



# ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Advent 2018

*The Reverend Christopher M. Bishop, Rector, St. Martin's Church  
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## HOPE-PEACE-JOY-LOVE

*And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.*

*~ From the Song of Mary/Magnificat; Luke 1:46-49*

"The Song of Mary" is perhaps the most ancient, well-known and beloved "Yes" in all of Christian scripture. The unmarried teenager Mary is agreeing to give birth to the Messiah. She even praises God despite the fact that her decision also carries with it a possible death sentence for adultery. The stakes are high, especially for her. In effect, Mary is modeling what it looks like to be a willing participant in God's mysterious and constant call to new life.

Mary's prayer feels especially appropriate for our community as we enter Advent 2018 and consider new possibilities the Spirit is offering us. This season perfectly coincides with the conversation we will be having to consider a draft covenant of shared mission between St. Martin's and our close neighbor Christ Church, composed by both of our vestries together over the past 18 months. What does this covenant mean? Is it good or bad for us? What will we gain, and lose, by saying yes, or no to it? Like Mary, we cannot see the future but are nonetheless being asked to consider something life-changing.

This Sunday, the first Sunday of Advent, December 2, Fr. John and I will be presenting the draft covenant to our

respective parishes as the beginning of an important and exciting dialogue among ourselves and between the two parishes. We need your questions, input and participation in the process. Some of you will wonder why we are considering this, others will ask what took us so long? Ultimately the choices going forward lie in the hands of the congregations.

From my own perspective, getting to know Fr. John and the people of Christ Church has been a true blessing and a chance to creatively envision fresh ways to be church in this time of profound change in our world. I'm looking forward to your thoughts on Sunday and the discussion we will encourage throughout December.

Wherever we are led on this journey, Mary's prayer is clear: courageously following God's call into unfamiliar places opens up whole new worlds and unimagined possibilities for us as we live into the future God envisions. Mary gave birth to the Christ. I wonder, what will be born through us?

Peace & blessings,

Fr. Chris+

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## Worship Planning

By Fran Pettit, Parish Warden

The words from Paul Nicholson in his book *An Advent Pilgrimage* says it best, "This Advent I invite you to set out on a pilgrimage – a journey towards a renewed and deeper encounter with God—something active, not simply read about, things to do each day. No words are truer for the Season of Advent as we await the coming of our Lord. Let us set out together and may God be with us on the road." I invite you to reflect upon your own personal journey towards God and review your progress as the year draws to an end.

We had our first "Upper Room" meeting at the Gryphon Café in Wayne on Wednesday 11/28. Fifteen of us gathered for a causal discussion about meaning and community. I invite you to join us on 12/12/2018, and 1/9/2019 for more topical conversations. Keep an eye out for future dates in 2019.

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## Advent Outreach

By Pam Faber, Ministry Leader

Advent is the season of waiting, expectation and reflection. It is a time for thinking of others less fortunate than we and for making a difference. This Advent we will have two outreach opportunities - our annual gift card collection for ECS and our annual Christmas Dinner Drive for St. Barnabas.

We will begin collecting \$25.00 VISA or Target gift cards this Sunday, December 2nd, and the collection will continue through Sunday, December 9th. These gift cards will be given to the clients served by Episcopal Community Services (ECS) and will allow them to do Christmas shopping for their loved ones. Please donate a \$25.00 gift card or the funds so that we can purchase the cards. A box for all donations is available in the Gurley Room.



Our annual Christmas Dinner Drive for St. Barnabas will be held on Sunday, December 16th. Bring FROZEN turkeys or hams and all the trimmings (mashed potatoes, stuffing, canned vegetables & fruit, gravy, etc) for a Christmas dinner with you to church that Sunday. Volunteers will be waiting in the parking lot to accept your donations between 7:45am and 10:30am and then will deliver everything to St. Barnabas. Spread the word to your friends & neighbors too!

Please be generous and participate in both of these projects. Let's make Christmas special for as many people as we can. If you have any questions, please contact Pam Faber at [pmfsmc@comcast.net](mailto:pmfsmc@comcast.net). Thank you so much.

## Thanksgiving Bags

By Pam Faber, Ministry Leader

Thank you to everyone who brought Thanksgiving bags for our neighbors on Highland Avenue. We delivered 29 complete bags, and the residents were extremely grateful. It was truly a Thanksgiving blessing for all.

THANKS

## Formation

By Deb Parker, Christian Formation Director

Advent marks the beginning of the new church year. Starting with Advent 1 on December 2, we focus our attention and our lives on Jesus Christ. Our savior is born in a stable and welcomed by a diverse group of unlikely individuals. Jesus comes for all of us regardless of age or other outside characteristics. Presiding Bishop Michael Curry continues the inclusion when he invites everyone to travel the "Way of Love" (<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/journeying-way-love>).

In the Bible, the Gospel trip begins with a conversation. Mary is approached by an angel, and she is a model for saying "yes" to God. We communicate to God through prayer. Take the opportunity this Advent to grow in prayerful relationship with God as we prepare for the arrival of his Son. "Way of Love" Advent Calendars with prayer suggestions are available on tables at church.

***Great Spirit, God, Creator of all, we receive you into our hearts, our minds, our Souls: Grant us Mary's wisdom to heed the inner voice that we know is you. Guide us to accept your invitation to serve and do so with strength and courage. Amen.***

- **December 2— Advent 1:** Advent Wreath Making for the whole family. We will be in Bolingbroke. After breakfast and the 10 a.m. family worship, we will gather for fellowship and wreath making in the rooms closest to the kitchen. Families of every size are invited to prepare a wreath for their homes.
- **December 8—The Feast of St. Nicholas:** We will celebrate by inviting St. Nicholas to visit us Saturday night as we continue our Advent journey. We start with a potluck dinner at 4 p.m., followed by family worship at 5. St. Nicholas will join us during the worship service, to collect non-perishable food items to share with others. He is the model for generosity so please have your children help pick out items to bring to church and donate for the saint's bag. This is the spirit of Christmas.
- **December 9—Advent 2:** Sunday School will be at 9:30 a.m. and nursery begins at the same time. We will be talking about prayer and all the ways we can communicate with God.
- **December 16—Advent 3:** We continue to prepare for the pageant. Children and youth of all ages are invited to join our Music Director and Adult choir at 9:30 a.m. to rehearse the music for the pageant. After the rehearsal, we will head downstairs to the Large Sunday School room for costume fitting and distribution of scripts. The pageant will use the same script as last year.
- **December 23—Advent 4:** The only full rehearsal for the pageant is this Sunday. Youth are asked to arrive at 8:30 a.m., and children to arrive at 8:45 to get into costumes. The rehearsal with the Adult Choir will run from 9 a.m. until 9:50. After the rehearsal, all participants will go downstairs to hang up costumes and share their plans for Christmas. This is a time for fellowship and to refocus on Christ at the center of the season.
- **December 24—Christmas Eve:** The pageant will begin at 4 p.m. Youth should arrive at 3:15 a.m. Children are to arrive between 3:15 and 3:30 to begin to get ready. Families can take seats up in the pews, leaving room for their children to join them. We will have music warm-up as soon as everyone is in costume. Children will then sit with parents until they are called to the front to take their places for the pageant. Following the pageant service will be a festive reception.

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- **December 30:** There is no Sunday School. The nursery will be open.
- **January 6—Jesus' Baptism:** This is the Sunday when we focus on the Holy Spirit. Jesus is Baptized by John, and we discover how water is a part of scripture from the very beginning. Sunday School resumes at 9:30 a.m. with Bible readings and Lego interpretations of stories relating to water. Children ages 3 and older are invited to join the Sunday School group, and preschoolers up through age 2 can have their own Bible-related activities with Megan in the nursery. The nursery also opens at 9:30.

For more information on any of these family formation events please contact Ms. Deb Parker ([stmartinsradnor@gmail.com](mailto:stmartinsradnor@gmail.com)).

## Music Ministry

By Emily Watkins, Director of Music Ministry



Music at St. Martin's Church has been very busy this year. The choir has sung some great new anthems, and we even introduced our Children's Choir (to great success!) a few weeks ago. You may have even noticed a new flute player in our midst - we are very happy to welcome Jeaneane Chisolme and her family, who are going to be participating even more in the next few weeks.

This Advent season we are very excited to have our Feast of St. Nicholas Service on December 8. We hope you will join us as we sing some special songs and carols to honor this great figure.

We also hope you will join us in the choir! We rehearse on Sundays at 9am, and we're all a fun bunch - if you have even an inkling of interest, why not come to a rehearsal and check it out? We hope you'll be inspired to lend your voices to our small but mighty choir!

## December Dates

The full calendar is on page 5.

*Advent Wreath-Making*



Sunday  
December 2nd  
11:00 AM  
Bolingbroke

ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH, RADNOR



Join us in celebrating  
*The Feast of St. Nicholas*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8TH  
4:00 PM POTLUCK SUPPER &  
5:00 PM EUCHARIST SERVICE

Family-Focused. Non-perishable donations accepted.

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

4:00 PM—Rite II Holy Eucharist & Christmas Pageant  
8:00 PM—Rite II Holy Eucharist

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25TH

11:00 AM—Rite II Holy Eucharist



CHRIST CHURCH ITHAN  
CHRISTMAS  
**Cookie Swap**  
2018  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9TH

You're invited to a  
**Potluck Supper**



Hosted by Rick & Mollie Wheeler  
of Christ Church, Ithan

Saturday  
December 15  
6:00 PM

700 Sprout Rd  
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010  
RSVP: 610-526-2297



**UPPER ROOM**

Read. Chat. Pray.  
at the  
**Gryphon Café**  
Wednesday, December 12th, at 6:00 PM

# Advent

*A Season of Hope  
& Expectation*

## CALENDAR

### **Sunday, December 2 - ADVENT 1**

8:00am Holy Eucharist Rite I  
8:30am Parish Breakfast and Service  
9:00am Choir Rehearsal  
9:30am No Sunday School  
9:30am Nursery in the large  
Sunday School Room  
10:00am Holy Eucharist Rite II  
11:00am Wreath Making

### **Tuesday, December 4**

5:30pm Worship Planning Meeting  
6:30pm Yoga Class

### **Wednesday, December 5**

10:00am Staff Meeting  
12:15pm Holy Eucharist  
7:00pm AA St. Martin's Church  
7:00pm Bible Study @ SMC

### **Friday, December 7**

10:00am Women's AA @ SMC  
3:00pm Eastern's Lessons & Carols

### **Saturday, December 8**

4:00pm Supper and St. Nicholas Service

### **Sunday, December 9 - ADVENT 2**

8:00am Holy Eucharist Rite I  
9:00am Choir Rehearsal  
9:30am Sunday School for all ages  
10:00am Holy Eucharist Rite II  
11:15am CCI Cookie Swap

### **Wednesday, December 12**

12:15pm Holy Eucharist  
6:00pm Upper Room @ Gryphon Café  
7:00pm AA St. Martin's Church  
7:00pm Bible Study @ SMC

### **Friday, December 14**

10:00am Women's AA @ SMC

### **Saturday, December 15**

6:00pm CCI Potluck Supper @ the Wheelers

### **Sunday, December 16 - ADVENT 3**

8:00am Holy Eucharist Rite I  
9:00am Choir Rehearsal  
9:30am Sunday School for all ages  
10:00am Holy Eucharist Rite II

### **Tuesday, December 18**

3:00pm Global Mission Meeting  
6:30pm Yoga Class

### **Wednesday, December 19**

12:15pm Holy Eucharist  
7:00pm AA St. Martin's Church  
7:00pm Bible Study @ SMC

### **Friday, December 21**

10:00am Women's AA @ SMC

### **Sunday, December 23 - ADVENT 4**

8:00am Holy Eucharist Rite I  
9:00am Choir Rehearsal  
9:30am Sunday School for all ages  
10:00am Holy Eucharist Rite II

### **Monday, December 24**

4:00pm Christmas Pageant  
8:00pm Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist

### **Tuesday, December 25**

11:00am Christmas Holy Eucharist

### **Wednesday, December 26**

12:15pm Holy Eucharist  
7:00pm AA St. Martin's Church  
7:00pm Bible Study @ SMC

### **Friday, December 28**

10:00am Women's AA @ SMC

### **Sunday, December 30**

8:00am Holy Eucharist Rite I  
9:00am Choir Rehearsal  
10:00am LESSONS and CAROLS-  
Holy Eucharist Rite II

St. Martin's Church  
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