

## WANDA'S WORDS



THE REV.  
WANDA  
COPELAND

ASSOCIATE  
RECTOR

### Adult Forums for December

December brings  
several 'angles' in  
the discussion

about health care in our lives. December promises to be a rich month on various topics. I hope you will be able to join us and our guest speakers for these dates. On December 4th, we will learn how another congregation (Centennial United Methodist in Roseville) has implemented the Parish Nursing program, and how it might look if we were to begin such a program. On December 11th, Dr. David Dvorak will speak about our health care system in the United States, and what reforms might be preferred fixes. On December 18th, Chaplain Kay Provine will speak about spiritual practices we might all consider as we move through life.

### Youth Blast

All youth (grades 6 and up) are invited to join us for the second YOUTH BLAST of the year on December 4th, 1pm—4pm at St. Clement's in St. Paul. There is no charge, but a free-will offering will be collected. The topic is Denominations and Religions. YOUTH BLASTs are opportunities for metro area youth to come together to learn about a particular religious topic more in-depth than we can provide in a Sunday session, or in a Confirmation class. There will be food, fun, games, friends, and generally a good time. St. Christopher's youth are helping to organize and lead this event. Car pooling to this event is recommended, as parking in this area is very limited. For more information, see Rev. Wanda.

## From the Bookshelf

By Cap Hanson

Found, but barely legible, is the inscription on the reverse side of a plaque which Audrey Stenberg gave to the library. The message reads: "Donated to St. Christopher's Episcopal Church 12-17-81. In memory of Scotty, 9-9-20 to 12-7-41 at Hickam Field." The date and place of death was at Pearl Harbor, December 7th, 1941 when the Japanese Air Force attacked the US Navy.



Recently released is a study guide for Episcopalians by a group of eminent and distinguished theologians, the title of their collection of essays is *Christian Holiness—Human Sexuality*.

Choir members as well as all musicians will be interested in a recent (2011 copyright) acquisition titled *Christian Music—Global History*. The hard cover book includes music from ancient Israel up through and including modern folk and jazz.

New and in time for Advent and Christmas are:

*The Journey; Walking the Road to Bethlehem* by Adam Hamilton, copyright 2011. The journey is an historical account, an archeological review and personal reflections of the walk from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

*Christmas—Festival of Incarnation*, by author Donald Heinz is his introduction to and meaning of Christmas and references to the festival of the Incarnation. "This book is a religious historical accounting of Christmas as an ever-evolving festival of Incarnation." The book currently may be found on the Advent-Christmas display.

(Continued on page 2)

## FROM the RECTOR



THE REV.  
JOHN F.  
DWYER  
RECTOR

We start a new church-calendar-year on Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup> with the beginning of Advent. The meaning of this Season has morphed over the years. In the early church it was considered a “little Lent,” meaning penitential, but not as much as during Lent, with an historic respite from that work on the third Sunday, referred to as Guadete (or Rose) Sunday. That penitential work of Advent in the early church served two purposes: to help focus our minds on the mystery of the Incarnation; and, parallel to that, our preparation for the second coming of Christ.

The modern church has steered away from the deeper penitential aspects of Advent, saving that work for Lent. The church has instead focused on the gift of the Incarnation, of God taking human form, living and being among us, being both fully human and fully divine. The Episcopal Church has moved away from a heavy-handed focus on the second coming of Christ, something the early church expected to happen “any day now.” TEC has shifted our focus to this gift of the Incarnation and an emphasis on our wondering and reflecting upon the importance of Christ being human, being divine. We are asked to think deeply during the season of Advent about seeing Christ in the other, the stranger we meet, in whom we can be surprised to find God’s image. That image, marked plainly for all those who look to see, can startle us out of how we think about the world.

Getting ready for the Incarnation, preparing ourselves, yet again, for this celebration of God come amongst us, is heady work. Finding time in our hectic holiday schedules and preparations is a vital part to our being really able to enter into a deeper relationship with God, a deeper relationship with this intentional Christian community with whom we have chosen to live our lives.

One of those things we can do to help prepare ourselves is getting rid of excess baggage, throw away things that weigh us down, find a way to put them aside. One of the vehicles for achieving this lightening of our burdens is through prayer and healing. I am pleased to announce that beginning the first

Wednesday of Advent, November 30<sup>th</sup>, St. Christopher’s will be offering, at 6:15 pm, an evening Healing Eucharist. This service will be a permanent part of our schedule, supplementing, not replacing, the already existing schedule.

I invite you to a deeper immersion into Advent and this mystery of God walking among us as one of us. I invite you to be surprised this Advent: surprised by what you can let go of, and in whom you can see the image of God. I invite you to a holy and intentional Advent.

*John* ✠

Postscript: Many have asked about the Blessing I utilize at the close of service. It is a portion of a prayer written by a former Dean of General Theological Seminary. The blessing is:

*Life is short and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who walk the way with us, so be swift to love and make haste to be kind. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you this day and for evermore. Amen.*



### **Bookshelf** (Continued from page 1)

A new CD in the non-print collection: ***Carols from Kings College, Cambridge***, a series of 18 selections by the choir of Kings College.

Swedish limpa, Norwegian julekake, Rhubarb cake, orange bundt cake and Danish pastry are only a few of the 35 illustrations and recipes which may be found in the recently released ***Scandinavian Baking***. Even if one doesn’t bake, it’s a joy just to scan the pages.

## THE DEACON DISCUSSES

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THE REV. JANET  
MACNALLY

DEACON

This has always been an interesting time of year; in fact, in pre-Christian times it was a time of great concern.

Not understanding the workings of the solar system, all folk s knew was that the weather became colder and the days decidedly shorter. Would this trend continue? Would warmth and daylight so necessary to farming disappear all together? It must have been a great relief when the winter solstice passed and the light began to overtake the darkness once again. As a result, there were any number of customs and festivals that occurred at that time of year.

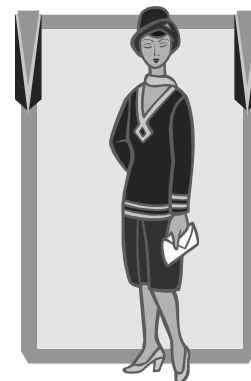
The early Christian church took advantage of festivals already in place, turning their meaning to fit in the newly developing Christian liturgical calendar. I found it fascinating to learn that the dates for the season of preparation that is Advent and the celebration of Christmas were the last major seasons to be put into place in the Christian year. It makes sense though, to use the days of increasing darkness as a time of preparation to welcome and celebrate the light that comes into the world as the Word is made flesh and comes to dwell among us. It is a familiar theme in Christian prayer and calendar, to move from darkness into light.

For us in the here and now of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, the rhythm of the season, shorter days and colder weather, should call us into a place of quiet meditation. This should, if we followed nature, be a time of slowing down, of peace and reflection as we prepare for the celebration of our Lord's birth. It should be all that, I didn't say it was! The fact is the secular world has us hopping all through the season of Advent, calling us to push the celebration of this most blessed season not only into Advent, but into the remaining days of Pentecost as well. Everywhere we turn it would seem as if the time of darkness, the time of quiet and preparation has been forgotten in the rush to get the most out of the celebration of light. And when that happens we as God's people lose something in the process. It is

hard for us to ignore the giant Target shopping cart rolling down the Nicollet Mall with Santa as a passenger on November 1<sup>st</sup>, or the stores that are decorated and continually play Christmas songs to accompany our shopping, or the hustle and bustle of baking and cooking and gathering in which we find ourselves. And yet, we are aware of the darkness that arrives earlier each evening and the warmth of our homes that calls out to us. Listen to the rhythm of God's creation, take time to notice the darkness and respond to it, and then, as the solstice passes, celebrate with joy and thanksgiving that light has come into the world through the birth of Jesus and the darkness cannot overcome it.

*Amen,  
Deacon Janet*

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### Ready for Success

Thank you for your ongoing support of the clothing collection for Ready for Success. As always, items are needed to prepare women to interview for and take their place in the workplace. At this time of year, the need is especially great for warm winter outerwear.

As the Christmas season approaches, we all try to remember the children who might go without this year. Please also remember the women who need not only clothing, but accessories — scarves, warm hats and gloves, belts, new undies, new panty hose and new cosmetics.

Thank you for your support of this valuable effort.

— Karin Brown and Jean Hoover

## NIGEL'S NOSINGS



NIGEL,  
CGCM  
CHURCH  
MOUSE

Hello all, Nigel here!  
My goodness, I took a brief trip to England with the deacon, and all kinds of wonderful things took place.

First of all, congratulations to **Madisen Crow** on a very successful tennis season and for being selected co-captain for next year's Girls Tennis Team at White Bear Lake High School. **Madisen** now begins the speech season, where she has also been selected a co-captain! Congratulations!

**Josh Bayer** played football for the Spring Lake Park team this fall, and sister **Jocelyn** performed the role of Ann Putnam in SLP's production of *The Crucible*. **Hannah Eischens** has been busy with cross country and achieved more than one personal best this season. She is moving on to basketball. **Sam Jones** is on the debate team for Roseville Area High School, and **Gwen Bagstad** is on both the dance team and the robotics team. **Ben Friend** just finished up playing soccer for St. Anthony High School, and **Steven Hartman** has been busy with cross country at Cretin-Derham Hall, as well as speed skating. And I have begun to take serious interest in the University of Minnesota football team after I found out that **Jared Hartman** was playing for them.

But really BIG NEWS was the wonderful installation service on All Saints' Day. It was a very festive affair and it was wonderful to see so many St. Christopher's folk in attendance. So many people helped to make this a truly wonderful new chapter for us and for **Father John**. Many thanks to the choir in general and to **Karla Cole** and **Joe Fear** in particular for the wonderful music. The handbell choir was fabulous and Joe arranged *Come Thou Font of Every Blessing* and it included not only our fine choir but **Ben Ackerman, Kate and Joe Brilowski, Emma Friend, Samuel and Jackson Humes and Cora and Julia Lacher**, members of the Archangels Choir; and **Barb Hovey, Landon Remington, Jocelyn Bayer, AJ Lund and Joe Fear** who added their instrumental gifts. **Cap Hanson** and **Patrick Hunner** were readers, and **Tom Hove,**

**Robert Allen** and **Gwen Bagstad** served as Chalice Ministers. **Steven Hartman** did double duty as the crucifer and the bishop's chaplain, and was joined by **Sam Jones** and **Jocelyn Wittmann**, who were torch bears and rector's assistants.

And then came the bountiful reception downstairs. The parish hall was beautiful and so many people made this such a joyous gathering. **Ebie and Jim Richards, Earl Olson, Peg Barker** and **Pam and Tom Hove** were on the set up and decorating crew. **Ann DePaolis Jones, Ann Trapnell, Peg Barker** and **Joyce Goedeke** cut, served and plated the tasty bars, cookies and cheese (more on that later!). **Earl Olson, Bill Hanna, Darlene Cross** and **Jim Richards** served up the champagne, and **Alison Jensen, Julie and Don Shiek** served up punch. Pouring coffee were **Jill Miel, Ann Olson,** and **Cindy Verhey**. **Barb Danley** and **Barb Wilkinson** were busy filling in where they were needed and **Susan Hanson** took charge of placing the lovely bouquet of flowers on the main table. All of the organization that made things run so well was due to the efforts of **Pam Hove**. It should be noted that Pam also supplied the Cougar Gold cheese from Washington state, and this mouse had to move fast because this particular cheese is favorite of **+Brian** our bishop! It could not have been a more festive evening! This is a wonderful and exciting time to be a part of St. Christopher's! Welcome Father John!!

I am exhausted and am looking forward to my little corner in the deacon's office where I plan to settle down with a good book and my stash of Cougar Gold cheese. (Shhhhh, don't tell the bishop!)

*All the best, Nigel*











*(That's not him, but you get the idea! - Ed.)*



# December 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> 10-11:30 AM Bible Study-Gathering Room	<b>2 *</b> 7-9 PM Debtors Anon.-Gathering Room	<b>3 *</b> 8-Noon Flute Lessons—Music Rm 8-10 AM OA-Gathering Room 10-11:30 AM CLA-#218/Library
<b>4</b> <b>Advent II</b>  1-5 PM Youth Blast -Offsite at St. Clement's  	<b>5</b> <b>TRAVELER</b> <i>Deadline (January)</i> 9:30-Noon Quilters-Parish Hall 11 AM Staff Mtg.—Office	<b>6 *</b> 9:45 AM OA-#218/219 7 PM Altar Guild-(Loc. TBD) 7 PM Meditation Grp -Chapel, #218	<b>7 *</b> 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist-Chapel 6:15 PM Bell Choir-Gallery 6:15 PM Healing Eucharist—Chapel 6:30 PM Roseville AA—Gathering Room/#218 7 PM Confirmation-Library 7:15 PM Parish Choir—Music Room	<b>8</b> 10-11:30 AM Bible Study-Gathering Room  5:30 PM Over 55 Club Holiday Party -Parish Hall		<b>10 *</b> 8-Noon Flute Lessons—Music Rm 8-10 AM OA-Gathering Room
<b>11</b> <b>Advent III</b>  	<b>12</b> 9:30-Noon Quilters-Parish Hall 11 AM Staff Mtg.—Office	<b>13 *</b> 9:45 AM OA-#218/219 6 PM Scottish Dance -Parish Hall 7 PM Meditation Grp -Chapel, #218	<b>14 *</b> 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist-Chapel 6:15 PM Bell Choir-Gallery 6:15 PM Healing Eucharist—Chapel 6:30 PM Roseville AA—Gathering Room/#218 7 PM Green Team-Parish Hall 7 PM Confirmation-Library 7:15 PM Parish Choir—Music Room	<b>15</b> 10-11:30 AM Bible Study-Gathering Room  6:30 PM Outreach & Justice Comm.-Gathering Room	<b>16</b>	<b>17 *</b> 8-Noon Flute Lessons—Music Rm 8-10 AM OA-Gathering Room 10-11:30 AM CLA-#218/Library  <i>Parish Hall Setup—All Day</i>
<b>18</b> <b>Advent IV</b>  4 PM Lessons and Carols  	<b>19</b> 9:30-Noon Quilters-Parish Hall 11 AM Staff Mtg.—Office	<b>20 *</b> <i>Meals on Wheels—Offsite</i> 9:45 AM OA-#218/219 6 PM Bonsai Society -Parish Hall 7 PM Meditation Grp -Chapel, #218	<b>21 *</b> 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist -Chapel 5:45 PM <i>Feed My Starving Children-Coon Rapids</i> 6:15 PM Bell Choir-Gallery 6:15 PM Healing Eucharist—Chapel 6:30 PM Roseville AA—Gathering Room/#218 7:15 PM Parish Choir—Music Room	<b>22</b> 10-11:30 AM Bible Study-Gathering Room	<b>23</b> <b>Office Closed</b>  	<b>24 *</b> <b>Christmas Eve</b> 8-10 AM OA-Gathering Room  4:30 PM <b>Holy Eucharist</b>  11 PM <b>Choral Holy Eucharist</b>
<b>25</b> <b>Christmas Day</b>  10:30 AM Holy Eucharist  	<b>26</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>27 *</b> 9:45 AM OA-#218/219 6 PM Scottish Dance -Parish Hall 7 PM Meditation Grp -Chapel, #218	<b>28 *</b> 9:30 AM Holy Eucharist -Chapel 6:15 PM Bell Choir-Gallery 6:15 PM Healing Eucharist—Chapel 6:30 PM Roseville AA—Gathering Room/#218 7 PM Confirmation-Library 7:15 PM Parish Choir—Music Room	<b>29</b> 9 AM <b>TRAVELER Mailing Crew-#218/219</b> 10-11:30 AM Bible Study-Gathering Room	<b>30</b>	<b>31 *</b> 8-10 AM OA-Gathering Room 10-11:30 AM CLA-#218/Library  



# Footprints - December 2011



Thank you to everyone who participated in the Christmas Card Contest. All entries are displayed on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. Congratulations to Justene Wittmann, whose drawing was chosen for the St. Christopher's Christmas card.



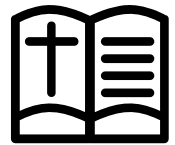
### Adopt A Family

Please take an ornament (or two, or three) from the tree in the Lower Narthex. Place the wrapped gift – **with ornament attached** – next to the tree by Sunday, December 13th.

### Festival of Lessons and Carols

An intergenerational event

Sunday, December 18, 4pm



Child Care Provided



Feeding God's children hungry in body and spirit.

St. Christopher's members of all ages will meet at the FMSC Coon Rapids location on Wednesday, December 21 at 5:45 to hand pack meals specifically formulated for malnourished children, which will be shipped to nearly 70 countries around the world. You can help with this mission by donating time and/or money. On average, each person will pack 216 meals in one session. At 24¢ per meal, that adds up to \$52 per person volunteering. If you are unable to join us at the site (or even if you are!) please consider making a monetary donation to this cause. Donation boxes will be available at coffee hour.



### Christmas Grows Closer

Lord Jesus, Light of the world,  
John told the people to prepare  
For you when you were very near.  
As Christmas grows closer day by day,  
Help us to be ready to welcome you now.

Amen

## MUSIC NOTES



KARLA  
STANDRIDGE  
COLE

MUSIC  
DIRECTOR

In the rush and bustle of Advent, we try to carve out a little quiet for the waiting, the contemplation. It's difficult for anyone who

lives in the modern world. Despite your best efforts to the contrary, a trip to Target or the mall can suddenly put you in that "Christmas spirit" that our culture has conspired to foist on us – the one with aluminum Christmas trees and parties every weekend and dozens of different kinds of cookies for the cookie swap. And as hard as it is for all of you, it's especially difficult for those of us who make music in the church. We're in a bi-polar swing from Advent on Sundays to Christmas on Wednesdays – and *Muzak* carols everywhere else we go.



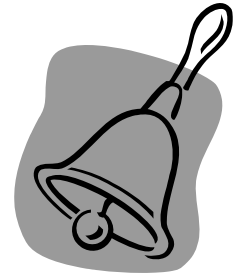
But we wouldn't do it if we didn't love it, and making music with friends is a joy like no other. We relish the beautiful music, the creative challenge, the camaraderie. And we want to share. We invite you to join us for the Advent and Christmas seasons. And similarly, January is a great time to try us out. You can come to choir or handbell choir for a few weeks and see if you enjoy it as much as we do, and if it will fit into your life. So if you thought you were too busy in December, perhaps you'll come and join us in the bleak midwinter. It may look crowded up there, but there's always room for you. Remember that the choir's current placement is an intermediary stop on the road to whatever our chancel will eventually be. As a result, we were packed like sardines at the Celebration of New Ministry, but it was really fun!

In the meantime, I hope you'll make time for our annual all-parish **Festival of Lessons and Carols**. On **December 18<sup>th</sup> at 4:00**, the Archangels will sing the opening strains of "Once in Royal David's City" and the choir and congregation will swell the throng and we'll sing and celebrate our



Savior's birth in this most Anglican tradition. Someone recently commented to me that the Lessons and Carols service was a lovely time to celebrate Christmas with St. Christopher's friends, because by the time Christmas actually rolls around, many have gone off to visit relatives. I think you'll be moved by the beautiful music and familiar readings and will enjoy a Christmas celebration with your St. Christopher's friends, too. Come and join us!

Karla



## Jottings from the Junior Warden

*Verwunderlich!* We've been braising red cabbage, setting the tables, and welcoming guests to our German dinner. But who is this "we," anyway? Sometimes it's *you*; sometimes it's *me*; oftentimes it's *that crew* of veterans.

We are blessed by a wonderful, cheerful, dependable crew, who take on so many tasks, who step in without being asked, who give so generously of their time and talent. I am grateful for them! When you have the opportunity, please thank them.

Even better, please consider them models and pitch in on the tasks and projects that support this parish family. Please prayerfully consider where your time and talents could help—whether serving with children's ministries or serving coffee. Other ways to act as Christ's hands and feet in the world might be serving the poor or serving the planet.

Thank you for serving. Thank you for sharing. We gather at St. Christopher's for worship and also find this a place to share joy and troubles, care and friendships—and apple strudel.

*Meet Christ. Be Christ.*  
--Allison Jensen

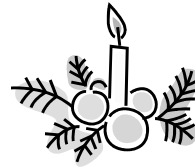
# Thanksgivings and Celebrations

## December Birthdays:

- 2 Karen Hanna  
Tom Maier
- 3 Jean Darnell  
Amelia Huntley  
Joel Norton
- 4 Jim Haskins
- 5 Jocelyn Bayer  
Bill Cross
- 8 Peggy McCauley
- 9 Ernie Miel
- 10 Bob Haines  
Barbara Noble
- 11 Christian Favazza  
Tom Linder

- 12 Jade Koenen  
Mende Morris  
Ashley Seth
- 13 Barbara Swanson
- 16 Marge Marah
- 18 Megan Hanna  
Jerry McCauley  
Judy Miller
- 22 Kelsey Hoium
- 23 Michael Mann
- 24 Adora Miller
- 26 Janet Harrison  
Clara Kavaney
- 29 Noel Field  
Merilyn Rajcic  
Ebie Richards

- 30 Sally Brown  
Christopher Haack



“Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be...”

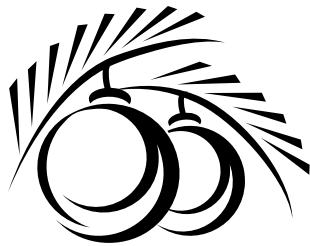
*BCP p. 830*

## December Anniversaries:

- 6 John and Evelynne Thompson
- 20 Eugene and Sue Ellen Zurn
- 23 Roberta and Robert Allen
- 27 Jerry and Peggy McCauley
- 29 Mike Bagstad and Sue Triebenbach

Send your blessings upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace.

*BCP p. 431*



**Over 55 Club**

**December 8**

**Beginning at 5:30 PM**

Bring Hors d' oeuvres or Appetizers to share, and join us for great fellowship and singing and music by our own parish choir!

**Best Wishes to our parish family  
for a Holy and Surprising  
Advent, and a Light-filled  
Christmas!**



*-St. Christopher's Staff*

*Fr. John*

*Rev. Wanda*

*Deacon Janet*

*Ruth*

*Tom*

*Karla*

*Marion*

*Amanda*

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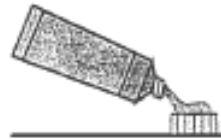
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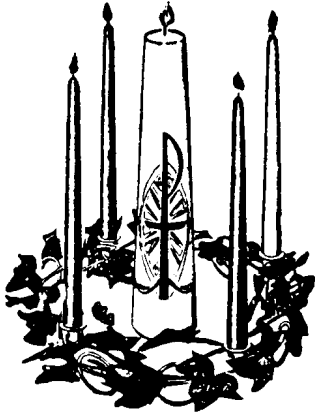
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*December*

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 The Rev. John F. Dwyer, Rector 14  
 The Rev. Wanda Copeland, Associate Rector 13  
 The Rev. Janet MacNally, Deacon 22  
 Ruth Thillen, Parish Administrator 10  
 Karla Cole, Director of Music 12  
 Marion Hunner, Children's Ministries Dir. 23  
**DO YOU HAVE PRAYER REQUESTS?** Please call the office or leave a note in the Deacon's mailbox. The name(s) you submit will be placed on the next Sunday prayer list.  
**DO YOU NEED PASTORAL CARE?** If you experience illness, hospitalization, death in the family, or other family crisis, call the church office 651-633-4589; or the after-hours emergency number at 651-633-4598.  
**DEADLINES**  
 Traveler FIRST Monday of preceding month  
 Weekly Christ-o-Gram TUESDAY of each week  
 Your submissions to these publications are welcome!

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**A Service of Lessons and Carols**  
 December 18, 4 PM  
**Christmas Eve Services**  
 December 24, 4:30 and 11 PM  
**Christmas Day Service**  
 December 25, 10:30 AM  
*See inside for details!*

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