



+ Presiding Bishop **Michael B. Curry** was resting comfortably tonight (12/8) in a Virginia hospital following surgery for a subdural hematoma. According to Curry, his family, and his medical team, the surgery went well. He is alert and awake, and a full recovery continues to be anticipated. Curry was stricken Sunday during a visit to Bruton Parish Church in Colonial Williamsburg, Va. He was diagnosed with a subdural hematoma, and on Monday he recorded a video message about his health and to thank people for their prayers.

Holy Eucharist
and Laying on of Hands for Healing
tonight at 6:30 p.m.

All are Welcome!



St. Paul's
Episcopal Church

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Thoughts from Lori

It's the season of joy, right? Maybe for some, maybe for most, but not for all. For some, it's a time of fresh grief, or of deep lingering sorrow, or of a cloud of depression. And instead of being cheered up by the Christmas spirit, they are all the more burdened. Try as they might to hide their feelings and join in the celebration, they silently bear heavy hearts.

A new tradition - if you can call something new a tradition - has sprung up in various churches: a service created to provide a place to bring those heavy hearts. Many are calling this service "A Blue Christmas." This year, we will have such a service here at St. Paul's on **Wednesday evening, December 23rd at 7pm**. It will be an opportunity for quiet prayer and to offer to God those burdens we carry. Come alone or bring a friend. Come to support a friend. Come to pray for someone you know is sad, lonely, and afraid. Come for the quiet in a busy time.

Meanwhile, as we are waiting, as we are preparing to celebrate the coming of the Christ Child, let us remember those who find this season difficult. Let us pray, as we always should, for those who are suffering from any grief or trouble. Part of an old saying goes, "Sorrow shared is half the grief." May it be so.

Faithfully,

Lori



Poinsettias for Christmas

Please take part in the beautification of the church for Christmas by donating \$25 (each) for Poinsettias. Your donation may be given "in memory of" or "in thanksgiving for" someone in your life, or simply for this parish. A sign-up sheet is available in the narthex.

Servants needed for Christmas services

Signup sheets are in the narthex for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. Ushers, Lectors, Intercessors and Eucharistic Ministers are all needed!

Advent Baby Baskets



Again this year, our Advent outreach project will be in the form of filling "Moses baskets" with new items needed for mothers who are without extended resources for all those many baby products that most

of us took for granted. Start collecting (and/or making) baby things for the Advent Baby Baskets. Last year, we filled four to overflowing, so this year we'll have six! They will be in the narthex all four Sundays in Advent, after which we will ask the Diaper Bank to distribute them to participants in their New Mothers program. In addition to the list below, we would love to include a handmade (knitted, crocheted, or otherwise) blanket in each basket. Here is the list of items needed:

- Onesies
- Burp cloths
- Changing pads
- Receiving blankets
- Soft toys for newborns
- Baby bottles for water, juice, formula
- Wet wipes
- Baby lotion
- Diaper rash ointment
- Etc., etc.!



Vestry- Wednesday, Dec. 16, 7:15 p.m.
"Blue Christmas" Service - Wed., Dec. 23, 7:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Service - 9:00 p.m.
Christmas Day Service - 10:00 a.m.
Office closed - Dec. 31/Jan 1
Open House at the Rectory - Jan. 3, 4:00-6:00 p.m.
Women's Wednesday - Jan. 6, 7:00 p.m.
Men's Breakfast - Saturday, Jan. 9, 8:00 a.m.
Annual Parish Meeting - Jan. 24

A message from Julie Sundin, Music Director:

The music you will sing and hear during the next several weeks will tell the story of Jesus in a multitude of ways - from Advent, a season of preparation, to Christmas, the fulfillment of the Advent expectations and Epiphany, which serves as a bridge between the birth of Jesus and his passion. Their tunes come from almost every country in Europe as well as folk tunes from America. The music dates from prior to the 9th century (O Come, O Come, Emmanuel) to the contemporary hymns found in our hymnal.

Each Sunday in Advent, the organ prelude will be a different setting of the chorale "Nun Komm, der Heiden Heiland" (Come now, Savior of the Nations) by such composers as Paul Manz, Max Reger, John Eggert and Johann Sebastian Bach. The congregation will sing this hymn on the last Sunday of Advent in urgent expectation of Christ's birth.

May the music we share help us experience more fully, together as the body of Christ and, individually in our own way, the celebration of Christ's birth.

Lessons and Hymns

Sunday, December 13, 2015

Advent 3 - Year C

by the Rev. William P. McLemore

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

The Old Testament: Zephaniah 3:14-20. The prophet Zephaniah promises that God will gather the people and restore their fortunes. Instead of the Psalm, we will recite the "First Song of Isaiah."

The Epistle: Philippians 4:4-7. Paul refers to the "peace of God, which surpasses all understanding" and says it will guide our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus.

The Gospel: Luke 3:7-18. More of the sermon of John the Baptist who adds that he baptizes with water but one is coming who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire.

THE HYMNS:

Processional Hymn: No. 56. "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel." This hymn is based on the seven great Antiphons which were said on successive days before and after Vespers between December 17th and the 23rd inclusive

(mostly among Eastern Christians). Each of the Antiphons salutes the coming Messiah under one of the many titles ascribed to him in Holy Scripture, and closes with a petition based upon the salutation. The tune is reputed to be from a French missal and the refrain is almost identical with the opening phrases. The seven titles in this text are: Emmanuel; Wisdom from on High; Lord of Might; Branch of Jesse; Key of David; Dayspring; and Desire of Nations.

Sequence Hymn: No. 640. "Watchman, Tell Us of the Night." Quoting from the Hymnal Companion (1949): "This dialogue by John Bowring first appeared in his 'Hymns 1825'." The conversation between traveler and watchman is suggestive of the oriental cities with which the author was familiar, and may have been sung antiphonally to good effect. Based on Isaiah 21:11-12, it has been in the Hymnal since 1874 (p. 273).

Presentation Hymn: No. 74. "Blest be the King Whose Coming." This hymn was composed by Frederico J. Pagura, who is an Argentine religious leader and a champion of human rights. He was born in 1923 and became a Methodist as a teenager. After completing his higher education in Argentina, he traveled to the U.S. to earn an advanced degree and later was ordained a Methodist minister and then a bishop. He is a poet and avid musician putting a number of hymns to the tango beat of his home country. This particular hymn expresses his values about human rights with a stirring Latin syncopation.

Communion Hymn: No. 712. "Dona Nobis Pacem." These three words are Latin for "Grant Us Peace" and the hymn is an old monastic canon of unknown authorship and composing. As we approach the altar for Holy Communion, we want to pray for peace in our hearts and souls and these words are a wonderful preface to receiving this sacrament.

Recessional Hymn: No. 59. "Hark! A Thrilling Voice." This hymn has been attributed to St. Ambrose and comes from the 6th century A.D. It is based on Romans 13:11 and Luke 21:25. The words announce the coming of Jesus and reflect the penitential flavor of Advent. "Lo! The Lamb so long expected, comes with pardon down from heaven; let us haste with tears of sorrow, one and all to be forgiven." The tune, "Merton," is deliberate in meter and aptly conveys the spirit of Our Lord's coming and the advent of God's love.

December 13th Servants

Ushers: Bill Lang
Lector: Michelle Wiejaczka
Intercessor: Barb Moriarty
Eucharistic Ministers: Deb Lang, Charlie Boak
Vestry Person of the Day: Kathy Biggerstaff

From the cartoons created by
the Rev. William P. McLemore



"Never argue with your altar guild
about where to put the Advent wreath!"

Church
Bulletin
Bloopers



*"Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet
Thursday at 7 to 8:30 p.m. Please use the
back door."*