



ST. JOHN'S
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

The Red Door

WHERE ALL ARE WELCOME

Monthly newsletter of the people and ministries of
St. John's Episcopal Church



DECEMBER 2017 - Volume 3 Issue 12



A CHRISTMAS CAROL

In our Advent bible study group we are reading and discussing a book entitled, *The Redemption of Scrooge*, by Matt Rawle and we began by watching a 1930's movie rendition of this Charles Dickens classic novel. This story is so intertwined in our culture that most people associate the name Scrooge with anyone who is grumpy, stingy, greedy or dismissive of the holiday season. Yet, this tale is a good metaphor for our Advent season because it reminds us that the past, present and future all come together in one transformative night, i.e., in the birth of Jesus.

Our author reflects on the Dickens story through the lens of our Christian story and he reminds us that if Scrooge can be redeemed, so can we! In order to achieve this, however, Scrooge has to face his past, present and his future with the help of three different ghosts. This looking in the mirror brings him joy, pain and fear.

The first ghost is his deceased business partner, Jacob Marley who challenges Ebenezer's view about business and money. Marley laments the fact that he focused his earthly existence on the accumulation of wealth. He states that his real business in life should have been promoting charity, mercy and goodness to all people, looking out for the common good. He tells Scrooge to change his ways or else he will be tied down with chains in hell for all eternity.

Unfortunately, Ebenezer's only love in the world is money, and he shuns everyone and everything else. The truth is that we cannot serve both God and money and we are reminded of this in the way Jesus came into the world: poor, in a stable and surrounded by the lower classes of people – the shepherds. Scrooge, however, is not yet ready to let go of his love affair with money.

So, the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future all visit Scrooge and show him how things are in the world and how he can have a positive impact or what will happen if he does nothing and continues on his own greedy journey. The miracle of Christmas is that God knew how things were in this world and still made the decision to enter into the human condition as one of us. The Incarnation of God made flesh in Jesus helped show us our past, present and our future through the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

We have been given the same gift that Scrooge received: the opportunity to let go of our selfish desires and do some good in the world. Scrooge was redeemed through hope, love, peace and joy – the same things that come to us in Jesus. If you haven't viewed *A Christmas Carol* recently, I would encourage you to look up a version you haven't seen and watch it during our Advent season. You may be surprised to see how this story fits into our Christian life and faith. This experience may also change what Christmas looks, feels like and means to you!

Blessings,

Fr. Steve

Worship Opportunities All are Welcome



Sunday Services

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Dec. 3 | Morning Prayer 8:30 & 10:30 am |
| Dec. 10 | Holy Eucharist 8:30 & 10:30 am |
| Dec. 17 | Morning Prayer 8:30 & 10:30 am |
| Dec. 24 | Holy Eucharist 8:30 & 10:30 am
(Last Sunday of Advent) |
| | Christmas Eve Service with
Children's Pageant 5 pm |
| | Christmas Eve Service with Choir 10 pm |

Monday Service

- | | |
|---------|--------------------------------|
| Dec. 25 | Christmas Day Service 10:00 am |
|---------|--------------------------------|

Tuesday Worship

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Dec. 12 | Holy Eucharist at Hope Health Care
at 10:30 am |
| Dec. 26 | No service at Hope Health Care |

Wednesday Worship

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Dec. 6 | Bible Study 10:00 am
Holy Eucharist 11:45 am |
| Dec. 13 | Bible Study 10:00 am
Holy Eucharist 11:45 am |
| Dec. 20 | Bible Study 10:00 am
Holy Eucharist 11:45 am |
| Dec. 27 | No services or Bible Study |



Meet Our Youngest Parishoner

It's A Boy!

Congratulations to Cindy and Kyle Fowler on the birth of their son Nathan Robert Fowler! The proud parents are joined by Nathan's cousins, Nicholas and Amelia Hamblin.



CHRISTMAS EUCHARIST TIMES



SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 24
FAMILY SERVICE &
CHILDREN'S PAGEANT
at 5:00 pm

TRADITIONAL EUCHARIST WITH
CHOIR & CAROLS at 10:00 pm

MONDAY,
DECEMBER 25
CHRISTMAS DAY
EUCHARIST
at 10:00 AM



Decorating Our Sanctuary for Christmas

On Sunday, December 17th after the second service, we are going to do the majority of our decorating for Christmas. This includes all the green garland, trees, lights, candles and wreaths. We will complete the placement of the flowers after the second service on Sunday, December 24th, so if you are able to stay to assist with this decorating on either of these Sundays, it would be greatly appreciated!

This is a change from what has been previously stated but after re-thinking the logistics of this it made sense to do the majority of the work on the 17th. If you have any questions or concerns about this change, please feel free to speak with Fr. Steve.

Archbishop of Canterbury Intervenes in Anglo-American Diplomatic Twitter Row

Posted on: November 30, 2017 12:40 PM

By the Anglican Communion News Service (ACNS)

Jayda Fransen and members of the Britain First extremist group carry out what they call a “Christian Patrol” in a Muslim-dominated area of Luton.

In a rare political intervention, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has explicitly criticized the US President Donald Trump for re-tweeting anti-Muslim videos posted by a British far-right extremist group. Archbishop Justin said “it is deeply disturbing that the President of the United States has chosen to amplify the voice of far-right extremists.” The UK Prime Minister Theresa May

also criticized the US President, but was slapped down by Mr. Trump, who told her to “focus on the destructive Radical Islamic Terrorism.”

The original tweets were posted by Jayda Fransen, the deputy leader of Britain First, a minority political party with virtually no support in Britain outside its estimated 1,000 followers. She is currently awaiting trial in Belfast on charges of using “threatening, abusive or insulting words or behavior” and in Kent for inciting racial hatred. She and her followers have stormed mosques and carried out what they call “Christian Patrols” – marching in paramilitary-style uniforms carrying a large cross in areas of the UK populated by people who – either themselves or through their ancestors – have roots in south-Asian countries. She claims to be Christian but it is not known if she attends any church. Her actions and those of Britain First have been condemned by Christian leaders from across the denominational spread.

Fransen has posted more than 15,500 tweets since joining the social media platform in March 2016. Most of them are anti-Islamic. The three tweets shared by President Trump are videos headlined “Islamist mob pushes teenage boy off roof and beats him to death!”, “Muslim Destroys a Statue of Virgin Mary!”, and “Muslim migrant beats up Dutch boy on crutches!”. The last of those has been debunked by the Dutch ambassador to the US, who said that the crime committed in the video was carried out by a Dutch-born national.

“Britain First seeks to divide communities and intimidate minorities, especially our Muslim friends and neighbors,” Archbishop Justin said in response to President Trump’s re-tweets. “Britain First does not share our values of tolerance and solidarity. God calls us as Christians to love our neighbor and seek the flourishing of all in our communities, societies and nations. “I join the urgent call of faith groups and others for President Trump not just to remove these tweets, but to make clear his opposition to racism and hatred in all forms.”

The president’s actions have been criticized by politicians across the political divide in Britain. The spokesman for Conservative Prime Minister Theresa May said: “Britain First seeks to divide communities by their use of hateful narratives that peddle lies and stoke tensions. They cause anxiety to law-abiding people. British people overwhelmingly reject the prejudiced rhetoric of the far right which is the antithesis of the values this country represents, decency, tolerance and respect.”

President Trump used Twitter to respond to the criticism from the British Prime Minister, telling her: “don’t focus on me, focus on the destructive Radical Islamic Terrorism that is taking place within the United Kingdom. We are doing just fine!” And his spokesman, Raj Shah, told reporters: “we think that it’s never the wrong time to talk about security and public safety for the American people. Those are the issues he was raising with the tweets this morning.”



Angel Tree Ministry



Our Angel Tree is up in the narthex and there are still tags to select. If you haven't picked up your gift tag yet, please grab it soon before they are all gone! The gifts that we buy go to support local families who wouldn't otherwise be able to have presents for their children. We are partnering with Westland Goodfellow's again for this important holiday ministry. All gifts are due to the church unwrapped by **Sunday, December 17th** and we will have a gift-wrapping party after the 10:30 service.



Thanks to two of our Outreach Angels (Angela Hamblin & Cindy Fowler) for organizing this outreach activity and to all who donated, shopped and are wrapping presents!



St. John's Episcopal Church

555 S. Wayne Rd., Westland, MI 48186

Office: (734) 721-5023

Parish office hours: Mon-Fri. 11 am-3pm

www.stjohnswestland.com

stjohnschurchwestland@gmail.com



We're on Facebook:

St. John's Episcopal Church - Westland MI

FOOD PANTRY OPEN

Thursday, Dec. 14,

New Hours: Noon-2 pm

*Please bring donations in by Sunday, Dec.10



DECEMBER EVENTS CALENDAR

SUNDAY EVENTS & MEETINGS

- Dec. 3 Breakfast at 9:30 am
Daughters of the King at Noon
- Dec. 10 Vestry Meeting at Noon
- Dec. 17 Breakfast at 9:30 am
Angel Tree Gift Wrapping at Noon
- Dec. 24 Decorate Sanctuary for Christmas at Noon

WEDNESDAYS: December 6, 13 & 20
Senior Exercise Class 9 am (free will donation)

St. John's Episcopal Church

STAFF

Rev. Steve Domienik, *Priest-in-Charge*

FrSteve@stjohnswestland.com

Rev. DeaconCarolynn E. Johnson

[Cell: 248 705 9695](tel:2487059695)

Charmaine Wells, *Parish Secretary*

stjohnschurchwestland@gmail.com

Dana Hull, *Music Director*

Bill & Kim Goeman, *Sextons*

OFFICERS

Jim Godbout, *Senior Warden*

Ken Coyne, *Junior Warden*

Sande Godbout, *Clerk*

Erin Downey-Tarnowski, *Treasurer*

2017 VESTRY MEMBERS

Neil Barbu, Joan Cady, Sue Daniel, Cindy Fowler,

Nick Hamblin and Julie Jones