

The EPISCOPAL



“A Brief History of Lessons and Carols”
page 4

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
LYNCHBURG
A parish in the Diocese of Southwestern Virginia

Sunday, December 11, 2016

Lessons and Carols

by Sumner Jenkins, Organist and Choir Master

The service of Advent Lessons & Carols is intended as a preparation for the Christmas celebration rather than skipping over Advent as society has been wont to do. In many places, the service begins at the west end of the nave – “darkness.” The choir and clergy process through the church during the singing of hymns to various “stations,” stopping for the readings and choir anthems. The final destination of the procession is the high altar – “light” – where the final vesper responsory and closing prayers take place.

St. Paul’s celebration of Advent Lessons and Carols began more years ago than anyone can remember. I did poll the choir and some of its members of great longevity and no one can remember when St. Paul’s began celebrating this service. The service contained seven lessons with various choral responses, an anthem or a hymn/carol and was the principal worship of the day. The readings seem to be a mixture of readings from the traditional Christmas Lessons & Carols and some of personal preference, probably of the Rector of the time.

This year we will hear and sing Advent Lessons & Carols on **Sunday, 11th December**, the Third Sunday of Advent. The service will contain five readings laying the foundations of the Advent season, a season of preparation and waiting for the coming of the Christ child. The St. Paul’s Choir will sing music of Ralph Vaughan Williams, Arvo Pärt, Elizabeth Poston, Malcolm Archer, and others. The St. Paul’s Choristers will join the adults to sing Russell Schulz-Widmar’s “Mary Said, Yes” in response to the Annunciation reading, and St. Paul’s Bell Choir will ring the prelude. Following the fifth reading, “St. Matthew tells of the coming birth of the Saviour,” we will continue with a celebration of Holy Eucharist.

The following is from literature from King’s College, Cambridge, England:

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St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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Verger

Dear People of St. Paul's,

"I will give thanks to you O Lord with my whole heart;
I will tell of all your marvelous works" – Psalm 9:1

I will give thanks to you O Lord with my whole heart;

In the spirit of the Holidays we want to take a moment to step back from all the busyness, and pause to give thanks. We are grateful for many things in our lives... for our family, for our friends, for a roof over our heads and food to eat. We are grateful to live in the country we live in, and to have had the opportunity to visit other countries. But, most of all, we want to *give thanks to you O Lord with our whole hearts* for you, the people of St. Paul's.

Throughout the last year we have seen gifts of generous spirit and outpouring of Christ's love in this place. We have witnessed it through the countless hours of time given in so many ways. Teaching our children, guiding our youth, the numerous outreach ministries (too many to name here), sponsoring mission trips, the music ministry, the ministry of the hospitality teams, and the love of God shown by all of you when you come here to worship. We have witnessed it throughout the stewardship campaign beginning with the celebration of time and talent in early October and culminating in the celebration of treasure during the ingathering of pledges on Sunday Nov. 13th. But, certainly not ending there. The presence of the Spirit is in this place indeed, and for all of that we are indeed grateful.

I will tell of all Your marvelous works.

As we take time to pause, also we realize that everything we have is a gift from God. And that gift compels us to *tell of God's marvelous's works* in all that we say. And more importantly, in all that we do.

We cannot all do everything, but we all can do something to share the love of Christ with others. Small steps, small graces in the mundane every day, small gestures of kindness build up God's Kingdom. All that we are and all that we hold is gift entrusted to us for a very short while on this earth.

It is up to us to wisely use those gifts of time, talent and treasure. And we do so not to justify ourselves, but in our soul-felt response to God's sacrificial love showered upon us. A love so deep it went to the cross for every one of us.

We are all beloved children of God and are all welcomed into God's loving embrace and bountiful grace. We give back in response to God's free gift of himself, God's free gift of grace.

In the spirit of this grace we give you thanks, and we ask you to prayerfully discern how you can give, whether it be time, talent, or treasure, back to God.

Peace,

Todd and Diane

Annual Meeting Scheduled for January 22

Please save the date of January 22, for St. Paul's Annual Meeting. As last year, we will hold the meeting between the services, which was a very popular move.

During the annual meeting, we will receive several reports of the many ministries in which St. Paul's has been involved in 2016, and we will discuss what we might do in 2017. We will also elect vestry members who will serve 2017-2019.

A slate of four members who will have agreed to stand for election will be presented to the congregation. Your vestry is currently inviting members to stand for election, in accordance with our by-laws. Please look for their biographies to be published four weeks prior to the annual meeting.

Financial Update

Pledges 2017

The 2017 Stewardship Campaign as of November 18, 2016 has received a total of 105 pledges totaling \$307,934. This includes nine first time or new pledges, 31 pledges with an increase of 10% or more, 17 pledges with an increase between 1-9%, and 40 pledges with no increase or decrease. The average pledge in 2017 increased \$109 to \$2,933.

To all of you who have turned in your 2017 pledge, thank you. If you have not turned yours in, please do so at your earliest convenience.

Pledges 2016

Statements for 2016 were mailed this week. Thank you to all who have completed their 2016 pledge. If you have not completed your 2016 pledge, please do so at your earliest convenience.

Recent Gifts

Gifts in Memory of

Robert M. Bailey
John Carrington
Alice Donaldson
Christopher Talley

Given By

Susan & Jim Ackley
Alice Sheridan Appen
Joyce Bailey
Barbara & Gordon Betenbaugh
Myrna Blake
Kathy & Glenn Busch
Kathy & Bob Chase
Ann & Bill Coulter
Suzanne & Richard Currie
Mary Ogle Cudd
Martha & Bill Goodman
Cathy & Richard Greene
Kathryn Hensley
Diane & Bill Hetzel

Karen Hudlow & Amanda Pruet
Jan Johnson
Rosa Christian Koch
Susan & Peter Manion
Shirley McIvor
Rebecca (Pat) McQuarry & Family, Paul, John, Beverly, Mark & Serena
Norma & Olan Mills, III
Gail & Frank Morrison
Kay & Bob Nunley
Gwen & Wayne Patteson
Marian & Jim Price
Marge & John Sellick, Jr
Maureen & Walter Smith
Debbie & Norm Snidow
Melody Snoddy
Sam Thienemann
Susan Thornton
Debra & Roger Trent

Julia Warner
Peter Wertz
Linda Whitmore
Wanda & Daryl Yoder

Names in italics designated their gift for the Robert Bailey memorial bench in the Columbarium courtyard

*Gifts in Honor of
Sumner Jenkins
Liz & Jim Brunson
45th Wedding Anniversary**

*Given By
Elizabeth & Jim Brunson
Gail & Frank Morrison*

**Gifts in italics are designated for the Music Fund*



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Tray Light
Youth Leader

Judy Spencer
Parish Librarian

Linda Woody
Head Custodian

The 2016-17 Vestry

2016

Barbara Boothe
Geri Cecil
Betty Miller
Shari Willis

2017

Steve Baldwin
Caroline (Linie) Frankfort
Barbara Harbison
Tom Houck

2018

George Hurt, Senior Warden
Dan Frazier, Junior Warden
Charlie McVeigh
Megan Murphy

Connie Schieck, Secretary
Anne Hoskins, Treasurer

St. Paul's Celebrates Advent...



Lessons and Carols: A Brief History

In 1878 the Royal Cornwall Gazette reported that the choir of Truro Cathedral would sing a service of carols at 10:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

The Choir of the Cathedral will sing a number of carols in the Cathedral on Christmas Eve, the service commencing at 10 PM. We understand that this is at the wish of many of the leading parishioners and others. A like service has been instituted in other cathedral and large towns, and has been much appreciated. It is the intention of the choir to no longer continue the custom of singing carols at the residences of members of the congregation.

✦ OPPORTUNITIES TO VOLUNTEER

For the reception following the December 11 Service of Lessons and Carols.

To sign up to bring food or help serve, please contact Betty Miller (384-0473 or betty.mm@me.com).

All food items should be "table ready." Items needed are chicken salad, egg salad, pimiento cheese, ham biscuits, cheese and fruit, raw vegetables and dip and a few sweets. Please put your name on the bottom of your dish and leave your items in the kitchen before the service.

As an Angel Tree volunteer

Volunteers are needed to take down, repack, and store the Angel Tree and angels. There are jobs for every skill set and 30 minutes of time can be incredibly helpful. Contact Linie Frankfort (Liniefrank@gmail.com) for the date and time.

Two years later, in Cornwall, Edward Benson, Bishop of Truro, and later Archbishop of Canterbury, formalized the service with Nine Lessons for use on Christmas Eve 1880. The first service took place at 10:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve in the temporary wooden structure serving as his cathedral whilst the new cathedral was being built. Over 400 people attended this first service. There is an oft-repeated myth that the purpose of the service was to keep men out of the pubs.

A. C. Benson, English essayist, poet, author and son of Edward Benson, Archbishop of Canterbury 1882–96, recalled: "My father arranged from ancient sources a little service for Christmas Eve—nine carols and nine tiny lessons, which were read by various officers of the Church, beginning with a chorister, and ending, through the different grades, with the Bishop." The idea had come from G. H. S. Walpole, later Bishop of Edinburgh. Almost immediately other churches adapted the service for their own use. In some churches Christmas Lessons & Carols was sung the Sunday following Christmas and was often a congregational carol service.

The most famous incarnation of that original carol service, The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at King's College, Cambridge, was first held on Christmas Eve 1918. It was planned by Eric Milner White, who was convinced that the Church of England needed more imaginative worship. The backbone of the service, the lessons and the prayers, has remained virtually unchanged. Over the years many congregations have adapted the model of the service for other seasons, Advent Lessons and Carols being the most popular.

—*Sumner Jenkins*

and Christmas Traditions

The St. Paul's Crèche and Renaissance Angel Tree



The idea of celebrating the first nativity is attributed to St. Francis of Assisi who in 1223 used a manger and real animals as part of his celebration of midnight Mass. The crèche concept spread rapidly throughout Europe, and crèche art reached its crescendo in eighteenth-century Naples. The Neapolitan royalty and aristocracy commissioned leading artists to fashion miniature nativity figures called presepio which were displayed in extravagant panoramas containing hundreds of figures. Figures included merchants, slaves, animals, and wealthy aristocrats adorned with precious gems and fine lace. Many of the figures were portraits of townspeople shown dressed in current fashion attending to their trades. The manger was often placed amid Roman ruins symbolizing the triumph of Christianity over paganism. Often circus people with wild animals and people from the Middle East and Orient were depicted, again to show the spread of Christianity throughout the world.

The St. Paul's crèche and angels are in the Neapolitan tradition. The angels and pieces of the crèche have been given in thanksgiving for or in memory of loved ones. The Angel Tree is an especially meaningful part of our celebration of the birth of our Lord, and it stands in the Church from Advent through the Feast of the Epiphany. Each year on the first Sunday of Advent, members of the congregation work together to erect the tree and to unpack the angels and crèche figures. The children of the Parish are given an opportunity to add small stones or bits of moss to the crèche scene, and they delight in watching the figures, who start Advent atop the columns throughout the nave, make their way to the manger. Finally, on Christmas Eve, a child is invited to carry the baby Jesus as part of the procession and place him in the manger.

—Anne McKenna

A complete listing of the names of those memorialized and honored by gifts to the Angel Tree and the Crèche may be found in the church bulletins for Lessons and Carols and on Christmas Eve or near the tree.

Beginning a Missional Conversation

As a part of St. Paul's Adult Forum, *Joining God in Our Neighborhood*, our parish is entering into Missional Conversation. In a short definition, being Missional is a process. It is what happens when, in the church, we replace "come to us" invitations with a "go to them" life. It is a process of listening, sharing, and having small experiments in relationships. The hope is that this process takes us to a deeper relationship with God and our neighbors as we may define them.

These conversations have started in small groups and in discussions in the Sunday morning Adult Forum. Along with exploring a variety of missional resources, we have shared in "dwelling in the word" to deepen our understanding of listening. As we move forward, we will also listen in small interview opportunities to define what is good in our parish and what are our desires for our future. In small ways, we will step out to listen to our neighbors wherever they may be and seek the Holy Spirit in relationship with them. The key is in the listening.

Having started this process, the next step will be joining with other parishes in our diocese in an initial wider

network of missional learning. Eventually all parishes will be invited into this network, but we are in the forefront within our diocese.

The process of a missional network goes beyond our diocese. The Diocese of Southwestern Virginia is committed to joining other dioceses in sharing our experiences and transformations, and, as a part of doing so, we gain prominent theological missional mentors to help us.

Presiding Bishop Michael Curry calls "*Joining God in the Neighborhood*" an exciting path but not a new one. It is a process that does not require great monetary investment. As the diocese has made clear, money is not to be a barrier. It is not complicated but a simple process. It starts small and grows like mustard seeds. It begins with listening and being open to opportunities that will come to be a part of "safe places" for "dwelling in the word," and it ends where the Holy Spirit leads us. It promises to draw us into deeper relationships and change our lives.

Listen, be open, and ask questions. Thanks be to God.

—Deacon Bill

Music



From the Choir Loft

I can't believe I am only approaching the two-month mark of my arrival at St. Paul's. In so many ways the transition was almost seamless; there are too many to thank by name, but certainly all the work of the choirs and Todd and Diane have made my

move here as easy as it could be.

And, the choirs have accomplished so much in these eight short weeks: the Choristers sang two beautiful anthems

on October 30th, the bell choir rang a lovely setting of Picardy during communion on the 23rd of October, and the St. Paul's Choir continues to offer beautiful music each Sunday. Their communion anthem for All Saints, *The Souls of the Righteous* by Geraint Lewis, was simply stunning. And, let's not forget the beautiful music that is offered at the Celtic services by Susan Carol, Jasper Oliver, and others. We have done much, but there is much left to do!

Do you want to be a part of these wonderful groups? Call me at the church, 434-845-7103, and let's talk!

—Summer Jenkins

Outreach

December Provides Many Ways to Give and Help Others

THANK YOU to all who helped with and supported this year's **Annual Holiday Bazaar**. Proceeds from the sales will benefit Churches for Urban Ministry, The Salvation Army, and Brook Hill Farm Horse Rescue and Therapeutic Riding Center.

The Month of December is St. Paul's time to collect canned and nonperishable items for the **CHURCHES FOR URBAN MINISTRY FOOD BANK**. *Baskets will be located in the narthex through December*

December 4 Don't forget "**A HOLIDAY PIANO CONCERT**" on December 4 at 4 PM. Proceeds from this delightful afternoon will benefit St. Paul's Outreach Special Projects Fund.

December 4 Wreaths and garland ordered in support of **BOYS HOME OF VIRGINIA** will be available for pick-up at the church. Please make checks payable to Boys' Home.

December 4 **COOKING FOR GATEWAY** will take place after the 10:30 AM service. Please join others in the parish kitchen preparing a meal for this worthwhile cause.

December 7-9 Please sign up to help support the **SALVATION ARMY'S RED KETTLE DRIVE** by ringing bells at the Old Forest Road Walmart December 7, 8, and 9. *A sign up sheet is in the narthex.*

Before December 20 St. Paul's is again partnering with **JERICHO BAPTIST MISSION'S TOY DRIVE**. The drive provides toys and books for children ages 6-12. A list of suggested items is posted on the Toy Barrel located in the narthex. *Please place toys and books in the barrel.*

ST. PAUL'S MEN Please join your fellow men in the Undercroft on Saturday, December 3 at 9:00 AM for coffee, doughnuts, and conversation. It's an opportunity for the men of St. Paul's to come together and see what we might like to do in the coming year. Questions: Email Todd (tvie@stpaulslynchburg.org)

Christian Education

New Church School Program for 5th and 6th Graders Begins

St. Paul's began a new Church School Program for 5th and 6th graders this fall. Called *Morning Meeting*, the program is designed to be very conversational as well as fun.

Centered on developing stronger relationships amongst one another and adults in the church, the program is a way to support the students in their spiritual development and transition into adolescence. *The group meets at 9:30 AM in the Gilchrist Room. (Please note 5th graders also have the option to attend Catechesis.)*

Applying Truths Learned in Catechesis

Catechesis is a spiritual formation class – not Sunday School as we know it. It is a process of imparting small spiritual nuggets into the souls of our children and letting them grow there in the soil of their hearts. It is a very slow work – that is God's way.

—Susan Murray

It truly does seem that even some of our youngest children are able to apply certain truths that they are learning in Catechesis to their own personal lives. Earlier this year, one of our 4 year olds was listening attentively to the presentation of the Good Shepherd. We were talking about how much the shepherd loves each one of his sheep when the child asked: "Do you think dogs go to heaven?" She was not trying to distract me. She had already connected the unconditional love that the Good Shepherd has for his sheep to the heartfelt love that she had for a dog that she lost. When I mentioned this to her father after church, he informed me that it had been necessary to put down the family dog two weeks before.

—Cindy Mock

God's Compassion and Care Shared through Music

Harmony & Serenity Music Care Ministry is provided through a Lynchburg Community Trust grant administered by St. Paul's.

Great things are happening with our Harmony & Serenity Music Care Ministry. In the first few months, over 300 persons have received harp and voice visits. This ministry is currently being provided two days each week at Westminster Canterbury of Lynchburg, weekly at Heritage Green Assisted Living and Day Break Memory Care, and at The Summit Assisted Living. Visits are also being made regularly to parish members dealing with health challenges in their homes as well as the Alan B. Pearson Regional Cancer Center, Lynchburg Health and Rehabilitation Center, Liberty Ridge Health and Rehabilitation Center, Avante, Runk & Pratt at Liberty Ridge, and The Carrington.

Initial encounters with the harp can be profound. People are often surprised to see this instrument come into their homes or care setting. Residents in a rehab/healthcare center, confined to their beds or wheelchairs, have loved seeing and hearing the harp—elders and younger people alike. They are affected by the visual aesthetic as well as the sound. Facility staff and caregivers have offered positive comments about how the music brings “peace and calm” to the setting.

I would say that happiness is seeing bright smiles, amazement, joy and calm in the faces of dear people who are struggling, as they experience the harp. Harmony & Serenity Music Care Ministry strives to take the love and compassion of Christ, through music, to people with health challenges, family members and caregivers.

—Susan Carol

If you know someone who would like a “harp visit,” please contact Susan Carol. 540-840-8302 or hymnsinger@me.com



Your music brings people so much joy. This is exactly what we need. We don't need as many pills if we have this.

—Resident in assisted living care community



Lessons and Carols

continued from page 1

Wherever the service is heard and however it is adapted, whether the music is provided by choir or congregation, the pattern and strength of the service derive from the lessons and not the music. “The main theme is the development of the loving purposes of God ...’ seen ‘ through the windows and the words of the Bible.” Local interests appear, as they do here, in the Bidding Prayer; and personal circumstances give point to different parts

of the service. Many of those who took part in the first service must have recalled those killed in the Great War when it came to the famous passage “all those who rejoice with us, but on another shore and in a greater light.” The centre of the service is still found by those who “go in heart and mind” and who consent to follow where the story leads.

Looking Ahead

Highlights from the Parish Calendar

DECEMBER

4	4:00 p.m.	Nutcracker Suite at the Academy Center of the Arts Warehouse
5	6:00 p.m.	Bible Study at the Shepherds' home
10	9:00 a.m.	Interfaith Silent Art Auction Undercroft
	10:00 a.m.	Historic Church Open House
13	5:30 p.m.	Blue Christmas Service
14	6:00 p.m.	Women's Bible Study
15	5:45 p.m.	Vestry meeting in the Carriage House
24-25		Christmas Eve and Day Schedule, next column, right
26		Office Closed for the holidays
27		Office Closed for the holidays

JANUARY

2		Office Closed for the holiday
	6:00 p.m.	Bible Study at the Shepherds' home
	6:00 p.m.	Dinner at Gateway
11	6:00 p.m.	Women's Bible Study
16	6:00 p.m.	Bible Study at the Shepherd's home
19	5:45 p.m.	Vestry Meeting in the Carriage House
22	9:00 a.m.	Annual Meeting
25	6:00 p.m.	Women's Bible Study
27-29		Annual Council in Roanoke

FEBRUARY

6	6:00 p.m.	Dinner at Gateway
8	6:00 p.m.	Women's Bible Study
11		Vestry work day
13	6:00 p.m.	Bible Study at the Shepherds' home
16	5:45 p.m.	Vestry Meeting in the Carriage House
22	6:00 p.m.	Women's Bible Study (Leann Scarr's home)
27	6:00 p.m.	Bible Study at the Shepherd's home

for a full Parish calendar, please visit www.stpaulslynchburg.org

✦ OPPORTUNITIES TO VOLUNTEER

January 4 St. Paul's Blood Drive 12 noon-4 p.m.

Volunteers are needed to work at the Blood Drive and to provide snacks for donors. Watch for more information online and in the Sunday Epistle. Contact Cec Heuslein (cehe38@yahoo.com) for further information.

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Services



**Saturday, December 24,
Christmas Eve**

4:30 PM Music prelude
5:00 PM Service

10:45 PM Music prelude
11:00 PM Service

**Sunday, December 25
Christmas Day**

10:00 AM

A Holiday Piano Concert



featuring
Wroncy &
Wallenborn
at Duo Grand Pianos

*The Nutcracker Suite
by Tchaikovsky plus other
festive works*

**Sunday, December 4
4 PM**

Academy Center
of the Arts
519 Commerce Street

General Admission \$20
Students \$15

*Proceeds to benefit
St. Paul's Mission
Outreach Special
Projects Fund*



St. Paul's Episcopal Church
605 Clay Street
Lynchburg, Virginia

TEL: 434-845-7301

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:00 AM
Holy Eucharist

9:00 AM
Body & Soul Cafe
(breakfast)

9:30 AM
Christian Education classes

10:30 AM
Holy Eucharist with Music

11:45 AM
Refreshments & Fellowship

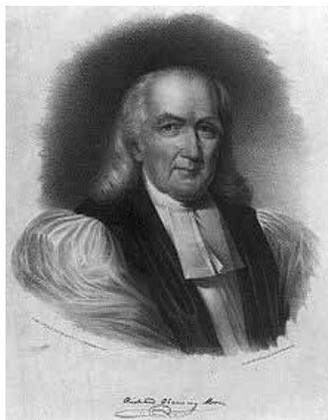
9:15 AM
*Nursery opens
for children ages 0 to 3*

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From Our History

St. Paul's First Bishop

Bishop Richard Channing Moore



Richard Channing Moore (1762–1841) was consecrated the second bishop of the Diocese of Virginia in 1814, having for some years been a physician and later in life rector of St. Stephens Church on the upper west side of New York City.

Bishop Moore lent his support to the organization of St. Paul's parish in 1822 and in the following year was the driving force in creating the Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria.

Bishop Moore was a strong prelate who dealt successfully with the decline of clergy in Virginia and with the sequestering of church lands and silver, both of which resulted from the disestablishment of the Church of England in the decades following the American Revolution.

Bishop Moore, St. Paul's first diocesan, lived in Richmond but died in Lynchburg during a visit to St. Paul's and the other Episcopal congregations in this area.

—Lamar Cecil