

THE SPIRE

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St Paul's On The Hill Episcopal Church

40 Ganung Drive Ossining, New York 10562



*At the round earth's imagined corners, blow
Your trumpets, angels and arise, arise
From death, you numberless infinities
—ohn Donne*

At Christmas we celebrate the hope of the world, Jesus the incarnate word. At the first Christmas, shepherds were the ones to bear witness to his arrival. And the Gospels tell us that at his second coming all people (living and dead) will be gathered to bear witness to his return. That is why on the first Sunday in Advent our Gospel focuses on predictions of the end times. For hope is most relevant when we mortals are aware of our own fragile state. In fact, it may be, that the shepherds were chosen to greet Jesus just because they were humble, realistic, and open.

So, what does it mean to greet Jesus in the twenty first century? It could mean feeding neighbors in need. It could mean really listening to a friend (or stranger.) Or it could mean standing up for someone who is threatened in our presence. No matter what, the key to greeting Jesus in each of these situations is to do it with humility...with an awareness of our own fragile state. In his Holy Sonnet, Donne, after calling on the angels to summon all humanity, changes his mind.

“Let them sleep,” he entreats, “and me mourn a space.” Donne craves a time to repent...to bring his own wishes in line with God's and to find the abundance of God's grace. Donne longs for a period of advent, expectant reflection so that he may develop eyes to see and appreciate Jesus at the last.

We too need time to reflect and so, yearly, we observe the season of Advent. It is a gift, a space in which we may mourn, or rejoice, or simply rest. In the next four weeks, let us luxuriate in this Advent time we have been given. Let's not rush nor lose sight of our goal: to touch the ground of our own fragility and to claim the hope of God's grace, Jesus the Christ.

Advent blessings one and all.

Cooper+

December, 2018

Dear Members and Friends of St. Paul's on-the-Hill,

In the Four Sundays in Advent, we will light the candles with some dialogue and readings before the candle is actually lit. In **Advent 1**, "We Wait With Hope," Jim Bowen, spoke of having hope as a farmer, watching the sky for clouds promising rain after the fields are planted.

On Sunday, December 9th, **Advent 2**, Darryl Moy, will light the candle of Peace as "We Wait in Peace." He will represent a fisherman who earns his living by sailing out each morning hoping for a calm and peaceful sea.

Sunday, December 16th, **Advent 3** will see us "Wait with Joy." Samara Davis will read the part of a young bride who has been waiting for this special day for a long time. She will take this step with joy.

Advent 4, on December 23, "We Wait with Love" as a mother, read by Melanie Rowe speaks about nurturing, teaching, and loving her children. Nothing can be compared to a parent's concern and love for his or her child.

The four characters draw an analogy between an everyday individual and biblical messages that tie into the season of Advent.

Advent 4 will be our Gala pre-Christmas service and feature the choir's presentation of a portion of "Little Lion, Little Lamb."

Songs will include: (with Narrators)

Overture/ Sing Christmas!

And So We Wait

It Came upon a Midnight Clear

Who's the Little Baby?

There will also be prayers and a Eucharist.

Christmas Eve at 5:00 PM - a wonderful Children's Service for the young and the *young at heart*.

After the service, a Birthday Cake for Jesus in the Parish Hall.

Christmas Eve at 10:30 PM - Intimate Candlelight Eucharist with Hammered Dulcimer and Christmas Carols

Christmas Day at 9:30 AM - Landmark Christmas Eucharist.

Please plan to join us for these special services.



✧ Merry Christmas,
Mo. Cooper +, Carolyn Black

UPCOMING EVENTS AND SERVICES

MO. COOPER'S ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY

We will honor our wonderful Priest-in-Charge on
Wednesday, December 12th
Service at St. Paul's at 6:00 PM
Reception afterward at Trinity at 7:30 PM
All welcome to either or both!!

THE LANDMARK EPISCOPAL PARISHES FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday, December 16, 2018 at 4:00 PM

Come join us to hear:



Once in Royal David's City
Of The Father's Love Begotten
Savior of the Nations, Come!
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
O Come, O Come Emmanuel
Silent Night, Silent World
Lo, how a Rose
Christmas Lullaby
Still! Still! Still!
It Came Upon a Midnight Clear
Navidad Gloriosa
Angels We Have Heard on High
Go Tell It On The Mountain
On This Day Earth Shall Ring
A Christmas Noel
O Come, All Ye Faithful
Hark! the Herald Angels Sing!

And be sure to stay for the Holiday reception featuring wassail, egg
nog, and Smoking Bishop Punch!

Singing in the Choir from St. Paul's:
Cooper Conway, Carolyn Black, Lisa Rosenbloom, Sarah Davis,
Art Hightower, Peter Madison



The Lantern Gift Shop

The "*Christmas Is Coming*" all parish fundraiser is over and as we breathe a sigh of relief, we also say a prayer of thanksgiving for all who worked so hard for many months, as well as all who were involved on the actual day, to make this event a successful and fun day for all. The weather cooperated and the cool temperatures made the soup luncheon most appealing. It is such a satisfying day as old friends return year after year. They say "we wouldn't miss it!".....just what we like to hear!

The shop will now remain open on Saturdays from 10-1 through December 22nd. We are also willing to open during Sunday during coffee hour. Just speak to one of us and we will gladly take you over. There are still many lovely and unique gifts throughout the shop. We have sparkly

tutus and super hero capes, made by Sue Monroe that may be just what you are looking for. Beth has made wonderfully warm fleece sacks for babies that you will want to check out. Winter hats for men and women, and beautiful new scarves are all waiting for you to see. You may want to check out the Vintage Value shelves too as we have added some Christmas items that are quite special. Of course, there are many ornaments and decorations on display including some pewter ornaments from Nova Scotia, and you won't want to miss the pinecone elf ornaments that Beth designed and some of the group made with her. Need candles or holiday napkins?....we have them too...and much more!

Next up for the shop gang is what we call "Wreath Day", which will be held this Saturday, December 8. We all are aware of the issues that delayed our wreath delivery this year and are grateful for Darryl and Mel's efforts to secure wreaths for us.

When this is done, we take a little holiday break before the annual January Clearance sale on Saturday, January 12th. (snow date: Jan. 19). The shop will be open 10-3 and Beth will have the Attic Treasures room open too. Last year we really struggled through these winter events due to extremely cold temperatures and bad weather. (Start praying for better weather this year right now, please!) The Valentine's sale and Bake Sale will follow on February 2 (snow date: February 9), so if you have your 2019 calendars, please make a note of these special shop days.

The Lantern Gift Shop Committee



The Lantern Gift Shop - Christmas Hours and Other
Dates
2018-2019

Lantern Gift Shop will be open Saturdays, 10-1
through December 22, 2018

Closed

December 29 - January 5 - 2019

January Clearance

Saturday, January 12, 2019

(Snow date: January 19)

10 AM - 3 PM

Closed

January 19 and 26 2019

Valentine Sale and Bake Sale

Saturday, February 2, 2019

(Snow date: February 9)

10 AM - 3 PM

Easter Sale and Bake Sale

Saturday, April 6, 2019

(Snow date: April 13)

10 AM - 3 PM

"Spring Fling"/ English Tea Luncheon

Saturday, May 4, 2019

Shop Hours: 10 AM - 3 PM

Lunch Served: 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Because we are a shop run by volunteers, if you are
coming from a distance, it is a good idea to call the
shop shortly after 10 AM to make sure someone is
here.

Telephone 914-941-4434



REPAIR

MONTHLY MEETING SCHEDULE 2019

Wednesday, January 16, 2019 Trinity Church, Ossining

Wednesday, February 20, 2019 St Paul's on the Hill, Ossining

Wednesday, March 20, 2019 Church of St Barnabas, Irvington

Wednesday, April 10, 2019 All Saints Church, Briarcliff Manor

Wednesday, May 15, 2019 Trinity Church, Ossining

Wednesday, June 19, 2019 Christ Church, Tarrytown

ALL MEETINGS FROM 7:30 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M.

SNACKS PROVIDED—ALL ARE WELCOME!

For more information, visit us at [facebook.com/repairrivertowns](https://www.facebook.com/repairrivertowns)





Poetry Corner - Sent by Julie Gross (*A poet at heart.*)

If, as Herod, we fill our lives with things, and again with things...
If we consider ourselves so unimportant that we must fill every moment of our lives with action,
when will we have the time to make the long, slow journey across the desert as did the Magi?
Or sit and watch the stars as did the shepherds?
Or brood over the coming of the child as did Mary?
For each of us, there is a desert to travel. A star to discover.
And a being within ourselves to bring to life.

-Author Unknown





"I was texting while driving my sleigh.
Your toys are in a ditch outside
of South Bend, Indiana."

A Smile - Sent by Liz

The Pilot and the Priest

A priest dies and is waiting in line at the Pearly Gates. Ahead of him is a guy who's dressed in sunglasses, a loud shirt, leather jacket and jeans.

Saint Peter addresses this cool guy, "Who are you, so that I may know whether or not to admit you to the Kingdom of Heaven?"

The guy replies, "I'm Jack, retired airline pilot from Houston."

Saint Peter consults his list. He smiles and says to the pilot, "Take this silken robe and golden staff and enter the Kingdom." The pilot goes into Heaven with his robe and staff.

Next, it's the Priest's turn. He stands erect and booms out, "I am Father Bob, pastor of Saint Mary's for the last 43 years."

Saint Peter consults his list. He says to the priest, "Take this cotton robe and wooden staff and enter the Kingdom."

"Just a minute," says the good father. "That man was a pilot and he gets a silken robe and golden staff and I get only cotton and wood. How can this be?"

"Up here - we go by results," says Saint Peter. "When you preached - people slept. When he flew, people prayed."



A Poem by L. William Countryman

If you want to go to God, go without
your certainties. Take your graces. Leave
your certainties behind. If you go looking
for a Triangle inside the Trefoil inside
a Conundrum, you'll miss the greatest sight
of all, the Holy Trinity playing
children's games on the lawns of heaven. If
you only look for the Virgin of the Window,
you'll walk right past Our Lady, laughing and telling
stories with a group of friends.

The disciples
knew not the Lord Jesus in his resurrection
flesh. They were expecting someone else,
someone they knew for certain. And this was like,
but was it he? They knew him only when
he handed them their bread.

Go to God, then,
taking in the hand of memory
the silken light of a clear dawn after
wet weather and say, with tears if need be,
"You made this." Take the name of your beloved
and say, "You made him and in him you remade me."
Take the goodness of your life. And take
some moment of uncertain and life giving
hope, like an angel whispering or - sometimes-
trumpeting in your ear. These are your guides.

And so
go with the shepherds on their angelic quest.
Go to that hick town that David left
as soon as he got the chance, go to the stable,
see what you never expected to see, the doors
to God opening in that manger against
all certainty.

And then return to find
anew the tracks of grace: the beauty of men,
the beauty of women, the delight of children,
the running of a swift dog, the flight of birds,
the sweetness of a pear, hands held in quiet.
If you want to go to God, leave your certainties
behind. But be sure to take your graces.

*(1 Triangle and Trefoil are symbols of the doctrine of the Trinity
which is always itself a mystery or conundrum.)*





The Youth Music Camp final concert.



PARISH REMEMBRANCES

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/05 Doris Shedden
12/10 Alexander Sergey (Mahlau's Grandson)
12/11 Kathryn Brocchi
12/13 Joan Holsten
 Andy Madison
 Jonathan Moser
12/14 Karen Pasieka
12/17 Jan Greene
12/18 John Engel
12/20 Janet Robertson
12/25 Lisa Marie Liberti
12/28 JoAnn McGrath

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

12/02 Christine & John Schuler
12/28 Carolyn Black & Art Hightower

DECEMBER BAPTISMS

12/28 William R. Losee

DECEMBER DEATHS

12/18 Jeffrey Barnes
12/19 Virginia Pomoell
12/21 Leonora Senghas
12/23 Mary Moser
12/23 Peter Gross
12/28 Jessica Von Euen

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1/01 Aiden Torpie
1/02 Ryan Echevarria (Mahlau's Grandson)
1/07 Margery Barnes
1/08 Kyle Muth
1/14 Jeanne Tenety Rothrock
1/17 Beverly Losee Vaillancourt
1/18 Katie Pauline
 Barbara Rose
1/19 Benjamin Holton
1/20 Samara Davis
1/25 Julie Ann DiLoreto Davis
1/26 Salvatore John Triano
1/27 Elizabeth Bender
1/28 Katrinka Kip
1/31 Tom Greene
 Mildred Puchir

JANUARY BAPTISMS

1/08 Robert Frank
1/11 Kevin Michael Noye

Saint Paul 's On The Hill wishes you.....

Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year



The SPIRE Staff
Wishes you and
yours
Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year

