



THE MESSENGER

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH · SOUTHBOROUGH, MA

In this issue

-
- Lessons and Carols.....p.1
- Blue Christmas Service....p.2
- Christmas WorshipP. 2
- Coming in January.....p. 3
- Adult Forums.....p. 3
- Altar Guild.....p. 3
- Christmas Bazaar.....p. 4



“First Coming”

Madeleine L’Engle

He did not wait till the world was ready,
 till men and nations were at peace
 He came when the Heavens were unsteady
 and prisoners cried out for release.
 He did not wait for the perfect time.
 He came when the need was deep and great.
 He dined with sinners in all their grime,
 turned water into wine. He did not wait
 till hearts were pure. In joy he came
 to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.
 To a world like ours, of anguished shame
 He came, and his Light would not go out.
 He came to a world which did not mesh,
 to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.

Lessons & Carols

COME TO THE MANGER!

A Service of Lessons and Carols for Advent

Sunday, Dec. 18, at 4:00 p.m.

The Choir will be joined by professional singers to present this traditional holiday musical journey to the incarnation.

Potluck dinner follows the service.

You invited to bring your nativity scene (crèche) from home and put it on display in the parish hall during the potluck dinner!

Christmas Worship at St. Mark's

Sunday, Dec. 18, 4 pm,
Lessons and Carols

Wednesday, Dec. 21, 7 pm,
Blue Christmas Service

Saturday Dec. 24, 4 pm
Christmas Pageant

Saturday, Dec. 24, 10 pm,
Festival Holy Eucharist with
Choir

Sunday, Dec. 25, 10 am, Holy
Eucharist with Carols

Sunday, January 1, 10 am,
Holy Eucharist

Sunday January 8 — Regular Schedule

7:45 — Spoken Eucharist

8:45 — Family Eucharist

9:45 — Epiphany party

10:45 — Christmas Lessons
and Carols



Blue Christmas

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel” — A Blue Christmas Service
Join us Wednesday, December 21 at 7pm for a community
wide “Blue Christmas” service that focuses on the coming of
Emmanuel into our world.

Not everyone is up and cheery for the Christmas holidays.
Dealing with the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce
or separation, coping with the loss of a job, living with cancer
or some other disease may make the Christmas holidays
difficult for some people in our congregation or community.

This quiet service of prayers, readings and candles allows a
chance to find solace as we enter the Twelve Days of
Christmas. Open to all.

Altar Guild

HELP WANTED – Please consider joining the Altar Guild. Several of our members have left the Guild for various reasons and we need to replace them. We have 5 teams of 4-5 ladies on each team who served on 2 non-consecutive months and a member on each team covers one of the services on Sunday. We do the set-ups and clean-ups, post hymns, and change Altar hangings, when necessary. It is not time consuming, usually takes a half hour when we all work together. Please contact Dee or Helen and we can answer any questions you may have or what team would best fit your schedule.

On December 24, 9:00 AM, (Saturday), we will have many plants delivered to the church for Christmas Eve Services and many hands will be needed to bag the plants, change hangings, prepare the setups, set up the crèche scene, change bows to red, etc. With many helpers, this should not take more than 2 hours and we will enjoy the friendships.

We thank the ladies of the Guild for the work they do, and it never goes unrecognized.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee Cameron and
Helen Seward
Altar Guild Co-Chairs

Last Adult Forum of December

Sunday, December 18 — Parish Hall, 9:45 am — Come explore Backpacking With the Saints with Father Phil. On this Sunday we'll dive in to Celtic Spirituality and the call to depart onto a new trail. Following Columba and the Wild Goose—how the Holy Spirit gets described—on a new beginning, we'll explore the need to take up a spiritual practice. Time for both learning and discussion!



Coming in our January newsletter:

- An update on our Rector's Sabbatical and our plans
- Meet our Vestry Candidates
- Information on our Annual Meeting on January 29
- Lenten Adult Education Opportunities
- New Comers' Class Information
- And more!



Christmas Bazaar

THANK YOU TO OUR PARISH! Many thanks to all of the many helpful hands who participated in our most successful Christmas Bazaar ever at St. Mark's! With your efforts we have raised over \$7,000!! which will be donated to our Youth Group Mission trip and the Southborough Food Pantry Fuel Assistance Program. There are so many people to thank for their efforts - from the crafters and bakers, to the volunteers and musicians! We are grateful for your time and generous donations to support



St. Mark's Christmas Bazaar. At the bazaar our parish hall was filled with people from St. Mark's and the surrounding community, all coming together to share in the joy and celebration of the Christmas season. This was one of our most successful events because of all of you!

NEW COLLECTION OF DONATIONS FOR 2017: We will have a new way to collect your donations for the bazaar for 2017! Throughout the year you will have the opportunity to donate items you and your family no longer need and store them in the parish hall attic for next year's bazaar. Drop off dates to store your donations in the parish hall attic will be announced soon. Your contributions and act of goodwill will directly benefit our outreach distributions.

Many thanks - Dana McCluskey,
Christmas Bazaar Chair





Staff

The Rev. Philip N. LaBelle, Rector
The Ven. Michael Hamilton, Deacon
James Wallace, Organist and Choirmaster
Christiann Kelley & Kathleen Cormier, Dirs. of Christian Ed
Maureen Hansen, Parish Coordinator
Dave Holland, Sexton

Sunday Worship Services

7:45am Spoken Eucharist
8:45am Family Eucharist
9:45am Faith Formation
10:45am Choral Eucharist

www.stmarkssouthborough.org

The Messenger
St. Mark's Episcopal Church
27 Main Street Southborough, MA 01772
Phone: 508-481-1917
Fax: 508-481-2160
Email: office@stmarkssouthborough.org

First Class
Postage