

separation or divorce or in a nontraditional family affects spiritual life for adults, youth and children, and to support one another in facing new challenges. The group will ideally meet once a month, the 4th Wednesday of each month, beginning on January 23, 6:30-8:00 pm. This will be a spiritual and practical support group, not a therapy group, although the group might be able to help individuals connect with therapy resources if needed. Steve+ will facilitate the group, with support from a parishioner who both has experience with divorce, remarriage and mixing families and is a professional psychologist, and can help us stay focused on the spiritual and practical. If you are interested in being part of this group, please let Steve+ know at 363-7376 (voicemail box 5) or sgodfrey@stgeorges-yorkharbor.org.

Advent Candles Dedication. The Advent candles in the nave were given in memory of Kenneth Burke by his wife, Sylvia, and their family.



Dragon News
Weekly Notices
Week of December 16, 2007

EVENTS, DATES & ACTIVITIES

The Godly Play and Godly Time story for December 16, we will talk about Advent IV. No church school on December 23.

The Jesus Kids! (Church School for 9- to 11-year-old kids). On December 16, The Jesus Kids will work on their speaking roles for the Pageant and discuss the next Outreach initiative that excites the group. No church school on December 23.

Advent Series on Prayer. What do we mean by “intentionality?” Tuesday, December 18, 6:30 p.m. Come to the last of our three Advent sessions on prayer and find out.

Deadline is December 16 for the Giving Tree. To participate, choose a gift tag from the Giving Tree and purchase the item or gift certificate. Please wrap the gift and attach the gift tag to it (very important, as this identifies which family and which individual is intended to receive it) and bring your gift to St. George’s **by December 16** (this deadline is crucial because once the families pick up their gifts, we have NO WAY to get late donations to them). Gift certificates should have the tag on the envelope and be left in the parish office. Food gifts may be left unwrapped with the gift tag attached to the bag you bring them in. Please call Karen Gilroy 363-3904 with questions.

BeadforLife is here again—all day on December 16! These wonderful pieces of jewelry are also pieces of hope for the Ugandan women who help support their families and entire communities through this work. Do some Christmas shopping and help others at the same time. FMI on the work BeadforLife does, go to www.beadforlife.com.

December 16 will be a Festive Day! First, the Children’s Annual Christmas Pageant at 5:30 p.m., then the Potluck Supper at 6:00 p.m. follows the Pageant, and a service of Lessons & Carols at 7:00 p.m. Come make a night of it!

Are you in shopping hades? Need to shop but can’t do it with kids along? Take advantage of St. George’s babysitting service! This is a fundraiser for their New Orleans mission trip in February. St. George’s teenagers will (with complete adult supervision) babysit kids here

Schedule for St. George’s This Week

- Sunday:** All day: Deadlines: Giving Tree gifts, gift certificates, food items; also Christmas Flower dedications; also special deadline for notices, laity changes, etc. for the big Christmas bulletin which covers services from Christmas Eve through December 30.
10:00 a.m. - Discovering God’s Vision
5:30 p.m. - Children’s Christmas Pageant
6:00 p.m. - Potluck Supper
7:00 p.m. - Lessons & Carols
- Tuesday:** 6:30 p.m. - Advent series on prayer: Intentionality
- Wednesday:** 12 noon - **Deadline:** *December 23 bulletin & Dragon News*
- Thursday:** 10:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist with optional healing
6:30 p.m. - Blue Christmas ecumenical service
8:00 p.m. - Parish Choir rehearsal
- Saturday:** 3:00-9:00 p.m. - Babysitting at the church (mission trip fundraiser)

Serving the Southern Maine Seacoast Region

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The Rev. Paige M. Blair, *Rector*; The Rev. Steven Godfrey, *Associate Rector*
The Rev. Sudie Blanchard, *Deacon*; The Rev. Aaron Perkins, *Deacon*
Kathy Fink, *Music Director/Organist*; Lorrie Whittaker, *Parish Administrator*

at the church. **You MUST reserve in advance!** Kids must be potty-trained as we do not change diapers. \$5 per hour for one child; \$2.50 per hour for each additional child in a family. Saturday, December 22, 3:00-9:00 p.m.—call Sarah Duquette 363-2556 to reserve.

Weekly offering envelopes for 2008 are now in the parish hall. If you requested weekly offering envelopes on your pledge card, you will find a packet with your household name on it. Please pick up your envelopes ASAP—it saves the church postage if we don't have to mail them. If you had not originally requested them, you can still get them—just contact the parish administrator, 363-7376.

Dedicating Christmas Flowers. Christmas is a wonderful time to remember loved ones with flowers. Would you like to dedicate Christmas flowers? If so, please place your contribution in one of the Christmas floral offering envelopes found in the pews and on the kiosk, starting November 25 (not to be confused with the Christmas offering envelopes, which will also be in the pews). *Please print clearly* on the outside of the envelope your name, address, and in whose memory the offering is given. These dedications will appear in the big Christmas bulletin and the flowers will decorate the church during the Christmas season. The envelopes may be left in the offering plate or in the parish office. **Deadline is Sunday, December 16.**

Blue Christmas Service. Had a loss recently? Is Christmas a drag for you? You wouldn't know joy if it kissed you on the cheek—or swatted you on the caboose? Please come to St. George's Blue Christmas ecumenical service on Thursday, December 20, 6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome—tell your friends who may be in the same “*forget decking the halls, I just want to deck someone or something*” mood that you are in right now!

Advent & Christmas Season 2007 Special Services & Events.

Sunday, December 16: Children's Christmas Pageant at 5:30 p.m., Potluck Supper at 6:00 p.m., followed by a service of Lessons & Carols at 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 20, 6:30 p.m.: Blue Christmas Service

Christmas Eve: Family Eucharist at 5:00 p.m.; Evening Eucharist with choir at 7:30 p.m.; Midnight Eucharist at 11:00 p.m. with congregational carol-singing.

Christmas Day: Holy Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, January 6, 7:00 p.m.: An Evening of Music and Fellowship

Special Christmas Offering. Among the blessings of the Advent and Christmas seasons is the obvious opportunity to share our blessings with others. One way we do that is through the special Christmas offering. You will find small envelopes for this purpose in the pews between December 9 and December 30 (*not to be confused with the Christmas flower offering envelopes, which will also be in the pews!*) For 2007, your Vestry has voted that the

special Christmas offering be split between the Diocese of Haiti and St. George's 2008 Mission Trip to New Orleans.

Carla's Quilt. Since Carla's quilt didn't get the minimum bid at the auction in November, she has donated it for a raffle to help the New Orleans Mission Trip. Tickets are **\$5.00** each and **only 60** will be sold. Tickets went on sale December 9. Marcia Williams will have the quilt on display in the church and will sell tickets after the 7:45 service, before and after the 9:00 service and before the 11:00 service. If the 60 tickets have not yet been sold, they will be available for sale at other church activities, such as the Children's Pageant and Lessons & Carols on December 16, as well as the Evening of Music & Fellowship on January 6. Once the 60 tickets are sold, the winner will be drawn, so get your ticket as soon as possible!

Cards for soldiers? Wait and read on... We have found out that cards and packages sent to Walter Reed Hospital will NOT be accepted unless they are address to a specific soldier, not just to “a recovering soldier” or some similar designation. This is a security measure to prevent harmful things being sent through the mail to our soldiers. You might, instead, make a donaton to one of the many nonprofit organizations dedicated to helping our troops and their families—go to www.americasupportsyou.mil. Also see www.usocares.org/, or www4.army.mil/ocpa/tooursoldiers/ or www.redcross.org

Christmas Day buffet at York Hospital, 1:00-3:00 p.m. Buffet is free, but seating may be limited, so please call Leisa at 351-3596 to reserve your seat. Limited transportation is available at no charge for those guests who need a lift to and from the hospital. YH will also deliver a Christmas meal to guests who are unable to come to the buffet at the hospital. Call Leisa to make arrangements, 351-3596.

An Evening of Music and Fellowship, January 6, 7:00 p.m. Live musical acts will be interspersed with the singing of Christmas hymns and songs by the audience. Use the ballot in this week's bulletin to vote for five hymns AND five secular songs for this event. Can you sing or play an instrument? We'd love to have you participate in the even! See Kathy Fink on Sundays, or contact her at pianotch@aol.com.

Divorce/Separation Support Group Forming. A number of families at St. George's are currently living with separation, divorce and “mixed” families, and with the many spiritual, practical and emotional issues that arise from these difficult events. Many of them do not realize that there are a lot of others in basically the same boat! In the Episcopal Church we recognize that separation and divorce are sometimes necessary and that remarriage can and should happen healthfully and we seek to find ways to support one another on these difficult journeys. We are hoping to form a support group for adults wrestling with these issues and who have worked through them in the past, to provide a safe place to share how living with

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