

**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 pianotchr@aol.com.

**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.

### **Schedule for St. George's This Week**

**Sunday:** 10:00 a.m. - Discovering God's Vision  
5:00 p.m. - Evening Prayer  
**Tuesday:** 6:30 p.m. - Advent series on prayer: the Anglican Rosary  
**Wednesday:** 12 noon - **Deadline:** *December 16 bulletin & Dragon News*  
**Thursday:** 10:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist with optional healing  
7:00 p.m. - Parish Choir rehearsal  
**Saturday:** 15:00 p.m. - **Deadline:** *January issue of Dragon Tales (newsletter)*

### ***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*



Dragon News  
Weekly Notices  
Week of December 9, 2007

## **EVENTS, DATES & ACTIVITIES**

**The Godly Play and Godly Time story for December 9** we will talk about Advent III. **On December 16**, we will talk about Advent IV.

**The Jesus Kids! (Church School for 9- to 11-year-old kids).** **On December 9 & 16**, The Jesus Kids will work on their speaking roles for the Pageant and discuss the next Outreach initiative that excites the group.

**Advent Series on Prayer.** What in the world is an Anglican Rosary? Tuesday, December 11, 6:30 p.m. Strings of beads have been used as an aid to prayer in both Christian and other faith groups for centuries as they contemplate God's mysteries. The Anglican Rosary is a blend of the Roman Catholic Rosary and the Orthodox Jesus Prayer Rope. This rosary is smaller and adapts to various prayers that suit each individual's style and needs. It's been called a "bridge to inner stillness" and we think you will find it helpful at this busy season. Come to the second of our three Advent Tuesday evening sessions on prayer and learn about this method of praying. Rosaries will be provided and will be available for purchase. If you want to make your own, instructions will be provided.

**The Giving Tree is up!** This year St. George's will provide the material celebration for four families living in our community. These families are in financial need and would otherwise have little to celebrate with. We are their only source of assistance this year, so we hope to give them gifts to open Christmas day and provide food for Christmas dinner, stock up their pantries a bit, and give them gift certificates to ease some of the extra bills winter brings. 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. Together, we can truly brighten this wonderful time of year for some people who could really use these "practical prayers."

*Are you in shopping hell? 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 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.

***December 16 will be a Festive Day!***

***Children's Annual Christmas Pageant. December 16, 5:30 p.m.*** FMI contact Church School Director Lynn Dube at 384-4741 or dubelynn@comcast.net. **Schedule:**

- December 2, Sunday: Speaking roles rehearse during Church School
- December 9, Sunday: Speaking roles rehearse at 4:00 p.m.
- December 15, Saturday: Final Rehearsal 3:00-5:00 "Animals" arrive at 3:45 p.m.
- December 16, Sunday: Arrive at 4:45 p.m. to get into costume; Pageant at 5:30

***Potluck Supper, December 16, 6:00 p.m. following the Children's Christmas Pageant.*** Trish Yauch is looking for volunteers to help make the Christmas Potluck Supper on December 16 a big success. We hope to have a big turnout for the Potluck Supper—last year was awesome! Look for the sign-up sheet in the parish hall for the Christmas Potluck Supper. Contact Trish at 363-8778.

***Lessons & Carols, December 16, 7:00 p.m., following the Potluck Supper.*** This beautiful service has become a tradition at St. George's. Come hear the lessons, sing the carols and make this special service a part of your Christmas celebrations.

***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 Ecumenical 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 Ecumenical 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

***Holiday Grief Support Group Meetings.*** We know that the holidays can be touch. There is a lot of pressure to have fun, to laugh, to be merry, to be with others, to drink too much and eat too much—in short to act as if all is right with the world. If you would like to spend an evening with others who know how you feel—going through the holidays after the loss of your loved one—then come to a meeting. December 13, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at York Hospital Medical Office Building (downstairs).

***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](http://www.americasupportsyou.mil). Also see [www.usocares.org/](http://www.usocares.org/), or [www4.army.mil/ocpa/tooursoldiers/](http://www4.army.mil/ocpa/tooursoldiers/) or [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

***Day of Remembrance.*** This year on December 9 at 7:00 p.m., in all time zones around the globe, people will light candles in memory of children who have died. As candles go out in one time zone, they are lit in the next, creating a full twenty-four hours of remembrance. To honor this Worldwide Candle Lighting, the Jason Program, a pediatric hospice and palliative care program based in Portland, is sponsoring an interfaith service of remembrance at Temple Beth El Synagogue, 400 Deering Avenue in Portland, 6:30–7:00 p.m., December 9. The service will include poems and prayers from a variety of faith traditions, and will close with a reading of the names of children who have died. Participants will be given candles to light at 7:00 p.m., after which everyone will take their candles out into the evening for a vigil walk of remembrance. If you cannot attend, please place a candle in your window at 7:00 p.m. to honor these children and their families.

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