



# St. Paul's Church in Nantucket

20 Fair Street, Box 278 Nantucket, Massachusetts 02554 . Telephone: 508-228-0916

*Advent 2016*

Dear Friends,

I was once told by my delightful and eccentric aunt "Every Year the retail industry kidnaps the baby Jesus and holds him for 2 billion dollars, ransom." This proved to be a very effective reminder of the joy which can be ours if we enter this season with humility and love.

A wonderful, international movement has sprung up in recent years called the Advent Conspiracy (for more information see [www.adventconspiracy.org](http://www.adventconspiracy.org)).

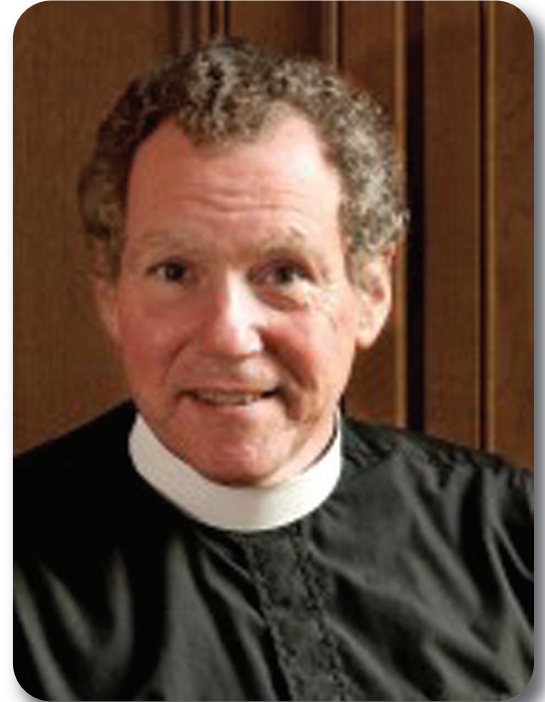
This movement embraces four principles:

1. **Worship Fully.** It starts with Jesus. It ends with Jesus. This is the holistic approach God had in mind for Christmas. It's a season where we are called to put down our burdens and lift a song up to our God. It's a season where love wins, peace reigns, and a king is celebrated with each breath. It's the party of the year. Entering the story of Advent means entering this season with an overwhelming passion to worship Jesus to the fullest.
2. **Spend Less.** Before you think we're getting all Scrooge on you, let us explain what we mean. We like gifts. Our kids really like gifts. But consider this: America spends an average of \$600 billion a year every Christmas. How often have you spent money on Christmas presents for no other reason than obligation? How many times have you received a gift out of that same obligation? Thanks, but no thanks, right? We're asking people to consider buying ONE LESS GIFT this Christmas. Just one. Sounds insignificant, yet many who have taken this small sacrifice have experienced something nothing less than a miracle: They have been more available to celebrate Christ during the advent season.
3. **Give More.** God's gift to us was a relationship built on love. So it's no wonder we're drawn to the idea that Christmas should be a time to love our friends and family in the most memorable ways possible. Time is the real gift Christmas offers us, and no matter how hard we look, it can't be found at the mall. Time to make a gift that turns into the next family heirloom. Time to write mom a letter. Time to take the kids sledding. Time to bake really good cookies and sing really bad Christmas carols. Time to make love visible through relational giving. Sounds a lot better than getting a sweater two sizes too big, right? Need a few ideas? See [www.adventconspiracy.org/story](http://www.adventconspiracy.org/story)
4. **Love All.** When Jesus loved, He loved in ways never imagined. Though rich, he became poor to love the poor, the forgotten, the overlooked and the sick. He played to the margins. By spending less at Christmas we have the opportunity to join Him in giving resources to those who need help the most. When Advent Conspiracy first began four churches challenged this simple concept to its congregations. The result raised more than a half million dollars to aid those in need. One less gift. One unbelievable present in the name of Christ.

I wish you all a Holy Advent and Joyous Christmas.

Peace,  
John+

**From our Rector,  
the Rev. John Beach**



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## Advent & Christmas Services

**St. Paul's Church – Nantucket**

**Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> — Second Sunday in Advent**  
Holy Eucharist: 8:00 am & 10:00 am  
St. Nicholas will visit the 10:00 service

**Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> — Third Sunday in Advent**  
Holy Eucharist: 9:30 am  
Christmas Luncheon after 9:30 service

**Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup> — Blue Christmas**  
**at 7:00 pm**

**Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup> — Gingerbread House Workshop**  
**and Potluck at 5:30 pm**

**Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> — Fourth Sunday in Advent**  
Holy Eucharist: 8:00 am  
Advent Lessons and Carols: 10:00 am

**Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> — Christmas Eve**  
Christmas Eve Family Service: 5:00 pm  
Choral Prelude: 9:30 pm  
Festival Eucharist: 10:00 pm

**Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup> — Christmas Day**  
Christmas Day: 10:00 am

**For information please call: 508 228-0916**



## Reflections on our trip to the Diocese of Cuba



On a warm November morning we went to Cuba. I believe what we experienced there will individually and collectively remain always with us. Lovingly and efficiently led by the great Julia Sullivan of Tallahassee, Fla (this was her 25th trip), our group consisted of 4 of us from St. Paul's from Nantucket, a couple from Scituate, Ma whose son is a member of John Beach's former parish in Geneva, another couple from Amelia Island, Fla, Julia and a friend from her church who is collaborating with Julia on a water filtration project in Cuba. We were blessed to have 3 excellent translators, Julia, Denise Beneteau, and Lucy Bixby. We traveled by bus from town to town, church to church, one loving receiving family after another. One of the most beautiful, humbling things about Cuban culture is that each of the families we visited gave us their absolute best. And how they loved all your generous gifts, thank you for all you gave! They are proud, extremely generous people, they know what true hospitality is. I came as a stranger, yet I felt as if I had been embraced forever! What I also observed is wherever we landed, the more the merrier! You are constantly surrounded by the community of the moment and it is beautiful to see. I had the sense that the church is there for the sake of the community, and living it with them helps the way we can uphold them in prayer. Cubans take time for each endeavor, enjoy the day and never look at a clock. It was so refreshing! Cubans are very proud people. They may not agree with the current national struggle but they are proud of their nationalism. Our trip was an expression of our partnership with the Anglican community, feelings of friendship and solidarity. As the week drew to an end, and we said our good-byes (very hard), I reflected on this joyous experience and how much we learned from our Cuban friends. I encourage you to consider a future trip with Padre John, and don't miss the upcoming showstopper presentation by Lucy Bixby!

Libby Tracey

During November 11-19th, the presence of St. Paul's Church was seen and known throughout various towns and cities in CUBA!! "Padre" John and Denise, Libby Tracey, Lucy Bixby - plus volunteers from Geneva, and two Florida Episcopal churches - travelled throughout the provinces of Carnaguey, and Ciego de Avila, ending our journey in the city of Havana.

We ten were warmly welcomed and enjoyed getting to know and love the heart and soul of the people. Extra suitcases were filled with donations - thanks to many of you and the island community - and the parishes we visited were quite surprised and pleased. One afternoon, in a tiny sugar cane town, descendants of early West Indian and Panamanian factory workers welcomed us into their church. We sang hymns together in English, there were introductions, prayers, more singing, then a reception was held, with fruit, cheese, sweets and fresh juices in the social hall. Then more hymns! It seemed wherever we journeyed, good-byes were especially difficult.

In Havana, several of us stayed in the Dean's Residence, adjoining the Cathedral. On our last afternoon, we met retired Ambassador to Cuba John D. Caulfield, which was quite fascinating.

This January we will offer a visual presentation and discussion. It is safe to say that four of us are already dedicated to the idea of sponsorship, building community, and bringing humanitarian aid to this beautiful country, Cuba.

Lucy Bixby



## Christian Formation Report

In September 2016, I accepted the position of Christian Formation Director for families and children from birth to age twelve. September was a very busy month with the start of school and the annual Blessing of the Backpacks and school supplies so generously donated by St. Paul's parishioners for the benefit of children in the Nantucket Public Schools. Sundae Sunday and church school registration followed our first Youth Sunday at the 10:00 service where children lead the service by serving as acolytes, and readers. Under the capable direction of our Music Director, Ann Colgrove, even the youngest children are able to participate in singing anthems and songs of praise. Sunday School takes place during the 10:00 service with the children returning to church in time to celebrate communion with their families.

We are studying the books of the Old Testament starting with Genesis and learning about the rites and rituals of the Episcopal Church as well as the liturgical calendar. As Advent approaches, the children look forward to a meeting with St. Nicholas, the very popular gingerbread house making on December 16th, and the construction of Advent boxes to share the true meaning of the season with our parish family and the Christmas pageant at 5:00 PM on Christmas Eve.

If you have children or grandchildren visiting, feel free to join us. Nursery care is available during the family service and there is always a seat at the table.

In Christ's love,  
Sister Susanna Margaret, OSB

If  
in this  
season of  
"MERRY"  
you are feeling sadness,  
loneliness, grief, loss, despair,  
anger, frustration or anything but  
Merry, we would like to invite you to  
Blue Christmas— a service of healing and  
comfort. A time and place to acknowledge, own,  
and offer up everything you feel that seems contrary  
to the celebrations swirling around you. Come and find:  
Comfort  
Healing  
& Hope  
Wednesday, December 14th, 7:00 pm  
Reception at the Rectory following the service

## Services Coming Up

### **Dec. 4, 18 & 25**

We will have the regular worship services of 8AM & 10AM

### **December 11**

We will have only ONE service - 9:30AM to celebrate together our Christmas Brunch & Benefit for "A Safe Place."

### **January 1 - February 25**

Our worship will be Morning Prayer at 8AM, & 9:30AM Holy Eucharist

## Fellowship News

There was a very successful parish dinner at the Ship's Inn in September.

### **We are planning for the following three upcoming parish events:**

A Christmas Brunch and Benefit for  
"A Safe Place" on Dec. 11.  
Christmas Market on Dec 3.  
Annual Meeting with brunch on January 22, 2017

Winter dinners will be planned after Christmas.  
The Fellowship Committee plans Sunday's coffee hour.  
We always need help and contributions.

## Getting to Know You

### *A Chat with Malcolm MacNab and Trisha Anderson*

We are pleased to begin a new feature called, "Getting to Know You." With each issue, we will sit down and chat with two members of the St. Paul's family, and from this, we hope you will learn a little more about these great individuals. And, we are willing to bet, you will find some interesting tidbits in each profile.



#### **Malcolm MacNab**

Malcolm could be called a "man for all seasons." He has a storied career in health, is an avid sports fan, has been involved in business start-ups, and like all of us has a deep love for our "faraway island."

Born in Rochester, NY, Malcolm was raised in a Presbyterian family. And, when he married Karen (who was raised Catholic), they decided to join the Episcopal Church. Malcolm has both an M.D. and a Ph.D., and he has devoted much of his health career to cardiovascular medicine and related research. For the past five years, he has chaired the Nantucket Board of Health.

**Q. From your vantage point, what do you consider the top health concerns facing Nantucket?** "The top three health issues we face are tick-borne disease, opioid addiction and overcrowded housing conditions which impact public health."

**Q. When did you first come to Nantucket?** "We began vacationing here in the 1980s, and 12 years ago, my wife, Karen, said she wanted to move full-time to Nantucket! And, she invited me to come along! For awhile, I commuted back to my work in New Jersey."

**Q. Tell us about your family.** "We have a daughter who is an artist and lives near Gloucester, MA and a son in New Jersey who works on UN projects."

**Q. What do you do for fun?** "I like to hike, camp and canoe. Another place I love a lot besides Nantucket are the Adirondacks. I also enjoy classical and folk music. My favorite sports teams are the Red Sox and the Patriots, but before we moved to Nantucket, my teams were the Phillies and the Eagles. One of my fondest sports memories was seeing Pete Rose swing his 3,000th hit in baseball when the Reds were playing in Philadelphia."

**Q. What is the first thing you do when you get up in the morning?** "I like to sit on my front porch with my coffee and pipe and read the Wall Street Journal and New York Times on my mobile device. After that, I head to the gym in the Nantucket Hotel."

**Q. How does St. Paul's fit into your active world?** "St. Paul's gives me peace. I love John's sermons, and I love our liturgy especially after coming from the Presbyterian Church. In the Episcopal Church, we are able to connect liturgy, history, tradition and common sense. We can merge all of these."

**Q. What are your hopes for the future?** "I wish we would start talking more to each other instead of screaming. The 24-hour cable news cycle is not constructive. I also believe all of our national politicians should be required to read "The Best and the Brightest" by the late David Halberstam.

Thanks Malcolm for your thoughts on life, our island home and St. Paul's. We have enjoyed getting to know you a little better!



#### **Trisha Anderson**

Trisha came to Nantucket by way of Cleveland thanks to her Dad who had interned at Mass General and discovered the island in the 1950s when Trisha was a young girl.

She fondly recalls those 16-hour car rides in their family station wagon with the dog each summer as they made the trek from Ohio to Nantucket. Then, in the early 1970s, Trisha and her husband, Richard, decided to make Nantucket their full-time home and here they raised two daughters and two sons. St. Paul's has played a key role in the five decades the Anderson family has been part of Nantucket. Upon their arrival here, Trisha and her husband took up basket making, and for many years they ran the Nantucket Lightship Basket shop on Old South Wharf and on Federal Street.

**Q. Tell us about your family.** "Three of our children, Margaret, Annie and Robert live on the island and our son, Hardy, lives in the Philippines."

**Q. What role does St. Paul's play in your daily life?** "I am a very spiritual person so the church plays an important part and certainly it did in raising our families here."

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## Wardens' Report

Dear St. Paul's,

As we reflect on the life and mission of St. Paul's for the past year, our hearts are filled with gratitude for so much plus an abiding hope for the future. We welcomed our new Rector, the Reverend John Beach and his wife Denise Beneteau, to St. Paul's and to Nantucket almost exactly a year ago. We waited nearly six months to celebrate John's induction in June so that our seasonal parish members might also participate in that memorable celebration. Bishop Alan Gates presided at a wonderful service, and then all enjoyed a parish party. We are so pleased that John has become immersed in our parish and island life. While John learns about us as individuals and as a parish, he brings energy, enthusiasm, humor and spontaneity to his role. His sermons are a source of stimulation and inspiration to our minds and souls, and we feel blessed by his presence here. Now that John has experienced a full year among us, he better understands the ebbs and flows of life on Nantucket with its quiet season of winter and the frenetic pace of the summer season. Once again we thank our Search Committee for their diligent work in completing their assignment so successfully in November.

Countless members of our parish have given of their time and talents as we continued with traditions like the Christmas Market, the Summer Fair, and Ships Inn Dinners to name just a few notable activities. These events enable us to work together in fellowship as well as raise necessary funds for the ongoing expenses of our parish.

Our Vestry and church officers have given of their time, talent, and counsel as we continue to look after the properties and work of St. Paul's. Our Treasurer, Frank Robinson and Asst. Treasurer, Dual Macintyre spend many hours at their work and do a marvelous job with our finances. Pam Goddard has done admirably not only as our Clerk but also as the leader of this year's EMC. Steve Paradis has given untold hours as chairman of the Properties Committee. Steve has transitioned that role to Luke Thornewill, who brings new energy to this important committee. Martin McKerrow spent many hours developing our new website, organizing all the material, and then presenting this information in a straightforward way Lay leaders like Nancy and Dan Bills, Penny Macintyre and Sharon Robinson, Sheila Daume, Randy Wight, Jean Wagley, Dottie Gennaro and Cathy Ward all work quietly

behind the scenes, along with many others. Paul Borneman and Whitney Burr provide spiritual leadership, when John Beach is traveling and away. We truly are fortunate to have so many talented and dedicated members in our parish.

We are also blessed with a dedicated staff. Christine Borneman greets all with a smile and a helping hand in the church office. Curtis Barnes, our long serving Verger looks after the many details that allow our church services to run smoothly. Ann Colgrove brings enormous talent and energy as our Music Director. We are so grateful for their efforts and commitment.

As we look to the future, there is much work ahead, and we are filled with hope for St. Paul's in the coming year. While we continue many ministries and traditions, we also envision new initiatives in striving to fulfill our goals and mission as a community of faith on this island we all love.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Stacey Stuart and Lou Gennaro

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(Getting to Know You continued)

**Q. In your spare time, what do you find yourself doing?** At St. Paul's I am one of the prayer readers on Sunday, and I want to find more time to volunteer at the church and in the community. And, I love my animals. At our home in Cisco, we have chickens, cats and two dogs, and until recently we had a pony for 27 years!" Trisha also has a grandson, Anderson, who she takes great pride in! I also like to read and enjoy the Vince Flynn political thrillers."

**Q. Characterize for us the Nantucket you saw when you first came here and the Nantucket you see today.** "I remember Nantucket long before the development and gentrification we see today. I can recall Main Street when it had two barbershops, a Five and Dime store, a Sears catalogue store and a bowling alley! In fact, we have a butcher block in our kitchen that was made from the hardwood floors in the bowling alley. I certainly miss the old town flavor."

**Q. Do you go off island much?** "When the kids were young, we would travel to their grandparents in New Jersey, but now I primarily stay here. My daughter and I joke with each other that when I go off island and I am driving, it takes me a long time to get used to the higher speed limits."

**Q. Do you worry about the future?** I definitely have concerns about our world, our future and the conflict around the globe. But, one of the great things we still have is our great community on Nantucket and with St. Paul's.

Trisha, we appreciate so much your perspective and welcome your advice for all of us to slow down...and smell the roses.

Scott Widmeyer

*This year will be the 10th year holding the Christmas Market. We began as a very small operation in the parish house using only the one big classroom, and now we're full and festive in Gardner Hall. We are looking for more donations of Christmas items and crafts, as well as baked goods. People willing to volunteer can call me at 508-228-9044 or email me at nancymbills@comcast.net.*

Stroll up Fair Street to  
*The Christmas Market*

St. Paul's Church  
Saturday, December 3 • 9:30am - 3:30pm  
– Cool Gifts and Hot Food –



**Shop:** Amazing selection of gifts and goodies, holiday decorations, antique linens, hand knits, fresh and faux Christmas greens and florals, baked goods, and so much more.

**Lunch:** 11:00 to 2:30. Sit down and relax with a great hot lunch. Choose from soup, chili, hot dogs, quiche & salad and top it off with a home-made dessert.

**Tea Time:** 2:00 to 3:30. Take a break at St. Paul's with hot drinks and great homemade goodies. Sit down, warm up, relax while continuing your Stroll shopping in our boutique atmosphere.

**Tour:** Guided tours of the historic St. Paul's Tiffany windows throughout the day.

St. Paul's is only half a block from Main Street.  
We're located up Fair Street on the left hand side.



## A Post-election Message from Bishop Gates

"Our national election is behind us, leaving in its wake a legacy of bitterness and hostility. For some, alienation is the apparent reason for the election's outcome; for others alienation is its result. In either case, we face grievous division and manifest anxiety.

"At our recent Diocesan Convention I cited the hazard of viewing the world in terms of winners and losers--a framework which propels us inexorably towards adversarial relationships, and self-concern over communal well-being.

"Now is not a time to live out habitual behaviors of winners or losers. Now is a time to rededicate ourselves to the Christian ideal of breaking down the dividing walls of hostility which divide us (Ephesians 2:14). Now is a time to rededicate ourselves to the American ideal of liberty and justice for all.

"Forbearance is a virtue tested not when we are in harmony, but when we are divided. Sacrifice is a discipline called for not in the face of prosperity but in the face of adversity. Hope is a manifestation of faith rendered meaningful not by certainty but by anxiety. Christ calls us, in this moment, individually and communally, to forbearance, sacrifice and hope.

"May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)"

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## Mark Your Calendars for St. Paul's Christmas Potluck Brunch

On Sunday, December 11th after our combined 9:30am service, we will continue the long held tradition of our congregation celebrating the Christmas season together. The sign-up sheet for the Potluck is in the back of the Church.

There also will be a collection taken and items collected to benefit "A Safe Place." After the brunch, Kristen Brock, who is the Director of Advocacy and Community, will tell us about what "A Safe Place" does for us in the Nantucket community.

The Fellowship Committee



**Dr. George Stuart Heyer, Jr.**  
*1930-2015*

George Heyer passed away peacefully at his home in Austin on October 10th, 2015 at the age of 85 with his family by his side.

George attended Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire and went on to get his B.A. in Religion at Princeton University in 1952. He spent the following school year studying theology as a Woodrow Wilson scholar at the New School at the University of Edinburgh before returning to the United States and earning his Bachelors of Divinity at Yale Divinity School in 1956. After serving as an assistant minister of the First Presbyterian Church in San Angelo, Texas, George finished his education at Yale University, earning his PhD in Religious Studies in 1963.

George also had a deep and lifelong passion for fine art. George's life was marked by the joy he found in humor and his deep and abiding love for and commitment to his many lifelong friends. Honoring one of his closest friends, Reggie Levine, George gave a beautiful jeweled chalice to St. Paul's in honor of Reggie's 80th birthday. The chalice is over the door in the church separating the vestibule and the narthex.

While we wish he had had more time in this world, his St. Paul's friends are very thankful for George's long and rich life and his dedication to St. Paul's and Nantucket.

Randy Wight



## **Reflections from The Society of St. John the Evangelist**

### **"Brother, Give Us a Word"**

Most of us know that a webmaster is the person who manages the web presence of an organization.

But most of us don't know that our Master, Jesus Christ, has a considerable presence on the World Wide Web, albeit much of it unmanaged and some of it pretty distasteful!

I am planning to write a series of little essays to introduce you to some of the places where the Lord makes His presence known on the web. I hope they are useful, and I hope you will share with me and others those places that you yourself have found to enrich your spiritual life and Christian practice.

Let's start this time with "Brother, Give Us a Word," a daily meditation from one or the other of the Brothers of the Society of St John the Evangelist.

Once you subscribe, every morning you wake up to a sentence or a paragraph of reflection from one of the Brothers. Open your email, and there it is, waiting for you, helping you begin your day thoughtfully, and you don't even have to click on it!

Not every one of these reflection is to my taste -- I am Low Church and not part of the Anglo-Catholic tradition from which the SSJE comes -- but many of them are so moving or thought-provoking that I copy them into my commonplace book for reflection later.

I hope the Brothers won't mind my sharing a few of these reflections with you.

### **Inspire**

What a gift it is when we can inspire others to have courage and to hope, when we can raise another's confidence, when we can instill in them life and energy and vigor.

-Br. David Vryhof

### **Sprout**

God has all the time in the world. God has waited with hope for you, for what would grow within you when you were finally ready.

-Br. Curtis Almquist

### **Follow**

What we hold in our heart needs to be congruent with how we live our lives. Put aside the controversies that run through the church and come down to the question, "So what difference does it make that you are a follower of Jesus?" That is the question I ask and re-ask myself.

-Br. Curtis Almquist

You will notice that two of these are by the same person, Brother Curtis Almquist. Brother Curtis writes a lot, and I disagree with some of what he writes, but I notice that I have copied more of his reflections than anyone else's.

This has been a good lesson to me. Now, I read the reflection and think about it before I look at who wrote it. Sometimes God surprises me! I hope you will let God surprise you!

To subscribe: <http://ssje.org/subscribe.html>

Marshall Keys

## A Personal Testimony from a parishioner

### The Prayer Vigil concept:

To offer the community a prayer point. A place to be still for a moment in order to prepare your vote for the presidential election.

The 24hr Prayer vigil started at 7pm on Nov 7th. My two best friends, both Catholic were the first to arrive. We were in the front. 10 people were behind me I believe, maybe more, I didn't turn around for a few hours. I ran the music and then went into prayer. When I finally did turn around, the church was empty around 10:00pm.

A few people came and went into the night. I kept the candles burning and after the church bells, like clockwork, I triggered the song prayers into the wee hours and beyond. I felt it was important for the walls of St. Paul's to resonate through the night with music and prayer to continuously ascend to our mighty God. I heard from people later who were not even from our church that they had comfort at home in their beds knowing this was going on.

The last late night wanderer came in as the bells were pealed, and he prayed with the music. He stayed a bit and then left. I later found out it was one of the catholic ministers who stayed until 2:30.

The rest of the night I was on my own. It was amazing, and it wasn't easy, but I kept myself busy in prayer, or music, or snacks, or sitting and praying in different parts of the Church.

Twice I came up from Gardner hall hear a woman laughing. It was so pronounced, both times I went straight into the side chapel to see who was there and found no one. It didn't really scare me. It was happy laughter... but it was certainly there. I will admit that I did change my general observation position though, and for the remainder of the night sat on the piano bench with my back to the pulpit. rosary in hand ;)

The Eucharist service was wonderful, strangers included. I had the amazing privilege of doing a reading which was quite a gift. I clicked off the video and the time clicked to 7:00 exactly. All Glory and praise to God. I then had a moving and amazing conversation for about an hour with this St. Paul's stranger that centered around God and his mysterious and amazing Love of which there is no equal.

Signed,  
Anonymous Prayer Soldier

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### EMC Update

At St. Paul's, we are "Awaiting a Mighty Wind," and I don't mean a hurricane! I am talking about this year's Every Member Canvass and the statement so beautifully crafted by Marshall Keys, especially the last line which reads "Filled by the mighty wind of the Holy Spirit, the simple fabric of St. Paul's can become the sail that propels the vessel where we are all crew, working together to witness to His will and make His Kingdom come."

We want to express our gratitude and appreciation to all of you who have returned pledge cards to show your support. Our Ingathering of pledge cards on September 25, gave us a chance to present our commitment in a physical way, as if we were gathering the harvest that will help St. Paul's Church meet the spiritual and physical needs of our community through our ministries. At the end of October, 119 cards had been received, compared to 81 at the same time last year. Many of you have either increased your giving or pledged for the first time in several years; pledge and gift totals are up 60% compared to total giving in October 2015.

If you have not sent in or brought back your pledge card, there is always time. How can we make it easier for you: call [(508)228-0916] or email (office@st.paulschurchnantucket.org) the office if you would like to receive a pledge packet, pick up a pledge card in the back of the church, simply mail in your pledge card or drop it in the Sunday offering.

As always, we welcome your thoughts and suggestions about how we can be Christ's witnesses in Nantucket and the world.

Pam Goddard  
EMC Chair

### We Remember the Members of our Community who have recently died

Beverly Crosland  
October 30, 2016

James Wood  
October 16th 2016

Charles Kolb II  
October 27th 2016

Bonnie Woodley  
October 22nd 2016

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*Father of all, we pray for those we love,  
but see no longer: Grant them your peace;  
let light perpetual shine upon them; and, in your  
loving wisdom and almighty power, work in them  
the good purpose of your perfect will;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

## Music Notes



### Blue Christmas – A Service of Hope and Healing

On Wednesday, December 14th at 7:00 pm, there will be a holiday service at St. Paul's designed for those who aren't feeling so merry during the holidays: anyone who has suffered the loss of a loved one, a job or a place to live; who might be troubled by seasonal depression or the ghosts of Christmases past. There is space for feelings of grief, anxiety and frustration as this service moves us out of sadness into hope, out of darkness into light. Through music and prayer, worship and healing, we can find release and peace. Come for yourself, or bring someone who needs to find blessing and perspective in this season of hope. There will be a time of fellowship at the Rectory immediately following the service.

### Advent Lessons and Carols

The tradition of Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols was established at King's College Chapel, Cambridge in 1918. The service of Advent Lessons and Carols was composed 16 years later by the dean of the Chapel, based on the pre-reformation Advent Offices of the English Church. Its purpose, as envisioned by the dean, was "...not to celebrate Christmas, but to expect it."

That tradition continues at St. Paul's on Sunday, December 18th, at the 10:00 service. As part of the service, we will celebrate Advent – the season of expectation and preparation – with glorious carols and hymns interspersed between short Bible readings that tell stories from the fall of humanity through the promise of the Messiah and, finally, to the birth of Jesus.

Our Advent journey will conclude on Christmas Eve as we welcome the birth of Jesus with a joyous Holy Eucharist and Pageant for children and families at 5:00 pm and the Festival Eucharist at 10:00, which is preceded by the Festive Choral Prelude at 9:30.

Ann Colgrove

## Book Recommendation from the Rector

The Relevance of Religion:  
How Faithful People Can Change Politics  
By Senator John Danforth  
*For a congregational book discussion group in  
January. Details to be announced soon.*

Former United States senator and ambassador to the United Nations John Danforth offers a fascinating, thoughtful, and deeply personal look at the state of American politics today – and how religion can be a bridge over our bitter partisan divide. In an era of extreme partisanship, when running for office has become a zero-sum game in which candidates play exclusively to their ideological bases, Americans on both sides of the political aisle hunger for the return of a commitment to the common good. Too often, it seems, religion has been used as a wedge to divide us in these battles. But is it also the key to restoring our civic virtue? For more than a decade, John Danforth, who is also an ordained Episcopal priest, has written extensively on the negative use of religion as a divisive force in American politics. Now he turns to the positive, constructive impact faithful religious believers have and can have on our public life. *The Relevance of Religion* is the product of that period of reflection. In the calm and wise voice of the pastor he once aspired to be, Senator Danforth argues that our shared religious values can lead us out of the embittered, entrenched state of politics today. A lifelong Republican, he calls his own party to task for its part in creating a political system in which the loudest opinions and the most polarizing personalities hold sway. And he suggests that such a system is not only unsustainable but also unfaithful to our essential nature. We are built to care about other people, and this inherent altruism—which science says we crave because of our neurobiological wiring, and the Bible says is part of our created nature—is a crucial aspect of good government. Our willingness to serve more than our self-interest is religion's gift to politics, John Danforth asserts. In an era when 75 percent of Americans say they cannot trust their elected leaders, *The Relevance of Religion* is a heartfelt plea for more compassionate government—and a rousing call to arms for those wishing to follow the better angels of our nature.



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