

D E C E M B E R 2 0 1 4

the

MESSENGER

✧ Expectation ✧ Preparation ✧ Holy Waiting ✧

SAINT PAUL'S CHURCH IN ENGLEWOOD, NEW JERSEY

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## An Advent Prayer

By Henri J.M. Nouwen

Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas. We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day. We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us. We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom. We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence. We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light. To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!" Amen.

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As we enter this festive and holy season with the beauty and pageantry of our worship, the diversity of activities, the fellowship of family days and holiday celebrations...

Consider who you can, *and will*, invite to join us at some time this Advent and Christmas season.

We cannot forget, nor overlook, the significance and power of an invitation. An invitation immediately says that we have something good to share with someone we think of well.

Who needs your invitation this season?

Preparation is a poignant theme of the Advent season. We prepare ourselves to receive God among us in Jesus Christ.

Preparations are underway for so much that our Parish shares this month through the Adventide and Christmastide.

Christmas only initiates the ways we are prepared for God's grace given in Jesus. Likewise, this Christmas brings preparations for 2015 and the 150th anniversary of our Parish.

Prepare yourselves for great celebrations to come as we witness God among us, in Christ's Nativity and the life of this Parish as the Body of Christ in the World.

DATES TO REMEMBER

DEC 14 THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
9:15 am The 149th Annual Parish Meeting

DEC 20 SATURDAY
10 am Greening of the Parish

DEC 21 THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
9 am-1 pm Gift Wrapping
4 pm Lessons & Carols

DEC 24 CHRISTMAS EVE
5 pm Jazz Mass & Nativity Storytelling
10:30 pm Candlelight Mass

DEC 25 CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP
10:30 am Solemn Mass

JAN 4 STEPPING INTO OUR 150TH YEAR
8am & 10:30 am Festival Eucharist
11:45 am Reception
4 pm Choir School Evensong

JAN 25 THE CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL
4pm Celebration of New Ministry &
Installation of the Rector, Reception to Follow

FEB 7 MARDI GRAS CONCERT & DINNER

FEB 18 ASH WEDNESDAY



We thank each of you for your support of the Parish, our ministries, and God's mission. Please note that all contributions to be considered for 2014 tax purposes accounts must be postmarked or delivered to the Parish Office no later than December 31, 2014.

If you plan to make a contribution by Stock Transfer, please speak to the Parish Treasurer, Beverly Lanamann, or Accountant, Lisa Keenan, no later than December 15, 2014.

LADIES' TEA



SAVE THE DATE

Get to know other women of the Parish! All ladies of the church are cordially invited to the next LADIES' TEA on Sunday, December 28, 2014 at 9:15 am between services in the Reception Room of St. Paul's. *All ages are welcome!*

Please RSVP to the office by Monday, December 22, 2014 at 201.568.3276 or office@stpaulsenglewood.org. (Please indicate if you would like to bring a dish to share.)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY KING DAVID

In the coming months, as we prepare for the arrival of "great David's greater Son" and celebrate his coming among us, St. Paul's Bible Study will embark on a journey into the great epic of the Bible: the story of David - shepherd, child soldier, poet, warrior, gangster, lover, king, and sinner. We will bear witness to the exploits of giants, wise women, generals, footsoldiers, prophets and priests. David's life encompasses soaring joy at impossible victories, and inconsolable mourning at the most dire tragedies. There is no figure in the Hebrew Bible more vividly drawn than David.



Join us for the whole series, or just drop in when you can! Don't worry, we'll begin every session with a review of "the story so far..."

12/10. 1 Sam. 24-25. *David flees into the wilderness.*
12/17. 1 Sam. 27 & 29. *David fights for the Philistines.*
12/31. 1 Sam. 31 & 2 Sam. 1. *King Saul is killed.*

Wednesday nights, 7 pm, in the Vestry Conference Room. Come join Dr. Stewart Moore in a great discussion.

NOTICE

THE 149TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH OF ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

Sunday, December 14, 2014
at nine fifteen in the morning
in the Parish Hall



Business of the Meeting:

Reception of Reports on the State of the Parish
Elections
Rector's Address

Elections for open positions:

For 1 Warden (2-year term)
For 3 Vestrymembers (3-year term)
For 1 Deputy to Diocesan Convention (3-year term)

Nomination Qualifications (Parish By-Laws, Section IV.b). Any person serving in the capacities listed below shall be required to be a Communicant Member in Good Standing, as defined by the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church, and have offered their pledge to this parish in written form in the current calendar year. The capacities under the purview of this resolution shall include: Warden, Vestrymember, Deputy to the Annual Convention of the Diocese of Newark.

Voting Qualifications (Parish By-Laws, Section II). The persons entitled to vote at any meeting of the Parish, shall be:

- Baptized;
- At least 16 years of age;
- Of good moral character;
- Parishioners in good standing of the Protestant Episcopal Church;
- Regular attendees of the services of the Parish for six (6) calendar months before the meeting; and
- Regular contributors for six (6) months to the current expenses of the Parish. The record of contributions maintained by the Treasurer showing dates of contributions is sufficient evidence as to the qualification of a voter.



Greening of the Church December 20, 10 am-12 pm

Come prepare the Historic Sanctuary and Chapel for Christmas celebrations! We'll share cookies, cocoa and carols. We'll hang greens and make final preparations for the Nativity of our Lord.

Stewardship as Recycling our Blessings

You should rather open your hand, willingly lending enough to meet the need, whatever it may be. (Deuteronomy 15:8)

What do Oprah Winfrey and Bill Gates have in common? Both have wanted to give back what they had been given. Isn't that the way with all of us of faith? Happily, many of the blessings we receive can be passed on. One way to do this is to pledge a portion of your income regularly to St. Paul's to help further God's purposes here on Earth.

SHARING MY

blessings

Your pledge and stewardship goes a long way to reaching out to others who might be impoverished in spirit, health, or material means.

Christmas Gift Wrapping



Sunday
December 21
9 am - 1 pm

Drop off your gifts & we will have them ready upon your return.

100% of donations are given to the church.

You're welcome to help wrap gifts too!

Paper, tape, ribbon, labels, and other creative decorating items are needed.

For questions, call Ina Martinez, 201-310-0618

Community Thanksgiving Linner 2014

Pictures (clockwise from top)

Some of the more than 80 people that ate at the 2014 Linner; A full table laden with food and volunteers; some of the more than 30 volunteers that helped make the Linner happen; A plate of candied sweet potatoes ready to go; the kitchen stove piled high with just some of the food.



ST PAUL'S CHURCH

113 Engle Street
Englewood, New Jersey 07631

address here