



ADVENT  
&  
CHRISTMAS  
PP. 6-7

The Newsletter of St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Dec. 2015

## JESUS WEPT A REFLECTION ON JOHN 11.32-44

by the Reverend Stephen Trever



**H**earing the news of his good friend, Lazarus' illness, Jesus, risking his own life, returns to Bethany, a village located on the outskirts of Jerusalem. He arrives to a scene of mourning. Lazarus has died, and both of his sisters greet Jesus with the same words, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

Recognizing God's presence in the midst of life's difficult situations remains one of the perennial



challenges to the life of faith. If God is the font of all goodness, it is tempting to see pain and loss as a sign of God's absence. At the heart of the Gospel, however, is the assurance that nothing, not even death, can separate us from the love of God in Christ. On the cross, Jesus echoes the words of the psalmist "My God, why have you forsaken me?" And in that cry we hear affirmed the beautiful paradox of the cross – that even the human experience of God-forsakenness has been fully integrated into the Life of God, thereby assuring us that there is absolutely nowhere we can go where God has not already gone. There is truly nowhere beyond the reach of God's loving and healing embrace. Early icons depict Jesus breaking open the gates of Hell and leading everyone out. These icons again reflect the experiential awareness of the penetrating depths of God's transforming and renewing Spirit. In the words of the psalmist:

*Whither shall I go from thy Spirit?  
Or whither shall I flee from thy presence?  
If I ascend up to heaven, thou art there:  
If I make my bed in hell, behold thou art there.  
(Ps. 139.7-8 KJV)*

The question in times of pain and uncertainty, then, is not why God has abandoned us, but where are

*continued on next page*

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the signs of the Holy Spirit's activity even now in the midst of the uncertainty and pain? Perhaps one clue of where to begin to look is found in that scene of Jesus' arrival at the tomb of Lazarus. Upon hearing softening hearts of stone and leaving behind hearts of flesh. (Ezekiel 36.26)

It is my prayer for St. Mark's in this time of transition that we will not allow anxiety, pain, grudges, feelings of guilt, or regrets about the past, or uncertainty of the future, to harden our hearts. Rather, I pray that we will have the strength and courage to mourn and to weep. I pray that we will not retreat from one another, but open our hearts wider to one another – that our shared grief might be a source of healing and reconciliation. While we do not know exactly what we are becoming, we will have the faith that God is working in our midst, and that when Christ arrives at the last, we will be like Him. (1 John 3.2) ✕

## LENTEN HOME GROUPS A SURVEY OF INTEREST

By Stephen Trever

Though it is only Advent, Lent is just around the corner, and it is coming early. Ash Wednesday is Feb 10! This year for the Lenten programming, we are considering having weekly simple suppers, hosted by different parishioners in their homes. These small group gatherings will consist of a shared meal, prayer, and topical discussion, and will be an opportunity to build deeper connections with members of the community. If you are interested in participating, please email the Rev. Stephen Trever at [Stephen@stmarksberkeley.org](mailto:Stephen@stmarksberkeley.org), and indicate if you are willing to host, willing to cook, or would just like to participate. ✕

## THE FUTURE OF ADULT FORMATION

by Judith Berling



Advent is a busy season both in our church and in our personal lives. We will have no forum on Thanksgiving Sunday, as many will still be with family and friends observing the holiday. The Vestry is holding a Town Meeting about Corrie's leaving and our road ahead on December 6.

Our one Advent Adult Forum will be Sunday, December 13, when our former seminarian Bella Sempari will return for a forum requested by parishioners: how to speak with street people. Some of us are awkward when dealing with people who live on the streets, and several parishioners have requested a forum on this matter. Bella, who has worked extensively with street people, addicts, and the mentally ill, will return to give us some pointers. During this Advent Season, when our hearts go out to the less fortunate, it is good to go beyond our comfort zone to those in need on our streets.

Our thoughts will then turn to Christmas worship, with Lessons and Carols and our Christmas and Epiphany services.

The future of Adult Formation/Forums in the new year is uncertain, as I will have to resign from the Adult Formation Committee at the end of this year. I am over-loaded at work during this my last year of teaching, and I have long been over-committed at St. Marks. This dual overload cannot continue. After considerable prayer and discernment, I have decided to withdraw from Adult Formation. I have served for many years, and I believe that it is time for new ideas and new leadership. I will thus turn my attention to my seven other ministries at St. Mark's.

There is no one poised to take over the Chair of Adult Formation, so the committee may become inactive for a time. Since the parish will be making yet another leadership transition, it is perhaps a good time to give the Vestry ample space for formal and informal parish conversations about our future directions. I give thanks to all who have served on the committee or who helped to lead and plan forums. If you are called to Adult Formation leadership, please let a member of the Vestry know. ✕

## VESTRY REPORT

by Bruce Alexander



There has been a wide range of reactions to the announcement of Corrie's resignation, and the vestry would like to assure the parish that they are being heard. On December 6, there will be a meeting upstairs in the parish hall about Corrie's resignation, and about what to expect going forward. Corrie, Lisa, and I will make some introductory comments, and try to address many of the questions that have been raised. There will then be time for further questions and answers. The Rev. Ted Thompson, the facilitator with whom we have worked, will also be there.

I want to stress that the diocese has been closely involved with the vestry in Corrie's discernment process from the beginning. The diocese suggested that we work with a facilitator, and provided us with the names of three people they recommend. After

interviewing the three, Corrie, Lisa, and I agreed that Ted was the one with the most relevant experience, and that he would be the best person to work with. That has turned out to be a wise choice. Throughout this

process, Ted has shown great concern for the welfare of both the parish and Corrie, and we are extremely grateful for his work on our behalf. The diocese is continuing to work with us now as we begin the search for an interim priest.



At its meeting on 11/19, the vestry discussed another question that has been on many people's minds as well: what will Stephen Trever's role be as we move forward? Stephen was hired as an assistant rector at the end of 2014 with a one-year appointment. That one year appointment was funded with savings from a number of sources over the previous year. It was understood that renewal of that appointment would be contingent on the finances of the parish--specifically the vestry at the time hoped that there would be an increase in pledging to help pay for the appointment. That did not happen. In fact pledges for 2015 were lower than for 2014. The vestry, however, believes that it is important for the parish to have Stephen with us during this time of transition to provide continuity and pastoral care. The vestry therefore voted to renew Stephen's appointment for six months, until the end of June.

In March we will reach a decision about whether his appointment can be extended further.

Finally, I want to remind you that Corrie's last Sunday service with us will be 1/3/16. She will also serve on Epiphany, 1/6/16. On 1/10/16, we will say good-bye to her liturgically, and then after the service we will celebrate her time with us with food and fellowship. ✕

Left: The Reverend Coryl Lassen  
Right: The Reverend Edward "Ted" Thompson





# BIENVENIDOS A GUATEMALA! COME! VISIT!

by The Rev. Deacon Phyllis Manoogian



Last month, at our Diocesan Convention, I was blessed to be installed as the Missioner to Guatemala. To be honest, I'm not entirely certain of all the ramifications of the title, or how it changes what I have or will do here in Guatemala. Besides working with the Episcopal Church, I am mentoring women of the Kateri Tekawitha Fund, a project operated by indigenous women that provides a variety of educational opportunities to other Guatemalan women. In urban areas, the Fund offers scholarships to women returning to school, and intern opportunities in local businesses. In the outlying, more rural, areas it empowers women, while teaching nutrition through gardens that enrich their families' diets, and perhaps engenders a small income by marketing the produce they grow. The Fund and I are organizing a visit to Guatemala that will not only allow you to see the grandeur of Lent as it is celebrated in Antigua, the colonial capital of Guatemala, but also interact with the participants and alumni of the program. Come, see the women's bountiful gardens, visit homes, and make tortillas. Learn Guatemala's incredible history and culture by visiting museums, a coffee plantation, savor chocolate after a hands-on experience, and meet some of the most delightful people you'll ever encounter. This is not your sterile pre-packaged tour. It is a once-a-year opportunity to meet the gracious people of "The Land of Eternal

Spring," and walk with them.

This adventure will begin in Guatemala City on February 13, 2016. Besides museums there and several days in Antigua, you will visit some of the smaller, off-the-beaten-path of most tours communities like Chumanzana, Tecpan, Panajachel, Santa Clara, and enjoy a boat ride on Lake Atitlan. On February 24 it's back to the airport for your return home. All this for \$2000, which includes all expenses, (double occupancy) except your evening meals and airfare. As your tour guide, I hope some of you will extend your stay a day or two to see the Episcopal Church at work and meet the community of English speaking expatriates of St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Antigua.

The Rev. Sue Thompson and Stina Pope enjoyed this trip, and Stina writes, "If you want to see the 'real' Guatemala, this is the trip for you! Nice accommodations, very good food, but being taken to villages, learning how to make tortillas in a woman's house, seeing them weave the wonderful textiles in their homes - you don't get on a regular tour! And seeing the effects of our help supporting girls in school, that was very gratifying." Please let us know of your interest by writing to [info@mission-guatemala.org](mailto:info@mission-guatemala.org) no later than December 1.

Bienvenidos a Guatemala. Welcome to Guatemala! ✂



**Above: The scholarship students celebrate the end of the school year.**

**Below: Nicolasa in the store stocked with seed money from the Kateri Tekawitha Microcredit Fund.**

## In the SPOTLIGHT

Sam Ingham, Berkeley

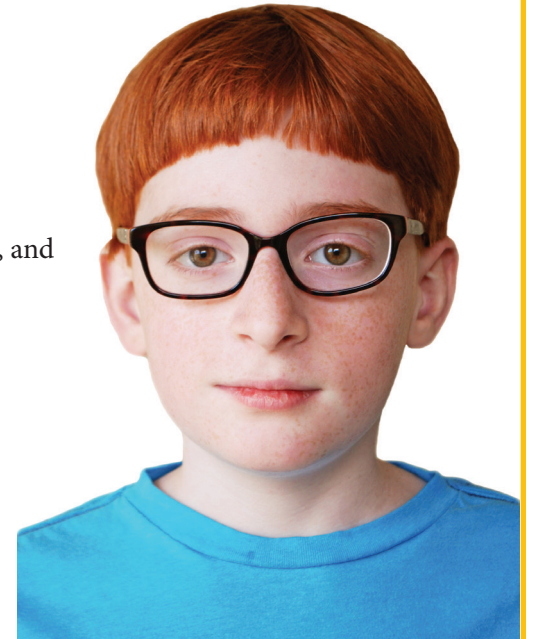
**Occupation:**  
School

**Interests, hobbies:**  
Computer stuff, especially playing video games, watching video games, and recording video games

**Most people don't know that:**  
I like pizza best microwaved.

**What I like best about St. Mark's is:**  
The whole experience

**Favorite TV show, movie, book:**  
*The Last Kingdom*, all the *Star Wars* movies. Favorite book: the *Warriors* series. ✂



**People new to St. Mark's enjoyed food and fellowship at a lunch held on October 15, 2015 by the Newcomers' Committee.**



# MUSIC MINISTRY

by George Emblom



## EVENSONG & ORGAN RECITAL: ELIZABETH FORSYTH

The 30th season of the Second Sunday Evensong/Organ Recital series continues on Sunday, December 13. Beginning at 5:30 p.m., the St. Mark's Schola Cantorum will offer Evensong, followed by an organ recital, performed by Elizabeth Forsyth.



Elizabeth Forsyth

Elizabeth first studied organ with Esther Johnson in Berkeley. She received her Bachelor and Master of Music degrees in organ performance from Brigham Young University, where she studied with Robert Cundick and J.J. Keeler. Long active in the AGO, she has served on the Executive Committees of both the San Francisco and the Philadelphia chapters, and has chaired committees on Long Range Planning and The Young Organist. Serving in church music for over 40 years, she is currently the organist at First Congregational Church of Berkeley. A past guest organist at the Salt Lake City Tabernacle, she has frequently been a Philadelphia AGO Chapter noon recitalist, and has also performed at The National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa and the Philadelphia Cathedral. Elizabeth teaches both piano and organ students, and delights in getting her teenage piano students over to the organ bench. Each August, she can be found presenting classes and workshops at the BYU Organ Workshop. She is the proud mother of four sons and grandmother of eight.

Her program will include:

J.S. Bach: *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, Pastorella in F*

Louis-Claude d'Aquin: *Noel X*

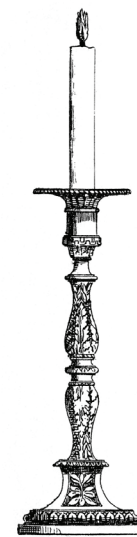
Wilbur Held: *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

Dale Wood: *The Gift to Be Simple*

James Biery: *Good King Wenceslas*

Franklin D. Ashdown: *Variations on Tallis' Canon.*

A reception follows the program. ✕



## A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS & CAROLS

SUNDAY  
DECEMBER 20  
4:30 PM



This service was originally instituted at Truro Cathedral in Cornwall, England, based on a medieval vigil service. It was modified in the early twentieth century by the Very Rev. E.M. Millner-White, dean of King's College Chapel, Cambridge, England. Since then, it has been sung annually in King's College Chapel on Christmas Eve, and here at St. Mark's since 1942. The service opens with the traditional carol "Once in royal David's city," a bidding prayer, and the Lord's Prayer. The story continues with the promise to Abraham, the assurance of the prophet Isaiah, the calling of Mary, the birth of Jesus, and ends with St. John's unfolding of the great mystery of the Incarnation. Carols, familiar and unfamiliar, are sung throughout the service. The service is held in candlelight, and a festive reception follows in Lions Hall. Child-care will be available, and early seating is advised. ✕



## Christmastide at St. Mark's Church



Thursday, December 24  
The Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Eve

A Family Christmas Eucharist, 4:30 PM, Church  
The family service will feature a "flash pageant" and a shortened Eucharistic prayer

Music for the Nativity: *Carols*, 10:00 PM, Church

Choral Eucharist, 10:30 PM, Church  
Incense will be used at this service

Friday, December 25  
The Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Day

Holy Eucharist, 11:00 AM, Church

Sunday, December 27  
The First Sunday after Christmas

Holy Eucharist, 8:00 AM, Chapel  
Choral Eucharist, 10:00 AM, Church

Friday, January 1  
The Holy Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Holy Eucharist and Healing, 12:10 PM, Chapel  
Celebration for The Rev. Dr. Louis Weill on the 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood

Wednesday, January 6  
The Epiphany of our Lord Jesus Christ

Choral Eucharist, 7:30 PM, Church





# HOT MEALS REPORT

by Charlotte Blackmer



Hot Meals' November meal was on Saturday Nov 21.

Under the direction of Chefs Liz Charlton and Jamie Wasson, the volunteers prepared chicken salad for sandwiches and a VERY Thanksgiving meal of baked chicken, lentil loaf (for the vegetarians), cranberry sauce, roast potatoes, homemade dressing, gravy, corn, and salad.

There was also pumpkin pie for dessert (thank you Costco!)

Our fabulous St. Mark's leaders and regular volunteers were: Liz Charlton, Charlotte Blackmer, Alexis Segel, Jane Tong, Kathy Yam, Elaine Parker, Tad Dellinger

Community volunteer groups participating in this very thankful meal were: Cal Habitat, Circle K, PILLS, Cal Optometry School, Sigma Alpha Nu, Piedmont Venture Crew, NCL, and our friends from the Contra Costa and Napa Korean Seventh-day Adventist Churches.

If you missed our annual Inasmuch offering on Nov 22, we are happy to take donations any time to meet expenses of the program (which is currently self-funded). Checks may be made to St. Mark's with "Hot Meals" in the memo line. The December meal will be sack lunches on Dec. 19 so we welcome volunteers to help assemble them at 1:30 PM. ✂

Pie for Hot Meals guests.



# MINISTRY TAKES MANY FORMS...

by Alda Morgan



Last spring, a new student who had appeared for the first time on the opening day of study hall...and showed up every day thereafter, stopped me and said, "I saw a lady bring us the yummiest brownies this afternoon. It's so nice that people here who don't know us take the time to bake cookies and things for us." She paused and then, smiling shyly, added, "When I graduate, I'm going to bake cookies for students who are studying for their exams."

This young woman hasn't graduated yet, but she did offer to help with study hall, and this year she is part of the committee which plans and implements this project. At our last meeting she expressed more gratitude. "It's so great to be able to study in a quiet, warm place, and to be able to spread all out, to have free coffee, and go to the bathroom, and know, when you come back, that your place won't be taken by someone else."

Ministry takes many forms! Thank you, St. Mark's, for providing this hospitality and service to Cal students--good food, free coffee, and an assured place to study! Please join us again to keep up this good work. ✂



# THE LION LOOKS BACK THE RISE (AND FALL) OF THE MUNICIPAL POLICY

by L. Retrospectans



*"With our municipal ideal we climb the hills and look out over the whole city. ... We see St. Mark's; we catch a glimpse of St. Matthew's in the South-central part; far over in West Berkeley we see the tower of the Church of the Good Shepherd. In north Berkeley just under the hill we see beginning the little chapel for All Souls' Church. Four already, but is that all? Over in the South-east of the town in the Claremont district rapid building is beginning. It takes no prophet's eye to see that there a church will be as sorely needed as in North Berkeley."*

So, with his own acutely prophetic eye, does Edward L. Parsons, Rector of St. Mark's, continue the eloquent sermon proposing in 1905 a "municipal policy" for Episcopal congregations in Berkeley that we, with our own, somewhat less acute and backward-looking eye, began to consider in last month's column. As you will perhaps recall, he advances a plan for a one-parish town, with St. Mark's resembling a central city government—City Hall if you will—and its various "chapels" representing city wards: one vestry for all the different congregations, with representatives to it elected from each of the constituents, plus three representatives elected from "the parish" at large. He details the "vast advantages" such a scheme presents. These include, first, he claims, economy, by which he does not mean "the cheapness with which the whole work is done but that there need be no wasted energy, no churches over-lapping one another, ... in which the poorer work can be supplemented by the richer. The whole city will be interested in every part of it and All Souls' will feel it as important the Good Shepherd shall be well equipped as that it shall do its own work well." This economy of mission will be reflected in how the clergy work together as well: "one need not be overworked and another have abundant leisure. One need not be assaulting a fortress while another builds

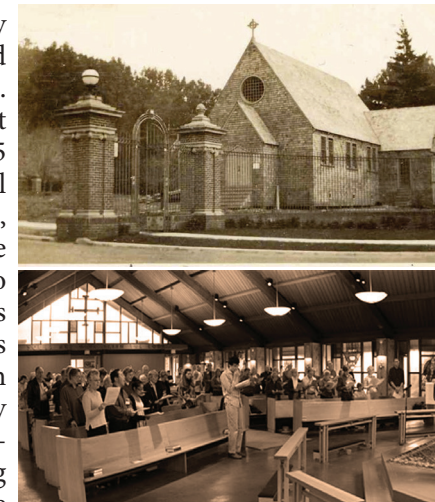
a bridge miles away. ... But in the great parish of St. Mark's we shall strike together, all the clergy of the city. ... It will mean harmony in all administration, and the pitiful parochial quarrels will be avoided. The organization will be too great, the parish too splendid an ideal." In his peroration he sums up what he sees as the results of his plan. "Economy in missionary work, economy in ministerial labor, harmony of aim and method, unselfishness, true Church Ideals, displayed in every part of the system ... With them because of the largeness of the aim must come money, and men

[remember, it's 1905], and buildings; with them must come deepened devotion, ennobled ambition. Beside the University, the crown of the secular life of the State [!], we shall set the Church the crown of the whole life of the State, in dignity and beauty and largeness of aim, a worthy co-laborer." Who could resist such a vision? —One might notice in passing that, like the best orators, Parsons is very aware of his audience; his congregation includes many members of the university community.

And his silver tongue was indeed persuasive. All Souls' at Cedar and Spruce was a chapel of St. Mark's, as was the new chapel, St. Clement's, established in the Claremont district

as Parsons had predicted. They both became part of the mother parish. As the booklet written to celebrate the seventy-fifth anniversary of St. Mark's (1952)—invaluable for our historical enterprise—explains: "Whether one attended St. Mark's, All Souls', or St. Clement's he [remember, it's only 1952] was a member of St. Mark's Parish. The Rector of St. Mark's was likewise the Rector of the Parish. All Souls' and St. Clement's each had its vicar. There was one vestry for the entire parish." The policy also embraced St. Matthew's, at Russell and Grove, then a mission church (no longer an Episcopal church); Good

Above: St. Clement's  
Below: All Souls'



continued on page 10



Shepherd (largely dependent on financial support from the parish); and the Northbrae Sunday School, held in a private residence on Indian Rock Avenue. “The plan attracted nationwide attention,” the booklet asserts, “articles were written about it in magazines and newspapers.” But the story doesn’t end there.

In 1919, when Parsons became Bishop Coadjutor of the diocese, W. R. H. Hodgkin, the vicar at All Souls’ succeeded him as Rector of “the Parish.” The Municipal Policy continued in force—but, quoting again from the booklet, All Souls’ and St. Clement’s “grew up.” From theoretical “chapels,” they became, in fact, successful parishes, eager to have their own vestries, and hence their own representatives at diocesan convention. At the parish meeting in 1924, Dr. Hodgkin expressed the hope “that before long some changes may be made in the Canons of the Diocese whereby this parish with its three strong churches may secure a larger representation. Internally, I find that our cooperation benefits the Church, but externally we are not able to use our influence as I am sure we ought to.” In 1927, All Souls’ and St. Clement’s were admitted to full parochial standing. Bishop Parsons himself admitted graciously that, “although up to a definite point it was a most successful experiment, ... It was ... perhaps inevitable that with [those churches’] rapid growth, the difficulties of carrying the policy on became increasingly great. There was no place for it in the ordinary canonical organization of Church and Diocese.” As Rector, though, he had been able to see outside the box.

So ended a fascinating though brief era in our parish life. In the debate between the Parochial Churchman and the Municipal Churchman imagined so vividly in Dr. Parsons’s 1905 sermon, history’s frequent irony can be seen: the Parochial Churchman turns out eventually, in fact, to be the winner. ✕

ST. MARK'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

2300 BANCROFT WAY  
BERKELEY, CA 94704

SUNDAY EUCHARIST

8 AM: Spoken - Chapel  
10 AM: Choral - Nave (Main Church)

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Music Office: 510-845-0888  
Email: office@stmarksberkeley.org  
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POEISIS  
From Lewis Brown  
Queen of Craftsmen:  
An Advent Song

Blow on, exquisite blow,  
The crystal hammers of her love,  
Fasten the careful joinings of His bones.  
Prophets have sung this craft:  
How man may number  
These bones, but never break any one of them.  
What blueprint guides you, Queen of architects,  
To trace sure paths for wandering veins  
That run Redemption's wine?  
Who dipped your brush, young artist, so to tint  
The eyes and lips of God? Where did you learn  
To spin such silk of hair, and expertly  
Pull sinew, wind this Heart to tick our mercy?  
Thrones, Powers, fall down, worshipping your craft  
Whom we, for want of better word, shall call  
Most beautiful of all the sons of men.  
Worker in motherhood, take our splintery songs,  
Who witness What you make in litanies:  
Queen of craftsman, pray for us who wait.

Mother Mary Francis, P.C.C.  
(late Abbess of the Colettine Poor Clare  
monastery in Roswell, New Mexico)

Note: Mother Mary Frances was a startling, artful poet. This poem was first published in Friar Journal, December 1961. I think a day will have to come when the Roman church more significantly appreciates its women.

<http://www.poorclaresroswell.com/BioMotherMaryFrances.htm>  
✕

Dec 2015 (Pacific Time)						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
8am - Eucharist-CH @ 8:45am - "Coffee at Eight"- 10am - Choral Eucharist-NV 11:30am - Parish Meeting - 2pm - Cal Bach (2-7p)-NV	Study Hall (12-10p)-PAR	6:30pm - Spoken Word-LIB	9:30am - LION Mailing-LIB 12:10pm - Holy Eucharist- 4:30pm - Stewardship-RO 5:30pm - Bridge Group-LH 5:30pm - Choir Board-LIB 6pm - Inquirers' Class- 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal-	6:30pm - Intercessory 7:15pm - Contemplative 8pm - Compline-CH	11am - Bible Study-LIB 12:10pm - Holy Eucharist- 8pm - S&P (6-10p)-NV	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Study Hall (12-10p)-PAR LION Deadline 8am - Eucharist-CH @ 8:45am - "Coffee at Eight"- 10am - Choral Eucharist-NV 12pm - Forum: tbd-LIB 5:30pm - Evensong/Organ		6:45pm - Adult Formation-	12:10pm - Holy Eucharist- 5:30pm - Bridge Group-LH 6:30pm - Finance 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal-	6:30pm - Intercessory 6:30pm - Necomer's 7:15pm - Contemplative 8pm - Compline-CH	11am - Bible Study-LIB 12:10pm - Holy Eucharist- 8pm - WAVE (6-10p)-NV	10:30am - L&C Readers 1:30pm - Hot Meals-PAR @ 1:30pm - L&C Choir Reh-NV 2pm - Prayer Shawl* @
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
8am - Eucharist-CH @ 8:45am - "Coffee at Eight"- 10am - Choral Eucharist-NV 4:30pm - Lessons&Carols -	6pm - Communications-LIB 7pm - Pastoral Care-CH	12:10pm - Holy Eucharist- 5:30pm - Bridge Group (T)- 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal	12:10pm - Holy Eucharist- 5:30pm - Bridge Group-LH 6pm - Inquirers' Class- 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal-	4:30pm - Family Eucharist- 10pm - Music-NV 10:30pm - Choral	11am - Bible Study (T) 11am - Holy Eucharist-NV	
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
8am - Eucharist-CH @ 8:45am - "Coffee at Eight"- 10am - Choral Eucharist-NV			12:10pm - Holy Eucharist- 5:30pm - Bridge Group-LH 6pm - Inquirers' Class (T) @ 7:30pm - Choir Rehearsal-	New Year's Eve-Office 6:30pm - Intercessory 7:15pm - Contemplative 8pm - Compline-CH		



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