



December 2018



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

The Tartan

A Message to the Parish

by Fr. Martin Yabroff



This is no time for a child to be born,
With the earth betrayed by war & hate
And a comet slashing the sky to warn
That time runs out & the sun burns late.

That was no time for a child to be born,
In a land in the crushing grip of Rome;
Honor & truth were trampled to scorn—
Yet here did the Savior make His home.

When is the time for love to be born?
The inn is full on the planet earth,
And by a comet the sky is torn—
Yet Love still takes the risk of birth.

by Madeleine L'Engle

Dear Friends,

We are beginning to the holy season of Advent, when in the midst of all the tumult of life and this world, we prepare to receive God's love anew. We shall be continuing to explore the Way of Love proposed by our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry to guide us in following Jesus. There is in this Tartan an Advent Calendar with a practice for each day – to turn, learn, pray, worship, bless, go, and rest in this special Advent season. Mother Meghan will be leading an informal discussion after each Sunday service during Advent on Journeying the Way of Love. I also invite you to read the Gospel of Luke, in a modern translation this month – read for the overall sense of what Jesus cares about and what his life and faith were like. We will also have an Advent Devotional Booklet to pick up with reflections from Henri Nouwen – share one with a friend or neighbor.

This is a short Advent season – three weeks and a day – so pay attention, be alert, for it is a pregnant season. It is also a gift, to receive and marvel at. Advent Blessings to you!

Yours in Christ,

Martin

Christmas Services

Greening of the Church
Sunday, Dec. 16 after the 10 am service

December 24, 4:00 pm
Family Christmas Eve Service with Children's Pageant

Traditional Christmas Communion Service
Beginning with half an hour of special music – 9:30 pm

Christmas Day Communion with Carols
(Fr. Ed preaching) – 10:00 am



From our Curate—by *The Rev. Meghan Mullarkey*

In December we will live into the season of Advent as a church community. Advent holds a lot of meaning for me and is a season that I look forward to arriving every year. Advent teaches us about waiting and preparing all the while calling us to be present to the moment. Advent means coming, and it is a time that we hope for the coming of Christ - both for his birth at Christmas and for his second coming when he will make all things right. In the mean time we wait, we prepare, and we stay present to the light that overcomes the darkness.

During the month of Advent I will be facilitating a conversation after BOTH services around the season of Advent using the Gospel of Luke and the Way of Love as it is incorporated into the Advent calendars that St. Andrew's will provide. This will be a casual time to meet and discuss how as a community we are discovering the spiritual depth that Advent has to offer. It will be a time to encourage one another and give one another ideas about how this season can speak into our lives and how we can discover God within it.

Come to share, come to learn, or just come to hear about how others have been impacted by the season of Advent!

Advent Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>2 Worship Advent 1 Pay attention during worship. What part of the gathering fills your heart?</p>	<p>3 Go Take time to listen closely to someone you may not ordinarily take seriously, or who has a different perspective than you.</p>	<p>4 Learn Read Luke 1:26-38. What is God calling you to say "yes" to?</p>	<p>5 Pray Set a timer for five minutes. Silently repeat this prayer: "Come, Lord Jesus."</p>	<p>6 Bless In the spirit of St. Nicholas, practice a random act of kindness today.</p>	<p>7 Turn Reflect: Where have I fallen short this week? How can I make amends?</p>	<p>8 Rest Do something that replenishes your spirit.</p>
<p>9 Worship Advent 2 What word or words from worship today have found a home in your heart? Share these words with someone close to you.</p>	<p>10 Go Choose to take a different route to work, to school, or to play today. Who or what did you encounter differently?</p>	<p>11 Learn Read Luke 1:39-56. Tell a friend or family member about your practice of the Way of Love and invite them to join you.</p>	<p>12 Pray Join a family member or friend for 10 minutes for prayer, either in person or by phone.</p>	<p>13 Bless Call or write a family member with whom you desire a closer relationship. Tell them what they mean to you. Ask how you can pray for them.</p>	<p>14 Turn Turn away from the busyness of the week and turn toward someone who gives you life or to whom you give life. Give thanks.</p>	<p>15 Rest On this day of rest, pause and breathe deeply with a friend or family member. Give thanks for the restorative power of love.</p>
<p>16 Worship Advent 3 Pray for each person as they receive communion. Imagine who you would like to see at church next week. Invite them to church today.</p>	<p>17 Go Read or watch your local news. Where is reconciliation needed? Pray for healing.</p>	<p>18 Learn Read Luke 1:57-80. Name three ways your faith community challenges you to practice the Way of Love. Share your list with a member of your community.</p>	<p>19 Pray Gather with your faith community for a short time of prayer today.</p>	<p>20 Bless Identify a blessing you have that you could give away. Then share this blessing with your church, a local ministry, or your community.</p>	<p>21 Turn Read the Confession (BCP 352) in an unfamiliar location - in the park, at work, at school, or on the bus. What does the prayer inspire you to turn from in that location? What does it inspire you to turn toward?</p>	<p>22 Rest How can you or your community open yourselves to people in need of rest and relief from overwork? From oppression? From violence?</p>
<p>23 Worship Advent 4 Linger before leaving worship today. Ask God to prepare and send you to go out into the world to witness to God's love.</p>	<p>24 Go Notice and pray for all those who, like Mary and Joseph, are in need of shelter.</p>	<p>25 Learn Christmas Day Read Luke 1-2. Give thanks for the birth of the Christ-child. Pray that you may follow Christ Jesus on his Way of Love with your whole heart, mind, body and spirit.</p>				

Bishop's Conference—by Kristina Younger

I was honored to attend the *Bishop's Leadership Conference: Size to Size, Strength to Strength* the first part of October at Fort Worden State Park in Port Townsend. If YOU ever have a chance to attend a Diocesan training conference – take it. Diocesan conferences are always well run with good subjects, many that can be transferred to other organizations you may belong. It is also interesting to learn what other churches are facing in the various parishes throughout western Washington.

I attended sessions on “right-sizing one’s church,” marketing a church/non-profit, and stewardship. A few key points:

In regards to size, there is not a “right” or “wrong” size for a church. It is much like a musical group. A duet can make great music as well as a large orchestra; conversely, they both can also create bad music (I have attended school band concerts). Churches are much the same – a small church can function well and do great things and a large church can, too. However, they are very different. For example, in a large church, communication can be difficult and no one person knows everyone; while in a smaller church people often know most of all the parishioners.

On the topic of stewardship, the idea of percentage giving (i.e. tithing) as a worship practice was discussed.

For more information about the conference, feel free to visit the Diocesan website or this [Link to Bishop's Conference](#).

Celtic Faire Dinner and Auction—by Kristina Younger



Diolch yn fawr iawn (thank you very much in Welsh Gaelic) for another successful Celtic Faire dinner and auction. The 88 people who attended enjoyed a delicious Scottish feast with haggis, lamb, best mashed rutabagas and delicious desserts. The auction raised roughly \$5,000 to assist the parish with its mission.

Highlights of the evening included Tom Egnew’s annual colorful Robert Burn’s ‘Address to a Haggis’ after the haggis was piped in; fierce bidding for a vast array of auction items (thanks to all who donated). During dinner, we were serenaded with bagpipes and drums by Stewart Neveling and Riley Girard.

The dinner and auction could not have been a success without all who assisted – the donors, set up crew, the bidder and those who worked the event.

In particular, the following businesses:

Chef’s Cut Meats
 Forza Coffee
 Griot’s Garage
 Sapporo’s Steakhouse (UP)
 Starbucks – 2 UP locations
 Symbols Spa’lon
 Trader Joe’s (UP)

Be sure when you visit these businesses to thank them for their donations!

Organ Concert Series—by Naomi Shiga, Music Director

Our next concert will be at 3 p.m. on Sunday, December 2. Please invite your friends and family to a lovely afternoon of music and reception. Our artist, Gregory Crowell will play German baroque masters, Muffat, Krieger, and J.S.Bach as well as the contemporary composer James Woodman. Come and enjoy the beautiful Advent sound of our organ.

Bishop's Conference—by Linda Brice

What a great experience attending the Bishop's Conference at Port Townsend was for me. It was held at Fort Warden and if you have never visited this area—it is something to behold. To quote one of their brochures: *Sitting high on a bluff overlooking the deep blue intersection of the Straits of Juan De Fuca and Admiralty Inlet sits beautiful historic Fort Worden. Built in 1897, the fort became a part of the Washington State park system in 1955 and now encompasses 434-acres. The park has about two miles of shoreline, historic buildings replicating life in the early 1900's, as well as local schools and businesses. With dormitories and former officer's homes available for rent, there is plenty of room for everyone. There are actually a total of 456 bedrooms available for use!* Meghan, Cascade and I were housed in the large Quartermaster's home.

I attended several workshops including:

Developing a Spiritual Culture in Your Congregation

Going Big by Staying Small

How to start a Small Group Ministry

Local Church: High Impact: Connection + Community

Two of the workshops: *Developing a Spiritual Culture* (DSC) and *Local Church: High Impact* were most informative for me.

The presenter in (DSC) likened church to a gym—albeit a holy gym. You go to the gym on a regular basis to strengthen your body and practice over and over the exercises that will improve your health and make you strong. The church is like that: you go to church to learn what practices/disciplines will strengthen your life in Christ, and then you go home and follow those spiritual disciplines to strengthen your spiritual body.

In the *Local Church* workshop we learned that if we want to make an impact in our local community we need to find out what the community needs and then plan accordingly. To learn about our community attending a community organization (like West Slope Neighborhood Coalition) or talk to librarians. Both of those sources are good ways to find out what your community needs.

There were over 500 people rotating through the weeks conference, each church staying for two days. It was a joy to meet people from around the diocese and hear various exciting programs they have as well as being able to share what St. Andrew's is doing.

This was the first time this type of conference was held in our diocese, and I hope if it is offered again, more people will take advantage of this wonderful experience.

Vestry Viewpoint—by Don Ramage, Jr. Warden

The story of the sisters Mary and Martha from the gospel of Luke has always resonated with me. In this story, Martha, busy with all the work of feeding and entertaining a house full of guests, grew annoyed at her sister, Mary, who, rather than helping, sat at Jesus' feet, listening raptly to Jesus' words.

Some years ago, I was happy to attend Sunday services and simply let the beautiful liturgy wash over me. In a large church, too, it was easy to slip in and out fairly anonymously and without many involvements beyond attending services. I happily labeled myself as one of the contemplative Mary category. In one of Father Martin's past sermons, after mentioning that we need both Marthas and Marys in the church, he asked for a raise of hands of those who identified as Marthas and those who identified as Marys. When over two thirds of our congregation raised their hands to identify as Marthas, I recognized that this was what made St. Andrew's such a robustly warm and welcoming place. And perhaps a step above the Biblical Martha, these Marthas are not just active in service, but believe in service with a higher purpose. For those who by nature lean towards the Mary side of the spectrum, it can be beneficial to be around a lot of Marthas and get a nudge to move from the edges to the center, and find a Christian life that is even richer than previously imagined. After all, Mary was at the feet of Jesus, not observing from a corner.

Whether you are by nature a Mary or a Martha, a newcomer, or long-term member, there are plentiful opportunities to get involved at St. Andrew's. A few ministries where helping hands would currently be welcome include Altar Guild, Building and Grounds, Finance, help with coffee hour, Sunday School, and also the Vestry. The approaching new year might be the perfect time to get involved in something new.

For years, I thought that the Vestry must be something like an altar guild, since Vestry does look like the word *vestment*. I eventually learned that the Vestry is a team of parishioners who work alongside the rector to oversee a variety of matters of the parish. I've enjoyed being part of the Vestry for the opportunity to better know so many members, and I've gained an appreciation for the behind-the-scenes efforts and attention to detail of many parishioners for the services and activities that take place each week.

In our Vestry, we are looking at the upcoming year and making decisions about where to focus our time, talent, and resources. Sometimes the path forward is not the simplest or safest, but the path on which we move forward with faith in a higher purpose.

The members of the Vestry look forward to meeting with everyone at our next annual meeting as we discuss and discern together, and walk forward in faith.

Daughters of the King in India—by Berna Moody

Did you know that the Daughters of the King has chapters in 21 countries and at least 5,000 international daughters? When traveling abroad we are encouraged to contact the national office and see if they want us to bring handbooks, crosses or literature to a chapter. We also have the opportunity to have prayer partners in other countries. Last year our group made a request for a prayer partner, we hoped it would be an interesting and rewarding relationship. We were matched with the Daughters of Hope in Bankura.

Bankura is a district in West Bengal, India. Our contact person gave us some of the following information: In all of India only 2.3% of the people are Christian. In West Bengal the population is 95.4 million, and is about the size of Indiana. Less than 1% are Christian.

There is a child development center that the Daughters of Hope are involved with. One of the members, Paramita, is married to Reverend Das, together they run the center. Children of all faiths can come there for education and get help with homework and dance practice. There is also a hostile there, which is basically an orphanage. Most of the children in the orphanage are girls. Sadly, sex trafficking is a big problem in the area. Girls are most at risk. The school is one of 6 around the diocese, providing housing to a total of 350 children.

Last month two of the daughters from the national office, Grace and Judy, visited West Bengal and spoke at a woman's conference. The Daughters of Hope attended and Grace sent me a photo of them. I had so many questions about the trip that she kindly sent me the following letter:

There are two adult chapters in India, the Women of Faith in Durgapur city, and the Women of Hope in Bankura, a little distance away from Durgapur. There used to be a leper's colony at Bankura, and now there is a church- supported hospital and hostel/ school for kids, as well as a church. I met the women in the photo, and I think our presence and the presentation at the conference encouraged them. It may also help them to have DOK materials in Bengali. Bishop Probal Kanto Dutta has assured us he will get the diocesan communications office to get some basic material translated.

Several of the original members of the Daughters of Faith have moved elsewhere in the diocese. Two are some distance to the north of Durgapur, in Purulia, and I encouraged them to find a third woman to join them so they can have a third chapter up there. Also the chaplain, Revd. Swagata, is now in another city, and perhaps a new chapter could be formed there.

They also now have an official Junior Daughters chapter there in the Durgapur compound. We had the privilege of giving crosses to some of the 11 Juniors who were admitted, along with two new senior Daughters. All the Juniors are students at the school there.

We did not go out of Durgapur, but we met with all these women and many more because they were having an annual women's conference on the diocesan premises, jointly sponsored by the Durgapur Women's Christian Fellowship and the Daughters of the King. Part of the purpose of having us speak was to interest a larger number of women in forming chapters.

The president of the Women of Faith, Rita Dutta, is moving to a neighboring diocese because her husband has been elected bishop of Kolkata. She wants to start a chapter there. So you can see that there are a lot of changes happening, and they need good leadership. Pray that the members of the original chapter succeed in forming new chapters in their new locations, and that the chapter at Bankura grows.

If you feel moved to do so, please help us pray for the growth of the chapters, for the Daughters of Hope, for the protection of children and the empowerment of women and girls. And for the spread of God's Kingdom in West Bengal and all of India.



If you asked me what my favorite holiday or time of year is, chances are I will say Christmas. And it's true that I do love it, though there have been years when that wasn't the case. Perhaps it's my favorite partly because some years I struggle with finding my love for it. Sometimes I find myself drawn into discontentment, wishing my life was more magical, like the films we watch this time of year. Sometimes the traditions seem dry and repetitive and I grapple to connect with the deeper meaning. Sometimes the messages of cheer and joy seem almost aggressive in wanting me to feel a way that I do not; sometimes my heart is heavy and I am grieving. While we would all probably like to say that Christmas is the "most wonderful time of the year," the truth is, it can also be a very hard time of year for people.

Several years ago, I discovered that some churches hold what is often called a "Blue Christmas" service (or sometimes a "Longest Night" service on winter solstice). The purpose of such a service is to create space for those who are grieving in the midst of all the joyousness. Such a thing might seem better suited to a season like Lent; it might sound strange during a season where we continually wish for each other to be merry, jolly, and happy. Even in church we encourage each other to rejoice, particularly in song. A service like this provides a place for heavy-hearted people to acknowledge their sorrow and be met there, in order to move closer to the joy.

Whether or not such a service is available, it is important to acknowledge that not everyone is in a place to receive tidings of joy—which is why we can start instead with tidings of comfort. The idea of comfort in times of sadness is not separate from the season of Christmas, nor indeed separate from the very message of scripture. It is woven into the very story itself; the theme of our grief being heard by God, Him meeting us there, and us rejoicing in response can be found throughout the Bible. It is in the Christmas story, too: Jesus' birth was a long-awaited answer to many grieving prayers, and it is the story of God becoming one of us in order to be among us.

So if you're struggling with how you feel this season, it's okay. Take heart. Don't bottle it up, don't try to fake it, and don't give up. Create space to let yourself grieve and let yourself feel whatever is on your heart. And then: remember that Christmas is about the arrival of Emmanuel—God with us. The savior that came into the world to be with us is one who knows grieving, knows pain, knows struggle. He will sit with you in this season, even if you don't feel merry.

Is there a risk of transmission of infections by using the common communion cup?—by Cyndi Wolfer, RN, MSN Parish Nurse

During the winter months the risk for contracting an illness is increased since we spend more time indoors. Some parishioners have asked me if they can become sick after taking communion using the common communion cup. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) often gets inquires regarding the transmission of infection by using the common communion cup. They state that while there is a theoretic risk of transmitting infectious diseases by using a common communion cup the risk is so small that it is undetectable. “.Appropriate safeguards – that is, wiping the interior and exterior rim between communicants, use of care to rotate the cloth during use, and use of a clean cloth for each service – would further diminish this risk. In addition, churches may wish to consider advising their congregations that sharing the communion cup is discouraged if a person has an active respiratory infection (i.e., cold or flu) or moist or open sores on their lips.” (CDC)

Overall, the present use of the common communion cup follows the practice of the universal church from its beginnings until well into the middle ages, and poses no real hazard to health in normal circumstances.

Sources:

Center for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov)

The Anglican Church of Canada (www.anglican.ca)

SAVE THE DATE!!

St. John's in Gig Harbor is hosting the 93rd Annual Episcopal **Women's Epiphany Luncheon** on Saturday, January 5, 2019, from 11am – 2pm. This event will start with Eucharist followed by lunch with Epiphany program (and cake!) including professional genealogist, Claudia Breland. Please RSVP by Dec. 31 since seating will be limited. RSVP and additional information needs to Linda Rines, LLRines123@gmail.com or 443-534-8791.



December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 7am SA
2 8/10 Holy Eucharist 3pm Organ Concert	3 1pm Bible Study 6pm AA Business Meeting 7:30pm Men's Al-Anon	4 10:30am AA 7:45pm AA	5 Noon Eucharist	6 7pm Glory and Praise Choir	7	8 7am SA
9 8/10 Holy Eucharist 8:45-9:45am Parish Nurse on Duty Outreach Sale	10 1pm Bible Study 7:30pm Men's Al-Anon	11 10:30am AA 7:45pm AA	12 Noon Eucharist	13 1pm Finance 7pm Choir	14 10am Weaver's Guild 5-8pm Piano Recital	15 7am SA
16 8/10 Holy Eucharist Greening of the church 11:30am DOK 11:30am Outreach Committee	17 1pm Bible Study 7:30pm Men's Al-Anon	18 10:30am AA 7pm Vestry 7:45pm AA	19 Noon Eucharist	20 7pm Choir	21	22 7am SA 3-6pm Youth Group wrapping gifts
23 8/10 Holy Eucharist	24 NO Bible Study 7:30pm Men's Al-Anon 4pm Family Service 9:30pm Traditional Service	25 10am Christmas Day Service 10:30am AA 7:45pm AA	26 Noon Eucharist Office Closed 5-7pm Jackson St. Food Bank 5-7:15pm Youth Group	27	28	29 7am SA
30 8/10 Holy Eucharist	31 Office Closed NO Bible Study 7:30pm Men's Al-Anon					

December Birthdays

- 2 Mary Long
Hayley Adams
- 4 Tom Egnew
- 6 Margaret Moravec
- 7 Hieu Egnew
- 8 Steve Parsons
- 11 Gretchen Liebenberg
- 16 Kyle Girard
Judy Schlieve
- 20 Riley Girard
- 27 Janet Taft



December Anniversaries

- 12-17-1970 Stan & Gretchen Liebenberg
- 12-18-1965 Steven & Virginia Gaub
- 12-16 Ellen & Tino Maccarrone

CHANGES AND CORRECTIONS

Contact the Church Office

Kit Proctor—new email

Linda Rines—new address

Memories from Christmas past



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to know Christ and to make Christ known.

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Don Ramage, Junior Warden

Ken Rhodes

Jessica Richards

Chuck Roberts

Susan Rowe, Senior Warden

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