



December 2015
Volume 18, Issue 12

Church of the Holy Spirit

News and Notes

ADVOCATIONS—DECEMBER 2015

Dear Friends,

The Season of Advent is a time of both realism and hope, a time to recognize that we live in a world of "**not-yet**," a world that is not yet fully the Kingdom of God that Jesus saw initially breaking in within his lifetime. But what that also says to me - is that God is not through with us yet, that all appearances to the contrary, God does care about this creation, and that God is faithful and will, in God's good time, bring all created things to perfection.

So what does Advent have to say to us? First, it says to me, that I don't have to worry about those dire predictions in the gospel reading about the world's end, because God is in charge. But more than that, it tells me that **I** don't have to be perfect, and that I don't have to despair that we are not yet a perfect world. That, too, is in God's hands. My task, the world's task, as we heard from Jesus, is to "*stand up*" and "*raise your heads*," looking forward and being ready for the new things that God has in store for us.

The real message of Advent, for me, is that God **has** come in our past, and God **will** come in our future, but **also** that God is in our present. Therefore, take an honest look at yourself and cast away whatever it is that keeps you from recognizing that God is here with us in all that we do right now.

The strange, countercultural season of Advent is a time for both waiting **and** action: not in fear of our personal demise; not in dread or foreboding over the world's end; and also not in despair over humanity's failure to create a world with justice and peace; but rather a time for standing up and being awake to the presence of God in our midst.

Advent, I believe, can be for us a time of joyful expectation, but not of passive inaction. For Advent comes with the message that the one who made all that is can and will make us, and all things, new.

Join us this year in celebration of Advent and Christmas! You'll find the services listed inside this newsletter.

Randy Dales



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Church of the Holy Spirit

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Joan Bowers

Junior Warden (property issues)

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ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES

December 20: *Advent Lessons and Carols*, during 9:30 a.m. service

Christmas Eve: 5:30 and 10:00 p.m. services

Christmas Day: no service

December 27: *Blessing of Toys*, during 9:30 service. Bring a toy to be blessed!

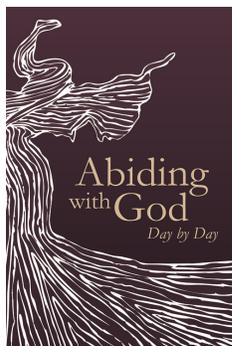
CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Would you like to purchase poinsettias to help us decorate for Christmas? You may dedicate it with a message in memory of a loved one or to bring thanksgiving for a special blessing. Flowers are \$15 each and orders must be in to Jane Parziale no later than Sunday, December 20. Fill out the order form at the back of the church, or contact us at the office. Thank you!



LOCAL GIFT IDEAS FROM PARISHIONERS

Many thanks to all who came to support the artistic endeavors of our admin, Melissa Greenawalt last month. So far, with your help, she is donating \$29 to CHS! She'll be back on December 20 as well, in case you missed her this week or need last minute stocking-stuffers. Thank you for shopping locally this year! If you'd like to purchase items before the 20th, please contact her at melissadilla2@gmail.com.

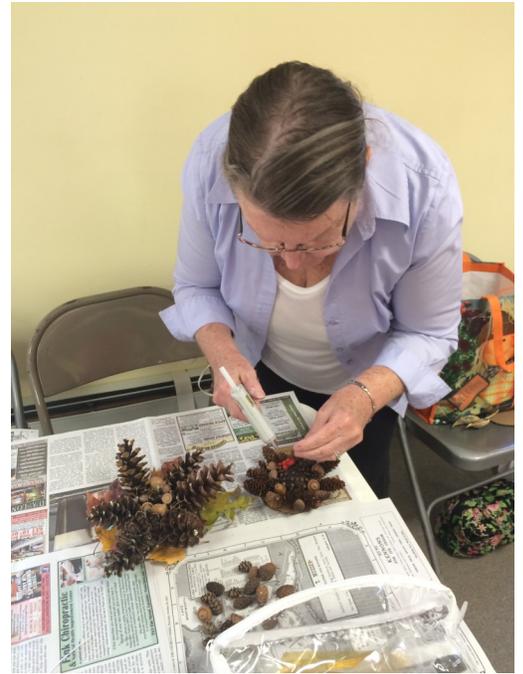


For the second year, Joan Bowers has 12 meditations published in 2016 Forward Movement Daybook, *Abiding with God Day by Day*, which is organized around 12 spiritual practices and has a meditation for each day of the year. If anyone is interested in getting a copy, please let Joan know as soon as possible, and she can get copies for half price (\$9.00). It's perfect for a small gift!

ECW NEWS AND YANKEE SWAP

At our November meeting, we welcomed Priest in Charge Rev. Randy Dales and two members of Trinity Church, Meredith. Members continued discussion regarding replacing the carpet and several weather damaged ceiling tiles in Griswold Hall. We've received cost estimates and information from one source, with more to follow this month before we make our final decision. We also discussed altar flowers were also discussed, with opinions and suggestions from members present. Further discussion to follow with Altar Guild members. We hope you'll enjoy the fall decorations for the altar; many thanks to Barbara Brooks for getting them to church this Sunday. After the business meeting, several women worked on an easy holiday crafts project made from pinecones.

As this issue went to press, we were celebrating our annual Yankee Swap; stay tuned for an update next month!



UTO OFFERING UPDATE

Thanks to everyone who brought their UTO boxes to church on November 22; so far, we raised \$83.30. Remember: our change changes lives!

If you need another box for next time, there are always boxes at the back of the church!



NEW TIME FOR VESTRY MEETINGS

The Vestry will hold its monthly meeting on the second Sunday of the month, immediately following the 9:30 service in the back of the church. The next meeting will be on **December 13**. All parishioners are welcome to attend. If you have something you wish to have included in the agenda, please speak to Joan Bowers or to Randy.

COMMUNITY CLOSET HOLIDAY BASKETS

The Plymouth Community Closet is looking for volunteers the weekend of December 18-19 at Holy Trinity Parish Hall to help bake for, pack, and deliver Christmas baskets to needy families in the area. If you're available, either sign up at the back of the church, or call Sarah Sutherland, Chair of the project, at 254-5559.

LOOKING FOR DECEMBER VOLUNTEER FOR THE POSTCARD MINISTRY

We are looking for a volunteer or two for postcard ministry for December and February. It's easy and fun! Writing birthday, anniversary, and thinking of you cards would be a great family project! To volunteer, please contact Kathy Lennox at 536-4779. Also, several parishioners have brought in cards and postcards; we so appreciate it! Do you have extra blank cards lying around? Please consider donating them to the Postcard Ministry!

***A PRAYER FOR THE SEASON:** O God, you are always creating us anew: Pour your blessing on this congregation of the Church of the Holy Spirit. Lead us in the path you would have us walk. Show us how to grow in love and honesty as a community of faith. And reveal to us the ways you are calling us to serve, in this place and at this time; that whatever we build may be built to your glory alone. Amen.*

DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday!!

Nathan Hoch
Stephen Buttolph
Russ Carlisle
Susan Fogleman
Paul Wilson
Stephen Lambert
Jane Keller
Matt Lynch
Nick Sevigny

Happy Anniversary!!

Jurgen & Lilah Piper
Albert & Brenda Conrad
Wavell & Susan Fogleman

CALLING ALL BAKERS FOR FOOD FOR FINALS

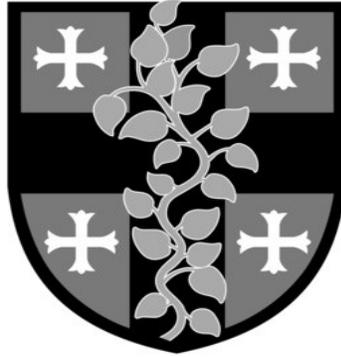


Food for Finals is coming up soon, a time when Plymouth State's Catholic and United Campus Ministries deliver comfort food in the form of homemade goodies to all residence halls and Centre Lodge the first night of Finals Week. If you are

interested in providing batches of cookies or squares, please contact the office with your name, phone number, what you will bake and the amount, or fill out the form at the back of the church. You may drop off baked goods at the Reflection & Spiritual Care Center between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 12. The Center is located on Highland St., across from Lamson Library, the next building up from Citizens Bank.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

The pledges keep coming in! Thanks to those who have acted so quickly, we are off to a great start; we have 37 pledges totaling \$74,404! If you haven't received a pledge card and would like to pledge, there are cards available at the back of the church. You may also contact us at the office, and we'll mail one to you. As we have done a number of years ago, we hope to offer every household in the parish a chance to speak by phone or to be visited by other members of the parish in order to have a conversation about this community of faith and why it is so important in our lives. Please be a part of the community of CHS - every person helps!



“Tending the Vine” in the
Plymouth area

GOT EXTRA CALENDARS?

Have you been getting extra calendars from businesses and charities? If you can't use them, please don't throw them out! Bring them to church and we'll pass them on to the Seafarers' Chaplaincy in Portsmouth, which goes aboard the international cargo ships bringing help and human contact to the sailors who work on them. The chaplaincy collects calendars to distribute to sailors every year.

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



Are you Safe Church trained? We are urgently looking for nursery volunteers, so if you're available for any date, please contact Melissa at the office!



COMING UP SOON!

December 3: ECW Meeting, 12 p.m., Griswold Hall

December 13: Vestry Meeting, following 9:30 service, 170 Main St.

December 20: Advent Lessons & Carols: during 9:30 service, 170 Main St.

December 20: Deadline for poinsettia orders

December 24: Christmas Eve Services, 5:30 and 10:00 p.m., 170 Main St.

December 27: Blessing of Toys, during 9:30 service, 170 Main St.

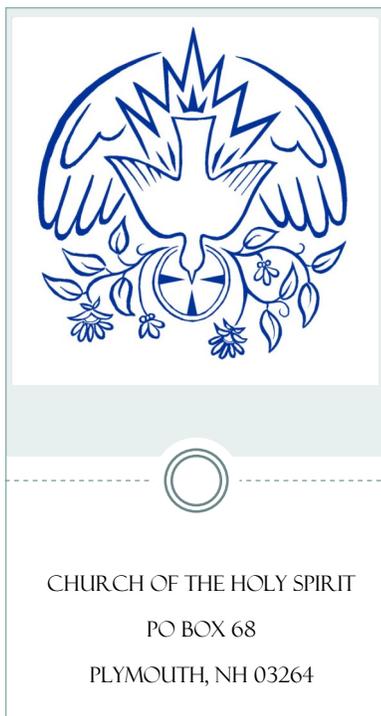
REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

AA: 7:30 a.m. Mon-Fri, Griswold Hall

AA (mens' 50+ group): 5 p.m. Mon, Griswold Hall

AA (womens' group): 7 p.m. Wed, Griswold Hall

Al-Anon: 7 p.m. Mon-Griswold Hall



PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE