

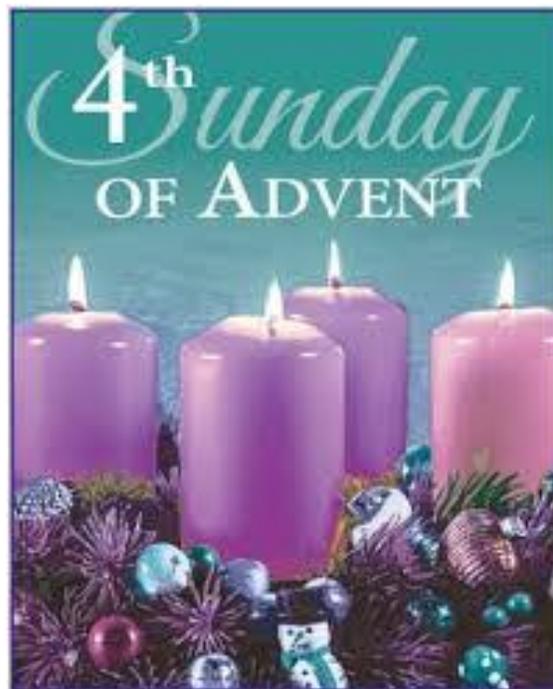
Weekly news & updates for St. Paul's

Week of December 20, 2021 | Volume 51

Upcoming Events for the week

- December 22- Noon Eucharist
The Chapel on Union Street.
- **December 24 - Christmas Eve**
Service - 5:00 p.m. St. Paul's
Episcopal Church - 1805 Minnesota
St.
- **December 25 - Christmas Day**
Service - 10 a.m. The Chapel 601
Union St.
- December 26 - 8 a.m. Sunday
Eucharist Service at St. Paul's
- December 26- 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Forum in-person and
Zoom offered
- December 26 - 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Eucharist, in-person
and Zoom offered. It's been
fun having coffee hour again.
- January 5 - Noon-3 p.m. Stop
by The Chapel on Union Street
to celebrate the 12th Day of
Christmas. December 26 -
10:00 a.m.
- January 8 - 10 a.m. - Noon. The
Neighborhood Team invites
you to join them plan events in
the year 2022.

**The Darkest Midnight in
December - Harp and choir**

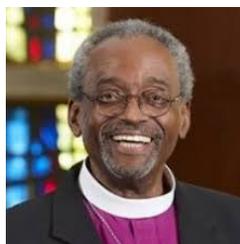


Harmony

As Christians, we wait not so much for Christmas, as for the day when God will reorder all creation, so that predator and prey will live in harmony, and the most vulnerable will live in peace and security. This is the vision of Isaiah, and the hope of Advent. It is the work of Jesus, and the prayer of the faithful.

-Br. James Koester

Society of Saint John the Evangelist

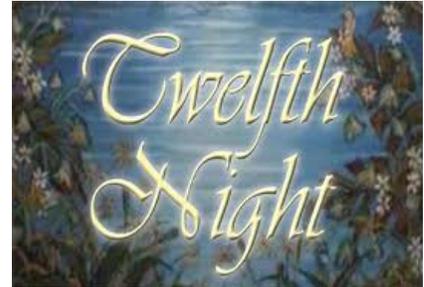


The Right Reverend
Michael Curry
Christmas Message Tap
on box to listen.

An Invitation to a Twelfth Night Celebration Jan. 5 - Noon-3 p.m.

January 5 or Twelfth Night has long been a Christian tradition in England and around the world. As the last day of Christmas, it ushers in the Feast of the Epiphany on Jan.

6. January 5 falls on a Wednesday this year and is a perfect time to celebrate these wonderful traditions. Beginning with the Eucharist at noon in the Episcopal Chapel on Union St., and followed by a party in the parish hall (Remington Hall), wassail and King's/Queen's cake will be served. Please come....invite your neighbors and friends....and enjoy this festive occasion!



Love, Gretchen Kimsey

Longest Night Service - Tuesday 6:00 p.m. Services

TUESDAY, December 21: United Church of Christ (Longest Night service)

- 111 E. 5th St.



Episcopal Relief and Development

Double the impact of donations made before the end of 2021!

Episcopal Relief & Development has announced that all donations until the end of the year will be doubled, thanks to the generosity of a group of donors. The matching funds will apply to **Gifts for Life** selections and **One Thousand Days of Love** selections. The matching funds will be sent to the global fund.



To donate or learn more, visit: episcopalrelief.org

Winter shelters open throughout the Mid-Columbia region

The Dalles, Oregon – With severe weather hitting the Mid-Columbia region, multiple shelters have opened to help keep our most vulnerable community members warm and safe.

Hood River Shelter Services

Hood River Shelter Services has opened its shelter, providing 24 non-congregate winter shelter beds, at its site located at 1733 Oak St. in Hood River. The site is open throughout the winter season, until March 2022. To find out more information or to inquire about available shelter beds, please call Hood River Shelter Services at 541-399-2057.

Mid-Columbia Community Action, The Dalles Non-Congregate Shelter Site

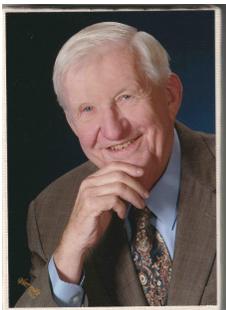
The Dalles Non-Congregate Pallet Shelter Site is open year-round and has 34 beds at its site located at the corner of Bargeway and Terminal Avenue. For more information or to inquire about available shelter beds, you can email The Dalles Shelter at tdshelter@mccac.com or by phone at 541-980-0855.

St. Vincent DePaul, The Dalles, Severe Weather Shelter

MCCAC and the City of The Dalles have partnered with St. Vincent DePaul of The Dalles to offer emergency winter warming shelter for severe weather events during the 2021-2022 winter season. The shelter, located at 315 W. 3rd St., opens when temperatures drop below 36 degrees for sustained periods of time or when there is significant precipitation forecasted. When open, nightly shelter registration begins at 7pm and lights out is at 9pm. On the days the shelter is going to be open, a flag is raised from the St. Vincent DePaul Shelter to make community members aware. For more information, including daily opening details, please call 541-296-9566 or look for the raised

Other Available Services for Houseless Community Members

In addition to shelter services, Mid-Columbia Community Action Council (MCCAC) and its partners provide street outreach services to Hood River, Wasco and Sherman Counties as we work to ensure unsheltered community members can stay warm through these tough winter months. The street outreach team also helps to provide direct referrals to sheltering resources. MCCAC's street outreach team can be reached by sending an email to housing@mccac.com. *MCCAC is the Community Action Agency serving Hood River, Wasco and Sherman Counties. MCCAC's mission is to build a better future for our community through partnership and equity.*



A little 'testy' humor for the season

Whew! Another long day. Shopping, wrapping, mailing, I'm bushed. But lying here in bed waiting for sleep it's nice to know that I'm almost ready for Christmas – **the most important day of the Christian year.**

But then my inner voice wakes up:

THE most important day? An itinerant carpenter drags his pregnant wife off to the big city to (at last) pay his taxes? Can't even afford a room at the Hot..!

Bethl..am, and then she has a baby boy, just like dozens or hundreds of other women that week?

It's all presents and gimme gimme gimme and food and rushing.

Meh!

OK OK, so you don't like Christmas, how about we jump ahead of the story and consider Easter?

Oh yeah, what a great time. The authorities finally pick up a rabble rouser urging revolution and do him in. Then the body "disappears". Did some of his followers steal the body to prevent the anti's from putting his head on a stake at the city gate? Or perhaps some thieves took it trying for a ransom.

Awright awright. Let's move on then to when Jesus reappeared.

Oh, you mean Pentecost where a bunch of paranoid schizophrenics locked themselves in a room (I'm sure with plenty of wine) and traded hallucinations! Get real! I want something that really applies to all, not just a couple of hangers-on

Ummm, let me think. OK, how about the Sermon on The Mount? That had words for all, even today.

*That's better, but remember we were talking of the most important **day**, singular. And even if the Sermon was indeed on only one day, there's a bunch of parables and platitudes that are really part of it and they were over many days. And it's really about what 's important to you.*

So, it's gotta be one day, important to me but also somehow to others, not Christmas, not Easter. You somehow keep changing the game. In that case, let me say - - - last Friday! There!

Yeah, that was a pretty good day, helping that old geezer get into one of the pallet shelters. I'd give you an A-plus for that day, but what about a week-ago last Tuesday. That was a D-minus at best.

If you're going to grade on a curve, what's it going to take to get into heaven? A GPA of 3.5 or will a 2.0 do? Or maybe an AP Theology course?

Now now, don't get testy. Go back to the start of this discussion. Try to decide what day (singular) is most important to you in Christendom?

OK, let me think. mmmmmm. mmmmmm. mmmmmm. Got it!

Yes?

Tomorrow!

Tomorrow?? No no no! Not tomorrow! We need the answer tonight if we're going to get any rest!

Yep, the answer is **Tomorrow. TOMORROW.** A day of (possible) change. A day of HOPE. Hope that I'll be more loving, more neighborly, more appreciative, more serving,...

a day of change....

- - - a better Christian!

Shalom, P.K. Swartz

G'nite.

Looking for drivers to bring people to church on Sunday

There is a sign-up list in the coffee hour bulletin board area, just under the coffee hour sign-up sheet, where you can schedule a time to pick-up 2 people. If you can drive, and can transfer a walker into your trunk, then St. Paul's needs your help. Please call Fiona, the church secretary to be placed on the list to drive.

St. Paul's needs people to sign-up for Coffee Hour

The return of **Coffee Hour** has been a blessing, but it does take your efforts to make this happen. If you forget to sign-up for a Sunday, you can call the church office and Fiona will place your name on the list. If you are low on funds and need help purchasing 'goodies', then please let me know, and I will give you a Fred Meyer gift card to help out with the purchase. Bring store bought cookies if you're low on time for baking, the coffee is provided and easy instructions are listed by the coffee pot on how to make coffee. 541-296-9587.

Marilyn+

Diocese news for December 2021

The Collect

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Diocesan Prayer Calendar

This week we pray for:

- St. Stephen's, Baker City. The Rev. Aletha Bonebrake, The Rev. Taylor Clark

Next week we pray for:

- St. Andrew's, Prineville. The Rev. Ray Jeff Spreier, The Rev. Willa Goodfellow, The Rev. Steve Uffelman

Diocesan Dates:

Dec. 5th Bishop visited St. Andrew's in Prineville
Dec. 11th Annual Christmas Tea at Ascension School
Dec. 17th - 19th HDSM at Ascension School
Dec. 23rd - Jan. 3rd EDEO and Ascension Offices Closed
Jan. 4th Collegium meets online 9:00-11:00am
Jan. 9th Bishop scheduled to visit St. John's, Hermiston
Jan. 14th - 16th HDSM at Ascension School
Jan. 21st - 22nd Diocesan Council meets at Ascension School
Jan. 23rd Bishop scheduled to visit Hopeful Saints in Heppner

Upcoming at Ascension School

- **Reset: Re-Gather, Re-Imagine, Reconcile**

Executive Director, Amy Jayne; Facility & Maintenance Director, Jason Jayne; Program Director, Roman Heidrich; and Operations Manager, Katie Sanchez, will be attending the Episcopal Camp and Conference Center Annual Retreat in January 2022.

- **Meditation in Motion**

Brosnan Spencer, partner of Caretakers of the Land and dear friend of Ascension School, is hosting monthly song circles and ecstatic dances. Using motion and sound to open minds and connect hearts, guests can fully express themselves in a safe and sacred environment of the Ascension School campus. These experiences can be found in Coe Kerr Conference Center from December 2021 to March 2022. Entry donations are accepted and encouraged but not required to join.

- **Wilderness Medicine Training Retreat**

In partnership with Longleaf Wilderness Medicine, Ascension School will be hosting a training retreat for wilderness first aid and CPR certification. Through current evidence-based treatment and guidelines, participants will learn to treat illnesses and injuries, respond to medical emergencies, and improvise solutions while learning from professional educators and experienced medical providers.

More information coming in January!

- **Young Adult Spiritual Exploration**

This retreat's purpose is to give young adults the opportunity to explore their spiritual connection with themselves and the universe around them through activities like meditation, nature journaling, and Socratic discussion. Stay tuned for more information!

- **Annual Cove Christmas High Tea**

On December 11th, Ascension School hosted its third annual Christmas Tea in Founders Hall. Friends from Cove, La Grande, Union, and other surrounding communities, joined together for a cozy cup of tea, and mug of hot cocoa, and delightful and delicious hors d'oeuvres. This event is heavily supported by Martin and Melanie Trump Van Holst, who helped in planning, decorating, baking, and spreading the word, making this event one for the books.

• The Circle

Are you a part of The Circle? Would you like to be? Join our snail mail list! Start receiving our annual newsletter. Send an email to katie@coveascensionschool.com.

Follow the link below to view our most recent newsletter.

https://mcusercontent.com/832f0510c57b7fe37298c6a25/files/1ba2b274-8326-edf7-e931-faa109feee19/The_Circle_2021.pdf

Save the Dates!

Jan. 24th - 28th Ascension Staff at the ECCC Annual Retreat
March 1st - 6th Buckskin Camp
March 12th - 13th Wilderness Medicine and First Aid Training
March 23rd - 25th Young Adult Spiritual Exploration
April 22nd Earth Day Project with Treasure Valley Community College
April 25th - 28th Willow Creek Outdoor School
May 27th - 29th Alumni Weekend
June 26th - 29th Discovery Camp
July 3rd - 9th Senior High Camp
July 10th - 15th Combined Camp
July 24th - 29th Junior High Camp
July 31st - Aug. 4th Beginners Camp
Aug. 29th - Sept. 4th Camas Camp

Prayers of the People

Please pray...

- For the family and friends of Rusty Estes
- Melanie Tromp Van Holst
- Prayers of thanksgiving for Tony and Maria Walz and the people of St. Paul's in Klamath Falls

A Prayer For Our Community

We pray for people who suffer from long term symptoms of the Covid virus. We pray for the caregivers, nurses, and doctors who continue to give from a heart of fatigue, but they still give. We pray for the first responders who may be working this Christmas Season, who also may suffer from fatigue and weariness of heart. We pray for all who lie in hospital beds this Christmas Season, may they be comforted and healed. We pray, that we who are healthy and of sound mind, will have generous hearts, giving beyond our every day comforts. And, lastly and most important, we thank you for the presence of the Holy Spirit prompt us to act with generous hearts. Amen.

Marilyn+

December Birthdays

23 Pat Fowler



For your prayers ...

Heidi (John and Diane Adam's granddaughter), Peggy Davis, Skip & Carol Fisher, Bobbi Green, Dale Newton, Ruth Welle (Carol Yakish's sister), John Davis, Lee Keifer, Andrew Larive, Melanie from Ascension, Mary who is suffering from ALS (a friend of Amy McIlvenna), Steve and Colleen Schafroth, Alice and Don as Alice struggles from lung cancer (John Langfeldt's sister and brother-in-law), Abby Sue (Carolyn Thomas's niece), Mike Nagle as he heals from shoulder surgery, Michael Hayes (Gretchen Kimsey's nephew suffering from colon cancer), Peter Russell (Jeanie Senior's nephew), Elen Thomas (Carolyn Thomas' granddaughter), Evelyn Nultemeier (Georgia Giacobbe's sister), Ken Schlieff, Ned Kice, Harrison Richter, Pat Peickert at the death of her grand son, and relief from the Covid-19 virus spread throughout the community and country, and our Nation.

The Jeff Krier family as they grieve his death; the Carolyn Thomas family as they grieve the loss of Griff Thomas; Deb Hucke and the Hucke family as they grieve the loss of Ross, and give Jan

Newson comfort as she grieves the death of her son, and Mary Ellen, Laura and Carly Lowe as they grieve the loss of Cary. 12 09 21

For the departed: Jeff Krier, Griff Thomas, Betty Hartmann, The Rev. Larry Ferguson, Oscar Martinez, Helen Kochel, Ross Hucke, John Ringlbauer, and Cary Lowe.

To submit articles or pictures for the weekly newsletter, please submit them by Friday. Some articles may be held over for the following issue due to immediacy and space. Your articles keep us smiling and feeling like a community. Thank you, Marilyn

ST PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH | www.stpaulsthealles.org