

DECEMBER 2012

VOL. 2 NO. 12

the ST. MARY'S Messenger

OH COME LET US ADORE HIM...



Interested?

The Messiah Sing Along St. Matthew's on Dec. 8, at 3 p.m. - call St. Mary's



Amahl & Night Visitors

Children's Opera: Dec 10-18 (various times) at First Baptist, Austin - call Tom & Mary

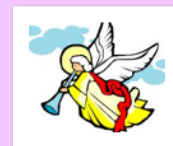


✠ Advent Thoughts ✠

The word **Advent** means "coming." It is a time to slow down, be quiet and meditate about the real meaning of Christmas. These four weeks before Christmas are a time to prepare our hearts and our lives as we wait for the coming of Jesus. We focus on the promise that God made to his people and how that promise was fulfilled in Jesus.

This Advent, have your family write down what you want for Christmas that can't be bought at a store. For example, time to see friends, a chance to talk to grandparents. Or, write a reverse Christmas list, instead of the things you want, write down things you are grateful you

already have. One idea to help children and youth understand Advent would be to focus on the "giving" not the "getting." Have children write the list of the gifts they will be giving and to whom.



For this Advent season, ask everyone in the family to put their name in a hat and each person picks a name. All season long you do good deeds, dream up little surprises, or leave notes of praise for just that one person - but without getting caught. On Christmas morning everyone reveals whose angel he or she was.

(www.epicenter.org)

New Hearts

We were all filled with relief and gratitude to learn that Victor Reed's father at last received a donor heart. Reverend Susie's sermons on November 25 addressed the dichotomy of the grief of the donor



our lives as Christians receiving new

family and the joy of the recipient family.

As I finished the day Sunday, I thought about the parallel with

hearts because of the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus.

My hope for St. Mary's parish is that our new hearts bring unity and respect for one another so that, like Victor's father, we may be strong.

Sue Faulkner

Advent 2012

As you prepare for the season of Advent, I would commend two questions to your musings and your prayer and your meditation: What is it that you are most waiting for? And, how are you going to wait this year?

I'm struck this particular season by the waiting of several women in Christian history. Mary obviously, waiting for the birth of the Promised One in her part of the world, a child born for the whole world.

Also Elizabeth, mother of John the Baptizer, who comes before Jesus. Elizabeth has been promised a child in her old age, these are both very unexpected births, they are waiting.

And I'm struck particularly this year by Elizabeth of Hungary, a saint of the Church who lived in the thirteenth century, who was betrothed as a child herself, married at 14, a mother of three by the time her husband died when she was 20. She spent her life giving it away, giving it away both physically through her means and through her presence and her healing. She was an icon of generosity.

What is it you wait for this year? Is it an opportunity to meet the surprising around you? Is it an opportunity to reflect on what is most needed in your heart and in the world around you? How are you going to wait for that gift? Are you going to wait actively? Engaged? Honing your desire? Stoking the passion within you for that dream? Are you going to wait for a dream that will bless the whole world?

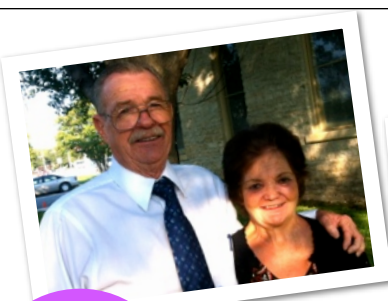
That's what Christians wait for in the season of Advent - of the coming of the Prince of Peace, the one who will reign with justice over this world. I believe that's what the world most needs, this year and every year.

May your season of waiting be fruitful and blessed. May it be filled with surprise and a willingness to engage that surprise.

A blessed Advent.

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori
Presiding Bishop and Primate





Rev.
Susie tells
us about



Advent Opportunities for Giving

We have chosen two local groups to sponsor through the season of Advent this year. Both children and the elderly are vulnerable groups that need our support. You can write a check to St Mary's, and designate to which charity you wish your gift to go.



Lampasas Senior Citizens Center serves between 40–60 meals a day, five days a week to senior citizens in the Lampasas area, with some of those meals delivered to homes. Their funding through Hill Country Community Action, has been for a maximum of \$2.65 per meal, and that funding has decreased, as have private donations, which make up the difference in cost. Director Dotty McRae predicts that organizations like the Senior Citizens Center will rely solely on local support in the future.

CASA, Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children, provides a safety net for children who are involved in the court system, by assigning an advocate for each child, who follows closely their case, their health, and well being. These Advocates, who are all volunteers, go through a rigorous training process. CASA is not funded by any governmental group, and subsists on donations to fund the training and staffing of this organization.



We are also collecting non perishable food items throughout Advent for the **Lampasas Mission**, to restock their shelves during this time of greater need.

*Every
Sunday:*

Holy Eucharist Rite 1
at 8am
Holy Eucharist Rite 2 at
10am.
Bring a friend!

*Every
Tuesday
AA/AlAnon
meetings at
7pm*

*Every
Wednesday
night at 5:30
is EYG*

*Every
Thursday
AA/AlAnon
meetings at 7pm*

Every
Saturday at
9am - we have
coffee at The
Beanery

Calendar of Events

December 1 9am Renaissance Coffee @ The Beanery

December 2 9am ECW meeting

December 4 11am Holy Communion

December 5 4pm St. Mary's Group Reunion
5:30 EYG Youth Group
6pm Evening Worship
6:30 Potluck Supper

December 6 6:30 "His Kids" bible study

December 8 8 a.m. Greening of the church & clean up

December 9 9am Adult Formation (*fun!*)
1:30 Knitting Group/Prayer Shawl Ministry
3:30 Adult Bible Study

December 16 9am Cookie Exchange (*YUM!*)
10am Service of Lessons and Carols

December 19 6pm Vestry Meeting (open to all)

December 23 1:30 Knitting Group (Prayer Shawl Ministry)
3:30 Adult Bible Study

December 24 4pm Family Eucharist Rite II *** Kid's Christmas Service ***
5pm "His Kids" dinner
10:30 pm Eucharist Rite I *** aka "Midnight Mass" ***

December 25 11:00 am Eucharist Rite II

This and That...

Ann Gilmore sent the following story (Thanks, Ann! This was really good).



A Church-goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000

sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this. They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

When you are DOWN to nothing.... God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical AND our spiritual nourishment!



ERIC WILLIAMS is a Boy Scout who recently completed his Eagle Scout service project - and what a nice project he chose!!

The Boy Scout handbook describes the project as: "the ultimate "application

phase" of what a Boy Scout has learned thus far in Scouting: leadership. . . responsibility. . . managing projects. . . applying the Scout Oath —"to help other people." An Eagle Scout project is a crowning achievement following years of fun, adventure, and advancement. In completing it, the scout provides an example for others that they can do the same thing." (http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/512-927_fillable.pdf)



Eric chose to refurbish the playground equipment at St. Mary's - he sanded, painted, reenforced, and generally upgraded the monkey-bars, playhouse, and climbing tower. Take a look at the great job he did - and be sure to let him know how much you appreciate his hard work.

Dear
Members of St.
Mary's: Thank you for
the opportunity to do my
Eagle Project at the
church, and thank you to
the people who donated
materials. Sincerely,
Eric Williams





Guess Who?

HINT: That cool boat in the background is HIS (and Jane's) - can we visit???

If you are interested in representing St. Mary's - let Rev. Susie know ASAP.

REGISTER NOW



164th Diocesan Council

February 8 & 9 | Houston, TX

NOVEMBER TRASH PICK UP

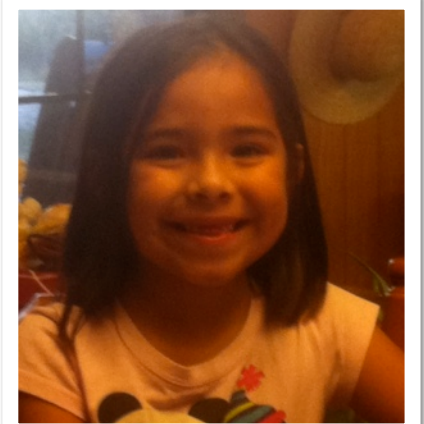
Four parishioners (Terry Sherman, Tom & Mary Hart & Victor) picked up 29 bags of trash and an RV AC cover



along our western sector from 8 to 12 on November 17. Sue Faulkner & Jane McMillin provided refreshments, transportation and moral support, making it a WHOLE lot easier on everyone - THANKX to all!

NEXT Trash Pick Up Date:
Saturday Dec 15 at 8am
(cheap way to get some Christmas shopping done!)

Victor Reed



Our granddaughter lost both her front teeth - guess what she wants for Christmas??

Taco Luncheon a Great Success!

ECW really hit a homer this fall with the Taco Luncheon program! Reports so far indicate that ECW sold more lunches, baked goods, and crafts - and made more money - than ever in ECW history! The Taco Luncheon committee, headed by **Bunny Johnson**, worked as a team to provide the winning menu. **Mary Halvorson** held several craft-making Saturdays so that a variety of goods could be showcased. **Fay Mullins** and **Ann Gilmore** took charge of the Bake Sale, and **Rev**

Susie (and others) delivered "to go" lunches all over town. **Jane McMillin** made sure that the luncheon was well publicized - she posted pretty posters all over town and had good newspaper and Radiogram coverage. **Tulisha Carson** designed and printed the posters and tickets. Thanks to everyone's hard work, ECW's donations to local charities will be more generous than ever. *Thanks, Everyone!*

JANUARY 2013

JAN 13
Annual Church
Meeting

JAN 18
Church-wide
Retreat, featuring
Rev. Carol Blaine



Five-Minute Cranberry Walnut Cobbler

*By Debbie Macomber, Port
Orchard, Washington*

This cranberry-based dessert has the look and flavor of Christmas.

Ingredients

2 ½ c. fresh or frozen cranberries
12 Tbsp. (1 ½ sticks) unsalted butter, melted
¾ c. chopped walnuts
¼ tsp. almond extract

½ c. plus ¾ c. granulated sugar
1 c. all-purpose flour
2 large eggs
Pinch of salt

Preparation

1. Preheat oven to 350°F.

2. In a 9-inch pie pan combine cranberries, walnuts and ½ cup of sugar; toss until coated.

3. In a medium bowl, whisk eggs, melted butter, remaining sugar and almond extract until

blended. Fold in flour and salt until combined.

4. Pour the batter over the cranberry mixture. Bake for 40 minutes, until crust is golden and fruit bubbles.

5. Transfer to a wire rack to cool.

Serves 8.

Nutritional Information:

Calories: 390; Fat: 25g;
Cholesterol: 95mg; Sodium:
200mg; Total Carbohydrates:
39g; Dietary Fiber: 3g;
Sugars: 24g; Protein: 5g.

Looking Ahead - Relay for Life 2013

St. Mary's has been a real leader when it comes to helping our community. For the past 3 years, we have lead the pack with our RELAY FOR LIFE efforts. Every year we have raised more money than all the local churches, businesses, and individuals. We have held bake sales, strung beads, made aprons, walked laps, donated funds, and recognized the many survivors both in - and outside - our parish family. We have cried and remembered those who have passed as a result of this disease....and we have had a lot of fun!

RELAY FOR LIFE 2013 is right around the corner - and I am asking for **someone to take over as team captain**. My job-related responsibilities are cutting into time that otherwise would be used for church and community activities, and so, in the best interest of St. Mary's, it is time to pass the team captain torch on to someone who can move us ahead. I fully intend to participate as a 2013 team member, and I'll be really happy to support, mentor, and advise the new team captain -

Lampasas County Relay is counting on St. Mary's to once again lead the pack. If someone does not want to take on this job (it doesn't require a LOT of work, and the people are nice), then the only other choice we have is to opt out of participating. Please pray for guidance - and let me know if you hear God's call to action.

(Mary Raring-Hart)

