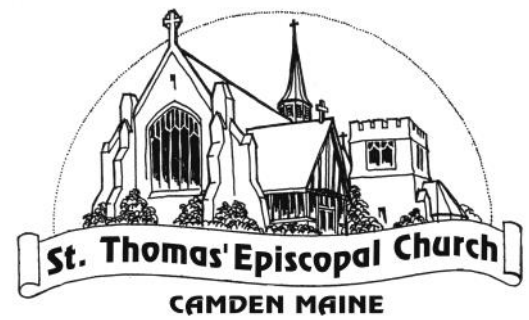


# S T . T H O M A S ' Tidings

Sunday, December 3, 2017  
The First Sunday in Advent

We welcome all who enter these doors, especially those who enter for the first time or after a long absence. May this place be like home to you! All are welcome to receive the Bread and Wine at this altar. Members of our prayer ministry are available in the Chapel during Holy Communion to pray with you about any need or thanksgiving.



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## Advent Forum

Our Advent Forum begins this morning following the 9:30 service. It is entitled *The Way, the Truth and the Life*. Brother Donovan, Rev. Lisa and Deacon Rosalee will each take a class to talk about what Way, Truth and Life mean to us in context of our Christian faith. Then the discussion begins! Don't miss this chance to 'Question in Faith'. We'll meet in the Guild Room.

## Service at Quarry Hill

Do you have a ministry with the elders of our community? This afternoon we will be taking Eucharist, music and friendship to the good people of Quarry Hill. The service begins at 1:30 pm. All are welcome!

## Outreach Coalition

Our monthly meeting takes place this Tuesday, December 5 from 5:00-6:00 pm in the Conference Room. Come and join with others to serve those in need in our community.

## Christmas Flowers

Christmas flower donations are now being accepted. These can be in memory of a loved one or in honor of or in thanksgiving for someone or some place. Specially marked envelopes have been placed in the pew racks for your use.

## Angel Tree

St. Thomas' is joining in outreach with Hospitality House through the Angel Tree, matching donors with families who are unable to provide gifts and clothing for their children during the holidays. St. Thomas' is adopting 11 children.

## The Paper Bag Pageant

We are going to try a new addition for the Christmas season. It is called the **Paper Bag Pageant**. It's a great pageant narrated in the manner of a Dr. Seuss book. Costume pieces are available in paper bags for each character, and everyone-- children and adults-- are encouraged to participate. Is your child nervous to take a part? Parents are encouraged to come up with them!

Come and be a tree, a star, an angel, a cow, a shepherd...the choice is yours. The narrator tells the story and lets everyone know what to do. This pageant draws in the community—because all are welcome, and all can participate—no rehearsal necessary! In December we'll have a spaghetti dinner where our youngest and oldest--and everyone in between-- can come together to make the simple costume pieces used by the different participants. Look for the announcement about when we'll get together, join in, and enjoy a tiny preview of the *Paper Bag Pageant*.



You may select an Angel from the Angel Tree in the Sunroom, beginning Tuesday, November 21. Wish list information is provided.

*Please return your gifts (wrapped or unwrapped with your Angel Tag attached) to the Church Office no later than Wednesday, December 6.*

It is important that all gifts are new and marked with the appropriate Angel Tag Number.

You may also wish to consider sharing your selected Angel with another parishioner in providing multiple gifts for one child. Grouping multiple gifts for a child in a box or shopping bag with the Angel Tag attached is also appreciated.

If you find that all the Angels have been selected, general gift donation are appreciat-

ed. Suggestions include: newborn clothes and blankets; clothing birth to 12 months; toy trucks and cars, balls and dolls, and teen jewelry.

Christmas Blessings to All!

## Today's Music

Confession: I love Advent! We have such beautiful Advent hymns, chants, anthems, music for organ; as well as the beautiful blue vestments; as well as the quieter, more contemplative aspect of Advent as we await and anticipate the birth of Jesus. Today I play three different composers pieces based on the wonderful, classic German chorale, *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme* (Sleepers, wake! A voice astounds us!). Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608) wrote both text and music while

pastor during a terrible epidemic in 1597-1598 when he wound up burying up to thirty parishioners daily. And yet, what a song of hope! Johann Gottfried Walther (German, 1684-1748) befriended Johann Sebastian Bach while they were both in Weimar (1708-1714). The communion voluntary is by Walther. The closing movement of Bach's *Cantata 140* is based on this chorale. Bach himself arranged this for organ; that it what I play as the postlude.

Each week, at the 9:30 service, a member of the Choir will sing once stanza of *O come, O come, Emmanuel*. (At 7:30 we will all sing one stanza each week.) The tune is traced to a 15th Century Processional of French Franciscan nuns. The text is from the Eighth Century "O Antiphons." What we sing are not the antiphons themselves, but the petitions found at the end. No matter: we have been singing these texts and tune for a very long time!

We enter worship singing Charles Wesley's (1707-1788) broad Advent hymn, *Lo! He comes, with clouds descending*. Wesley himself published this text with the tune, *Helmsley*, in 1765: another Advent hymn we have been singing for a long time! Wesley attributed the tune to Thomas Olivers; however, Olivers claimed to have overheard the tune and perhaps it is therefore "borrowed" it from Thomas Arne. Another example of the interesting lives these hymns have!

During communion we sing the eighth century Advent hymn, *Creator of the stars of night*, with John Mason Neale's (1818-1866) sensitive translation. The lovely 12th or 13th century plainchant tune has also traveled through many centuries and traditions. We go forth into the world singing the exuberant Advent text by Laurentius Laurenti (1660-1722) paired with the late 19th century Welsh tune, *Llangloffan*. Some scholars thought that this tune comes from the English folk song *The Jolly Miller of Dee*. (!) and that the tune migrated to Wales! We have Ralph Vaughan Williams' harmonization of this tune at EH #607.

The Choir sings The Rev. John Thornburg's text with such powerful imagery about all Three Persons of the Holy Trinity. Gerre Hancock (American, 1934-2012) composed the soaring music.

—Jane Schroeder, Minister of Music

## Prayer List

**We celebrate those members who birthdays are this week:** Catherine Kitt (December 3), Carolyn Moore (December 4), Jordan Roubinek (December 5), Joan Bennett (December 6). Please pray for those members of this parish and others who are in special need: Marya Allen, Ron, Andrew, Jean Harper, Jane Hards, Joanne Scott, Nancy Soderberg, Missie Stone, Sallie Leighton, Tiffany Andrews, June Dolcater, Stormy Bok, Carolyn Morris, Roxanna, Brian Fitzpatrick, Cara, Risa, The Jackson family, Chris, Janan Vaughn.

## Next Sunday

December 10, 2017

**The Second Sunday in Advent**

*Isaiah 40:1-11*

*2 Peter 3:8-15a*

*Mark 1:1-8*

*Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13*

**7:30 am: Celebrant and Preacher:** The Rev. Lisa Smith Fry; **Eucharistic Minister:** Pam Bardon; **Lectors:** Sandy Lyle, Jan Lyle; **Prayers of the People:** Pam Bardon; **Usher:** Bert Ryan

**9:30 am: Celebrant and Preacher:** The Rev. Lisa Smith Fry; **Crucifer/ Eucharistic Minister:** Jeff Conrad; **Lectors:** Chris Glass, Anna Black; **Prayers of the People:** Br. Donovan Bowley; **Ushers:** Bill Freeman, Leamon Scott.

## How to reach us

**Church Office:** 207 236-3680  
(We're closed on Monday)

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# Calendar

**Sunday, November 3**

**The First Sunday in Advent**

**7:30 am—Holy Eucharist, Rite I**

8:30 am—Choir Rehearsal

**9:30 am—Holy Eucharist, Rite II**

10:45 am—Coffee Hour—Parish Hall

1:30 pm—Service at Quarry Hill

5:15 pm—Centering Prayer—Chapel

6:30 pm—AA meeting—Basement

**Monday, December 4**

6:00 am—Chestnut Street Baptist Church

Breakfast—Parish Hall

6:30 pm—AA meeting—Basement

**Tuesday, December 5**

9:00 am—Xi Gong class (Parish Hall)

5:00 pm—Outreach Coalition

—Conference Room

6:30 pm—OA meeting—Library

6:30 pm—AA meeting—Basement

**Wednesday, December 6**

**9:30 am—Holy Eucharist and  
Healing Service—Chapel**

10:00 am—Fellowship Time

—Sun Room

10:30 am—Bible Study—Sun Room

2:40 pm—EfM Conference Room

6:00 pm—VoXX Rehearsal

—Parish Hall, Green Room

6:30 pm—AA meeting—Basement

**Thursday, December 7**

5:00 pm—Choir Rehearsal

—Green Room

6:30 pm—AA meeting—Basement

**Friday, December 8**

6:30 pm—AA meeting—Basement

**Saturday, December 9**

8:30 am—AA Meeting—Basement

6:30 pm—AA meeting—Basement

**Sunday, November 10**

**The Second Sunday in Advent**

**7:30 am—Holy Eucharist, Rite I**

8:30 am—Choir Rehearsal

**9:30 am—Holy Eucharist, Rite II**

10:45 am—Coffee Hour—Parish Hall

5:15 pm—Centering Prayer—Chapel

6:30 pm—AA meeting—Basement